

Summer Camp Jobs USA

How to Find Your Job
Get Your Job and
Love Your Job

LITE



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**Edition 2010
Lite**

Summer Camp Jobs USA

How to Find Your Job,
Get Your Job
and
Love Your Job

Edition 2010 Lite

by
Michael Pastore

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This is the free LITE edition (54 pages) of our book:

Summer Camp Jobs USA — How to Find Your Job, Get Your Job and Love Your Job.

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For more information, visit the book's web page: http://www.zorba.us/?page_id=160

For updates and free resources, visit the book's companion web site:

www.SummerCampJobsUSA.com

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Foreword: Keeping Up With The Latest

Thank you for downloading our free LITE edition, or/and for buying the paperback or ebook version of Summer Camp Jobs USA.

This book was updated in January 2010. But as you know, in this Age of Too-Much Information: Change happens fast.

For the latest updates and resources relating to summer camp jobs and child management, visit this book's companion website:

www.SummerCampJobsUSA.com

The website also contains tips about how to read our ebooks on your personal computer, iPhones or iPods, and other portable devices.

I have been told that there is more to life than the latest media player. Be joyful and share your enthusiasm; be bold about making new friends. And take good care of the kids.

— MP

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Be calm, stoical, impassive.
Do not show anger.
Smile at misfortune.
If you sprain your ankle, laugh.

— Tiger Tinaka's advice to secret agent 007,
James Bond, in *You Only Live Twice*

Work is love made visible.

— Kahlil Gibran

[1]

Why Bother? ...
Why You Should Work
at a USA Summer Camp

In this book we will explain everything you need to know about how to find the most interesting summer camps in America, and how to apply smartly to get a job there.

In addition to job-hunting advice, this book gives you valuable ideas about how to work effectively with children. This information will make your job easier and more fun, and it will help you to prepare for the job interview — whether that interview happens in person, by telephone, or by video-conference — using GoogleTalk, iChat, or Skype.

Last year, more than 10 million children attended more than 12,000 summer camps in

the USA. Some experts estimate that there are — approximately — 1.2 million staff persons needed to take care of these kids.

American camps provide more than 1.2 million job openings. And more than 30,000 of these jobs are filled by international staff.

Camp Directors are always looking out for quality staff members, persons who are hard-working, responsible, and cheerful. These Camp Directors want you and need you.

A summer is a terrible thing to waste. Why would any college-age young person want to give up her or his freedom (and the entire beautiful summer!), to take care of strange American kids? ...

Here are more than a dozen good reasons why working at summer camp is good for you.

— You will be working outdoors, in the heart of the natural world, surrounded by beautiful sounds and sights.

— You'll live in a community, where you will find other people who will work with you, and help you when you need help.

— You'll live in a community where you have the privilege, and the indescribable good feeling, of helping others.

— You'll be working at job where your work is meaningful and important.

— Your job will be interesting in many ways: one hour you may be a hike leader, another hour you may be a teacher, the next hour you may be a psychologist, and the next hour you might be peeling potatoes or shucking corn.

— You'll meet people: some wonderful, some terrible, some strange, some magical — most of the people you meet will be interesting.

— You may make friends for life.

— You may meet your future husband or wife at summer camp.

— You might get a good job reference (if you do a good job) that you can use to help launch your career.

— You will learn about American children — oftentimes more than you wanted to know.

— You will help to prepare yourself for the

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very difficult job of being a parent. (How else are you going to learn?)

—You'll have the opportunity to influence the lives of children, and other persons your own age.

—The responsibility and the difficulty of the work will teach you about yourself, and help you to grow. You will nourish and develop your mind, your imagination, and your heart.

Summer camp counseling is very hard work. Hard work, but work that is deeply fulfilling and immeasurably meaningful. This is not a job in the ordinary sense of the term. All at once it is work and play, teaching and learning, giving and receiving.

Smile, take some deep breaths, cultivate the calm of a Buddhist sage. And then get ready for the adventure of your life!

[2]

Know Thyself: How to Express The Real You on Paper, Pixels or Phone

The motto of Socrates was simple: Know thyself. Before you start looking for a job, take some time for self-knowledge. This valuable information that you discover can be used in many ways: for your cover letters, job applications, and interviews in person or by phone. And more: knowing yourself will help you to find your ideal camp.

