

ELCA INTERNATIONAL CAMP COUNSELOR PROGRAM

CAMP INFORMATION FOR SUMMER 2019

MISSION

The ELCA provides camps with counselors from partner churches in other parts of the world. Summer camp participants gain an experience in global education. Young adults from partner churches receive an opportunity to do ministry in the United States and return home with new ideas and a better understanding of the world.

WHO ADMINISTERS THE PROGRAM?

The ELCA International Camp Counselor Program is administered by the Domestic Mission unit in partnership with the Global Mission unit.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN THIS PROGRAM?

The program anticipates being able to place up to 40 counselors in the Summer of 2019. The goal is to host approximately 10 young adults from Europe and 30 from Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

HOW ARE THE COUNSELORS SELECTED?

Counselors are interviewed, then nominated and endorsed by overseas partner churches. Participants will later be asked to complete an information form. Whenever possible, the interview team will include a person from the U.S. who will evaluate the ability of the person to converse in English and provide some basic information about the program.

WHAT ARE THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS?

Counselors must be at least 18 years of age on the day that they enter the United States. Counselors must have the personal maturity to be open and flexible in a new and challenging environment. They must be willing to share their Christian faith with others. Counselors must also be confident in their use of the English language in conversation.

WHAT ARE CAMP COUNSELORS EXPECTED TO DO?

Counselors will be expected to serve on the camp staff for about 11 weeks. They will be asked to share their gifts in Bible study, worship, music, recreation, and any specific skills they might bring. They will be asked to share their faith and their culture with children, youth and adults. They may also be asked to share with the rest of the staff in occasionally doing food service or maintenance work.

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HOW ARE COUNSELORS PLACED?

Where possible, camps should consider working with their local synod to host a counselor from a companion synod of the ELCA. The ELCA director for outdoor ministries will work with the camp to identify an appropriate counselor.

Camps will indicate their desire to participate in the program including their preference for gender and/or country if desired. **Requests will be considered in the order that they are received, with priority being given to ELCA companion synod relationships.**

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST A CAMP TO PARTICIPATE?

The basic fee is \$ 2,400 per counselor. This covers the visa application process, international and U.S. domestic airfare, medical insurance, a two-day orientation program in the U.S. and a four-day debriefing and tour at the conclusion of the summer.

In addition, each counselor **will be paid \$45/week** in spending money (cash) from the camp. Counselors receive no other cash payment for their services.

WHEN WILL THE COUNSELORS ARRIVE AND DEPART?

Due to the complexity of managing this program, all counselors will arrive and depart camps on the same dates. **Counselors will travel to camps on Saturday, May 25 and depart camps on Saturday, August 10. If you decide to participate in this program you will also be agreeing to the established arrival and departure dates for counselors.**

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER EXPECTATIONS OF THE HOST CAMP?

The host camp will also be responsible for round-trip transportation between the camp and the nearest major airport. The camp will be responsible for providing hospitality for the international counselor prior to and throughout the summer. This should include appropriate pre-arrival communication, post-arrival training and orientation, and the assignment of a host family or families for care on weekends off.

Camps should consider using their counselors in a variety of roles throughout the summer, giving them different experiences.

WHO CAN I TALK TO IF I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Mark Burkhardt by phone at 1-800-638-3522 ext.2556 or e-mail at mark.burkhardt@elca.org