The goal is to discover “personal talking points” — PTPs — essential ideas about your genuine self. Start with a pencil and a notebook — or use your computer — and begin making lists, in four categories: your A) Skills and Knowledge Areas; B) Work and Volunteer experience; C) Education; and D) Personal qualities and interests.

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A. Skills and Knowledge Areas

Answer the questions:

- What can I do well?
- What do I know about?

B. Work experience & Volunteer experience

Answer the questions:

- What jobs have I held?
- What volunteer work have I done?

C. Education

Answer the questions:

- Where have I studied?
- What did I study?
- What is the plan for my education in the near future?

D. Personal Qualities, Activities and Ideas

Answer the Questions:

- What are some of my best qualities?
- When I'm not working or studying, what

do I like to do?

— What do I think about a lot?

— What things matter to me?

— What kind of world would I like to live in?

When you are finished, you should have a list of the four categories (A, B, C, D); and in each category you should have a number of items. For example, in the category (A), about Skills and Knowledge Areas, you might have written:

A-1. I can make websites

A-2. I can program in C++ language

A-3. I speak French

A-4. I play lots of sports, including soccer,
table tennis, basketball

A-5. I'm good at math

A-5. I can paint a house and make basic
carpentry repairs

A-6. I am a strong swimmer

Keep expanding this list as you think of new things about yourself. Ask your friends and family members to help you with this list, by

contributing ideas.

These numbered items will be your “talking points” and “writing points.” This list will help with all your job-hunting activities: cover letters, job applications, and personal interviews.

If you find that you are lacking skills, do not despair. Read a book on a subject that interests you. Or ask a friend to teach something to you.

It’s important to tell the truth to others, and even more important to tell the truth to yourself. Resist the temptation to exaggerate your skills. Instead, practice and improve these skills.

Keep the latest version of this list “in the clouds” — in a cloud-computing storage site, such as Google Docs or Box.net. There, you can easily access and update this important list.

[3]

Paradise:
Your Ideal Camp
and How to Find It

Here's a secret, not to share but to keep in mind:

Camp Directors need good staff.

Therefore:

— If you are enthusiastic and caring,
— if you follow the advice in this book, and
— if you try your best and keep trying —
then you can safely assume that you will find
a job in the camping world.

The challenge is: How can you tell if this is
the ideal camp for you? ... How can you tell
— before signing on or getting shanghaied —
if you would enjoy working there?

These are very difficult questions; the only way to really know a camp is to spend a summer there. You can't see the future; but you can do the next best thing: before you accept the job, learn everything you can learn about the camp.

When you visit the popular website Epinions (www.Epinions.com) you can find ratings and reviews about various products: camping stoves, camping shoes, and so on — but no ratings for summer camps. Even if you do discover online ratings, somewhere on the Internet, it will be impossible to know if these evaluations are sincere, or if they are written by disgruntled staff members. As in all things that matter, the best way to learn is to trust your own research, and trust your own judgment.

The search for your ideal camp begins when you clarify what you are looking for, based on your interests and needs. Before that self-assessment, you should take few minutes to learn about the various types of camps.

Camps are categorized in many ways. The most important way is based on this question: Do the kids sleep at the camp overnight? Thus, there are day camps; and there are overnight camps — also called “sleepaway camps” or “resident camps”.

From the counselor’s point of view, day camps often pay better, and give you more free time (in the evening and on weekends). Overnight camps pay weekly (very weakly), but they provide a free place to stay, and they give you the “total summer experience”. At overnight camps, you will learn more about working with children (and about yourself); and you will (probably) make friendships (with other staff members) that last a lifetime.

In addition to sorting camps by overnight or day, camps are also classified according to whether or not they are owned privately or owned by a non-profit group; and whether or not they are general camps or specialty camps. At general camps, the campers enjoy a wide range of activities (including sports,

nature, waterfront, and the arts). At specialty camps, one activity is prominent: there are technology camps, horseback riding camps, sports camps, arts camps, chess camps, weight loss camps, language camps, mathematics camps – and many more types of specialty camps.

A very simple classification system might divide all the world's camps into 4 types:

- 1) Overnight camp, General activities
- 2) Overnight camp, Specialty activity
- 3) Day camp, General activities
- 4) Day camp, Specialty activity

Of course, you may choose to apply for jobs at all four types of camps; or you might say to yourself: “I want to work at any day camp,” or “I want to work at any overnight camp.”

Once you have chosen a type of camp — or decided to apply to all types — you can make contact with a camp that interests you, via a letter, phone call or email. (Resist the

overwhelming temptation to contact the camp with a twitter or a plurk.) Before you apply for the job, you should learn about the camp. Here are some questions and ideas that will help you to learn more.

Questions You Can Ask the Camp Director or Camp Representative

1. Where is the camp?
2. May I see the camp?

(See the camp, if possible. But since that is not always possible, meet someone — Director, Assistant Director, Head Counselor — in the camp administration.)

3. Is the camp privately owned, or run by a non-profit group?
4. How long has the camp has existed?
5. How long has the current director been working with the camp?

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6. What are the return rates for campers and for staff?

7. In the past 5 years, have there been any fatalities or serious accidents at the camp?

8. How many children attend? What are their ages? What is the ratio of staff to campers?

(For an overnight camp, one staff person for every 8 campers is O.K.; but better is one staff person for every 6 campers, or even lower.)

9. Tell me about your camp: What kind of children attend the camp?

(Some camps are very expensive, and serve children of the wealthy. Other camps serve children from middle-class families, or children from families in financial need.)

10. Tell me about your camp's program, philosophy, and mission statement.

11. Tell me about the camp staff, and about the living conditions for staff.

12. What would I be doing all day at my job?

(Ask for a written job description, but remember that job descriptions are stuffy, and rarely tell you what it's really like. Get a daily schedule, and ask what the person who takes the job you are applying for will be doing at every moment of the typical camp day. In addition, you should look at a written copy of the camp's personnel policies.)

13. What are the next steps in the application process?

(Interviews are important for employers and for employees. Think twice before working at a camp who would hire someone without meeting them. There are exceptions: international staff, and staff who live too far from the camp site or the camp office.)

14. What are the starting and closing dates for

employment? ... What is the salary and other compensation? ... Does this include food and a place to sleep for the summer? ... Who is the person to contact if I have additional questions?

Here are a few more tips about how to judge a camp's quality, and how to decide if the camp is right for you.

- Don't take over the interview, or the pre-interview! ... Let the Camp Director, or the person you contact, ask their questions first. Wait until it's clear that the Director asks for your questions. If he or she does not ask for your questions (and that is a telltale sign that, at his/her camp, the counselors means little), then ask at the end of the interview, or at the end of the conversation.
- Study the camp's website and the printed brochure, and (if available) the recruitment video. But remember that these sources of information may be mostly hype, and far from the reality.

Caveat Camptor: Camp Staff, Beware!

Beware of “the perfect job” and “the perfect camp!” Be extremely cautious if the person who interviews you describes the job as easy and the camp as paradise. Do not confuse the quality of the camp with the expensiveness of the camp video or brochure.

Camps vary in quality, but camp is always hard work for the camp staff. The Camp Director, or the job interviewer, should be proud of her/his camp — that is good. At the same time, the Director must be honest enough to tell you all the essential challenges that your new job will bring you.

Camps That Impress You

You probably don't have time to investigate all the 12,000 summer camps in the USA. And of course, you will not be fooled by the “perfect”-looking staff members on some camp websites. These are professional models: you will not meet those babes and

beefcakes at the real-world summer camp. Paris and Kim taking care of teenaged girls in cabin number 10? ... No. Not a chance.

There are times, however, when your intuition informs you — in a sudden flash of inspiration — about a camp that may be just right for you. Suppose that you are looking online for a camp job, and a certain camp's philosophy seems especially appealing? ... Or, suppose one of your best friends tells you about a summer camp, and tells you that she had a rewarding experience working there?

Here are a few websites that are used by parents to find camps for their kids. You can use these sites to find out about camps you might want to work at.

American Camp Association (ACA)

http://find.acacamps.org/finding_a_camp.php

From this page you can search for camps by location, by camp name, by affiliation, by special needs, by cultural focus, by day or overnight, or by activities specialty.

My Summer Camps

www.mysummercamps.com/
www.mysummercamps.com/camps/summer-camp-guide.html (Summer Camp Guide)

Peterson's Summer Camps and Programs

<http://www.petersons.com/summerop/code/sector.asp>

At the very beginning of your job search, you may come up with 5 or 6 camps that look just right for you, based on recommendations from friends or parents; and from your own exploring on the Internet; or maybe from an article about Camp Sweetsummer that your grandmother sent to you. Once you have a list of these camps, your next step is to ...

Make the First Contact

Here is how I would contact a camp to learn more about the camp.

First, I would get a blank notebook (or: use my computer), to hold all the notes about my

job search. In this notebook (or computer file), I write down a number of camps that look good to me. Then I study the camps' websites, and make notes in my notebook. Now, one by one, I will telephone the camps.

Here's a sample conversation.

Job-Seeker:

Hello, this is Michael Pastore. I've looked at your website very carefully, and I'm interested in learning more about working at your camp this summer.

Camp secretary:

One moment, and I will redirect your call ...

Camp Laffmore representative:

Good morning. This is the Jane Cyrius, the Assistant Camp Director at Camp Laffmore. Thanks for calling. How can I help you?

Job-Seeker:

Hello, Ms. Laffmore, this is Michael Pastore. I've looked at your website very carefully,

and I'm interested in learning more about working at your camp this summer.

Camp Laffmore rep:

Call me Jane. Michael, how old are you?

Job-Seeker:

I'm 21, and I'm in my senior year at GMU: Generic Meltdown University.

Camp Laffmore representative:

That sounds good. Can you give me your phone number or email address?

Job-Seeker:

Jane, I'm not easy to reach by phone, but you can email me at ... [gives his email address and the spelling]. Or, Skype me at ...

Camp Laffmore rep:

Thank you. Have you filled out our online Employment Application?

Job-Seeker:

Not yet. I first wanted to see if all the jobs

listed on the website are still open, and I have a number of questions about your camp. It's difficult to decide which camp to work at.

Camp Laffmore rep:

It certainly is difficult. We keep the website current, and all the jobs listed there are still available. As you know from our website, we're a non-profit camp in upstate New York. The employment season is 9 weeks, from June 14 to August 17. Our admin staff, and staff taking CPR courses, arrive on June 7. The salary starts at \$ 1,800 for the summer, and depends on experience. Benefits include a humble place to sleep, and three meals every day. If you fill out an application, and we are interested in you, then we will contact you to schedule an interview by phone. At that time, the Camp Director will answer all your questions. If you have any urgent questions, I can answer them right now.

Job-Seeker:

I'm trying to find a camp that encourages children's creativity.

Camp Laffmore rep:

That sounds like us. We are a general camp, with a focus on all the arts. Children get to choose their own courses, just like university students. And we have dozens of different courses to offer every week.

Job-Seeker:

I like that idea. ... OK, I will fill out your online application today, and hope to hear from you soon.

Camp Laffmore rep:

Thank you, Michael. If I don't receive your application this week, then I will email you.

Job-Seeker:

Thank you, Jane. Goodbye.

For a first contact, this is about as good as it gets, for both the job applicant, and for the representative of the camp. From the job applicant's point of view, there was someone who answered the phone right away, and they

connected me to a camp staff member who had the answers. Ms. Laffmore sounded friendly and professional. She told me the basics, and asked if I had urgent questions.

From Ms. Laffmore's point of view, she must be pleased with the prospective job applicant who just phoned. He was courteous. He had taken time to look at the camp website. He is a university student. He asked a good question about camp life, not about how much free time he will get.

Calling a few camps will help you to compare. For sure, if the camp did not want to talk with me at all, or if they refused to answer any questions at all, or if it was difficult to contact the camp, or if the camp rep was rude on the phone — then I would cross this camp off my list.

[4]

Job Hunting 101: How to Find the Jobs Using the Classic Methods

Searching the Web is the most popular way to find jobs. But do not ignore some of the older, and still reliable ways to find employment. Often, the personal contact you will make — by letters or telephone, or in-person meetings — is far more effective than the disembodied communications online. The best strategy for finding your ideal job is to use all the methods and resources, old and new, described in this chapter and the next one.

In Chapter 5, we will offer our favorite websites for summer camp job hunting.

Here, in this chapter, are the ten simple and

dynamic ways to find out where the best summer camp jobs are hiding, without (or almost without) using the Web.

1. Networking (and Internetworking).

Ask friends, relatives and neighbors. Ask everyone you know and trust if they have found any camps they enjoy working at. Tell everyone you know that you are looking for a good job at a quality summer camp.

As soon as possible, you should also begin “Internetworking” — by sending emails to everyone you know, to tell them that you are looking for a summer camp job. Announce your plans to find a job on Facebook, Twitter, and your other social media websites.

2. Attend a Camp Job Fair.

Do not confuse a “camp job fair” with a “camp fair”. A “camp fair” is designed for parents who are seeking camps for their kids.

At camp job fairs, Camp Directors from many camps gather in one place to find and interview prospective staff. These fairs are held all around the country, often on the campuses of colleges. Here you will get to meet camp administrative staff, and also have the chance to ask questions, and compare camps. You can go from booth to booth and pick up camp brochures and job descriptions. Hint: take a notebook with you, and make notes immediately after you talk with a camp representative. Otherwise, you won't remember which camp provides smoked salmon for breakfast, and which one serves the soggy cereal.

Depending on the date, you might be offered a job immediately, and asked to sign a contract. If this happens, do not sign right away. Explain that you would like one week to think about things, and to review the contract (and personnel policies) carefully.

Ask your nearest college career center, or your reference librarian, for a list of job fairs

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near you. You can find some job fairs listed here:

ACA Listing of Summer Camp Job Fairs

<http://www.acacamps.org/jobfair/>

3. Visit Your Student Employment Office.

Check with your college or university's Student Employment Office. Camp Directors often send information to these offices. Check with the employment coordinator at your college to see if you can talk to some fellow students who have worked at the camps that interest you.

4. Search Newspapers by Location.

Do you know where — which geographical location — you want to work? ... Then read the want ads of the Sunday newspapers, especially the larger ones, in your chosen region. Your public library or your college library should have a selection of newspapers. —Note: There are thousands of newspapers

available free, online: See the links to online newspapers in Chapter 5.

5. Read Local Newspaper Camp Guides.

Your library probably has a copy of a “Guide To Local Summer Camps,” published by your town newspaper. Hint: Get a copy of last year’s edition to find the camps. The current editions are usually published in late Spring, too late to be useful to you.

6. Check Your Local Telephone Directory.

Don’t miss the local day camps and summer programs near your home or school.

7. Find Summer Camping Guides by State.

Most summer camps in America are inspected by state health departments, and granted a license when they pass. State governments often create brochures listing camps in the entire state. Your town hall or city hall, or your local youth bureau, probably has a copy

of this useful guide.

8. Check The Large Youth Organizations.

Large youth organizations — such as the YMCA, the 4-H Club, The Fresh Air Fund, Boys and Girls Clubs, and CampFire USA — all employ large numbers of staff members every summer. If there is an office near you, then phone them, or stop in and talk.

9. Ask The Reference Librarian

Reference librarians know everything. Most reference librarians at your local library will cheerfully provide you with useful and up-to-date job-searching information, in print and on the web.

10. Ask People About Their Favorite Camps.

If you know any parents of children who have attended summer camps, ask the parents — and ask the kids, too.

[5]

Job-Hunting Super-List: 20 Websites for Finding Summer Camp Jobs

Here is our super-list of more than 20 websites that will help you to find a job at camps in the USA. Technically speaking, not all these links are “websites”: they include search engines, general job sites, camp job sites, large youth organizations, and other helpful sources.

Future editions of this book may rank these sites in order of usefulness. But since that usefulness varies from person to person, we have listed these links alphabetically.

Protecting Your Privacy When You Apply

You may notice that we have not listed job

websites that — before showing you the jobs — require you to post your resume online. Sure, you might post your resume to a job website, and then an employer might contact you with your dream job. But for me, this method is too passive. I don't want to sit back, waiting and hoping that some random job will come to me. I want to take the initiative to find my job at the right camp.

There are other problems, too: your privacy, and the threat of identity theft. Can you trust the website to protect your personal information? ... If you can trust the website, you might want to try this “submit your resume then wait” approach. But if you have doubts about how your personal information is used and secured, then you can use the sites listed here in this chapter: these sites do not require you to post your resume.

What about giving out your Social Security Number (SSN) and birth date? Should you provide this information to a stranger?

You will need to decide for yourself who you can and cannot trust. That decision is a tough one, and it's all yours. I would never give my SSN or real birth date to a website that sends my resume to employers. I would give my SSN and birth date to a camp that I can verify. For example, on a job application for a local camp; or to a camp I'd never heard of if I can find it in a state brochure, or on the ACA website, or some other reliable source.

Is there any information you should not reveal to your camp employer?

- Your bank account information
- Your credit card number
- Your mother's maiden name (a common security question)

Your camp employer should never need to know this information above — even after you are hired. Do not provide it, even if asked.

And now, at last, here are our 20 wonderfully

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useful “websites” for finding summer camp jobs.

ACA (The American Camp Association) Jobs Section

<http://www.acacamps.org/jobs/>
http://jobs.acacamps.org/home/index.cfm?site_id=178

The American Camp Association is the largest non-profit summer-camp organization in the USA. Individuals may join the ACA; and camps may apply for “accreditation”, by meeting a rigorous set of standards. There are approximately 12,000 camps in the USA: about 2,400 camps are accredited by the ACA.

The web links (above) are part of the ACA national website. The first link takes you to the ACA “Employment Center”; the second link lets you submit an anonymous resume and create a job-seeker account. There is no charge to job seekers for these services.

ACA National Offices

<http://www.acacamps.org/about/offices.php>

This page has a link to all the ACA's local offices. So, for example, if you know that you want to work in Vermont, you can find all the ACA-member camps in the state of Vermont.

ACA New York section

<http://www.acampjob4u.org/wanttoworkatcamp.html>

www.acampjob4u.org/afteryouapply.html

The New York ACA connects you to more than 250 Camps in the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont. Through this website you can apply online for work at one of these camps.

ACA Northern California section

<http://www.acanorcal.org/findcamp.php>

This site links you to about 270 ACA-accredited camps in California.

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Boy Scouts of America (BSA)

<http://www.scouting.org/>

<http://www.scouting.org/LocalCouncilLocator.aspx>

(Find a scouting group in your area.)

This non-profit youth organization is almost 100 years old, and has more than 1.2 million adult volunteers, who serve more than 4.6 million young persons between the ages of 7 and 20. The links listed above will help you to find one of the 300 branch offices, which have information about their summer camps.

CampFire USA

<http://www.campfireusa.org/>

[http://www.campfireusa.org/Camp Directory.aspx](http://www.campfireusa.org/CampDirectory.aspx) (Camp directory)

CampFire USA is not-for-profit youth organization, serving nearly 750,000 children and youth under the age of 22. The group serves girls and boys.

The CampFire website promises: “We are inclusive, open to every person in the

communities we serve, welcoming children, youth and adults regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation or other aspect of diversity.”

CampFire USA runs many summer camps, which you can find using the links above.

Camp Page

<http://www.summercampstaff.com/index.htm>

<http://www.camppage.com> (A list of camps)

From this site you can find camp jobs by state; or find a list of summer camps. There is a good selection of jobs here, with contact information so you can visit the camp’s website, or contact the camp by email.

Craigslist

<http://www.craigslist.org>

<http://www.searchallcraigs.com/>

From the Craigslist home page, click on the

city or state you want to search. Then look on the left side of the web page and type in “camp”, and then click the drop-down arrow until you find “jobs”. Then find and click the right arrow (“>”) to begin searching for camp jobs in the city of your choice.

The second link, above, searches all the Craigslist lists at once.

For job-seekers seeking jobs, Craigslist is completely free. For employers, they charge only a small amount to post job openings. One might assume that, since it’s so cheap to list a job there, that you will get listings from a wide variety of camps, not just the wealthier camps. And that is good.

Diabetes Education and Camping Association

<http://www.diabetescamps.org/>

Diabetes camps help children and families with diabetes lead healthier, happier, and more productive lives through good diabetes management. Click a link to find camps that serve children and adults with diabetes.

Easter Seals Camp

http://www.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ntl_recruitcamp

(a list of Easter Seals Camps nationwide).

If you want to care for persons with disabilities — children and adults — then consider taking a summer job with an organization called Easter Seals. In the entire USA, Easter Seals is the largest provider of recreation and camping services for people with disabilities.

The website is well organized. You can find and contact an Easter Seals camp in a location that interests you; and you can view current job openings. (Not all job openings are listed, so you should look at both web pages above.)

Facebook

www.facebook.com

There are many ways to use Facebook for your job search. You can join Facebook, and connect with friends and family. You can find

new friends, who can tell you about their camp experiences. You can post information about yourself that will be helpful to employers. And you can join various camp-related groups on Facebook, including the group “It’s A Camp Thing, You Wouldn’t Understand”.

Fresh Air Fund

<http://www.freshair.org/>

<http://www.freshair.org/programs/summer-camping.aspx>

(Summer camping programs)

The Fresh Air Fund, founded in 1877, sponsors a number of programs, including five camps on Sharpe Reservation (2,300 acres) in the town of Fishkill, New York. The children who attend these camps are underprivileged, inner-city kids from New York City. The work is difficult yet rewarding. The Fresh Air camps are located on The Fund’s Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill, New York, 65 miles north of New York City.

Google

<http://www.Google.com>

Google, the world's greatest search engine, is a valuable resource for your camp job hunt. Type in a city or zip code, and then type the term "jobs at camp" or "camp jobs" — include the quotation marks. You'll find thousands of interesting links to explore.

Homeward Bound (Camp Homeward Bound)

<http://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/programs/camp-homeward-bound>

A summer camp for New York City's homeless children, sponsored by a non-profit organization, The Coalition for the Homeless. To apply for work there, look on the bottom of the web page given above.

Idealist

<http://www.idealists.org>

Idealist is an excellent website for sharing

resources, and for finding jobs with non-profit organizations. To use the site, type the word “camp” into the search box, and then click the “Search” button. When the search is done and the next screen appears, click on the link that says “Jobs”. You will then see a new screen with a list of jobs at non-profit camps.

In addition, you can sign up to get email alerts about new jobs.

Indeed

<http://www.indeed.com>

Indeed.com is my favorite website for finding all kinds of jobs. It searches job sites, newspapers, associations and the career pages of many companies. When I looked at the website, in January 2010, the site had indexed more than 925,000 new jobs — in the last seven days.

The site is easy to use: on the top left search box, type in a keyword (such as “camp”) and on the top right search box (using this box is optional), type in a zip code

or a city name. Then hit the button that says “Find Jobs” — and you will find jobs: lots and lots of jobs.

MAIC

(Midwest Association of Independent Camps)

http://www.campsrus.com/find_job.htm

MAIC, founded in 1960, is an organization that represents more than 45 independent summer camps (resident and day camps) in the Midwest. Members of MAIC have been meeting together and sharing ideas, methods and practices since 1960.

Summer Camp Jobs.com

<http://www.mysummercamps.com/jobs/>

When you search this site for jobs, you find only the jobs from the camps that have paid this website to be listed. If you want to find work with smaller camps, or not-for-profit camps, this might not be the site for you.

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However, in January 2010 I found more than 1,600 job offerings. You can find jobs either by category (counselor, archery specialist, waterfront staff, etc.) or by the name and location of the camp. The many camps which were named — but had no jobs advertised — might still be contacted by job seekers: the extensive list of camps is a very useful feature of this site.

News Voyager

<http://www.newsvoyager.com/voyager.cfm>

This site gives you links to thousands of newspapers in the USA and around the world. Do you want to work at a summer camp in Maine? ... Just search the Maine newspapers, in the section for classified job ads.

Ref Desk (section about newspapers)

<http://www.refdesk.com/paper.html>

Provides links to newspapers in the USA and

the world. Would you like to work in California? Search the California newspapers, in the “Help Wanted” sections, for jobs beginning with the words “camp” or “summer” or “counselor”.

Search Engines: The Rest of Them

Google is the world’s leading search engine. I use Google first, and rarely do I venture elsewhere. But if you’re feeling experimental, you might search for a summer camp job using one or more of the search engines listed below.

- ExaLead <http://www.exalead.com/search/>
- Yahoo Search <http://search.yahoo.com/>
- Ask <http://www.ask.com>
- AllTheWeb <http://www.alltheweb.com>
- HotBot <http://www.hotbot.com>

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- Sputtr <http://www.sputtr.com/>
- Clusty <http://clusty.com/>
- Bing <http://www.bing.com>

YMCA Camp Jobs

http://www.ymca.net/camp_vacancies/

The YMCA manages 265 resident (overnight) camps and more than 2,000 day camps in most of the 50 U.S. states. When you multiply 2,265 camps times the average number of staff per camp — you get a lot of jobs.

Summer Camp Jobs USA

www.SummerCampJobsUSA.com

This is the companion website to this book and ebook. Check in, now and again, for more features, updates, and useful links.

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