



USA-CAMP LEADERS 2017

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1. Camp Leaders:

Camp Leaders is one of the leading experts in American exchange programs. Every summer we provide summer camp jobs in the USA for more than 4000 people from all over the world. We focus on individual support of all applicants and help you with every single step of your application. The Central European office of Camp Leaders is located in Berlin, Germany. This office is responsible for your application. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact us: europa@campleaders.com

2. American Summer Camps:

- a. History
- b. Location & Size: there are literally thousands of camps across the US.
- c. The Campers: 10 million children now attend camp annually.
- d. Purpose: the primary purpose of many camps is the educational, physical and social development of campers.
- e. The Staff: at most camps, the adult supervisors are referred to as counselors and they are assigned to small groups of campers, called "bunks", "cabins", or "units". Counselors often share living accommodations with their campers or other counselors. Camps also recruit support staff to work in areas such as the camp office or the kitchen and these roles are just as important to a thriving camp environment.
- f. Camps hire staff from all over the US and many camps also choose to hire international counselors, who can provide a first-hand cultural experience for the campers and add value to any camp program.
- g. Camp Activities: although still true in many respects, the traditional view of a summer camp as an outdoor environment with hiking, canoeing, and campfires is evolving. In order to meet the ever-expanding interests and needs of campers, more and more summer camps are offering a wider variety of specialized activities. There are camps for the performing arts, rock music, magic, computers, languages, mathematics, persons with special needs and weight loss, just to name a few!

3. General Requirements:

- Age: 18 years or older (on 1 June 2017).
- Very good English language skills.
- Available for at least 9 weeks.
- Latest departure: 18 June (the earlier the better!).
- At least able to work until 15 August.
- No criminal background.
- Valid passport (at least valid until December 2017).

- Good skills and experience in 1 or more activities (see website).

4. **What you pay:**

- Registration fee: 30 €
- 1st instalment: 200 €
- 2nd instalment: 190€ (if interview takes place after 31st December 2016, then it is 260€).
- Total: 420€ (if interview takes place after 31st December 2016, then it is €490 €).

Christian Wack, director of Camp Leaders in Europe: “Applicants pay in 3 phases (€30 registration fee, €200 after we accept them to the program, €190 AFTER they are placed at camp). In case a participant doesn't get placed, we will refund the acceptance fee (€200), that is, if we do not manage to place him/her. But if it's the participant's fault (e.g. he refused to take part at job interviews with the camps, if he didn't submit documents on time, etc.) we will not reimburse him/her. So, if they do everything as they should and still don't get placed, they get all their money back except the €30 registration fee.

All participants need to be available on or before June 18th. The earlier they are available, the better are the chances for them to get placed at a camp. So if they apply with an availability date of, let's say, June 5 and after we have accepted them to the program, or a few weeks or months later they find out that they'll have to attend exams in July, we cannot reimburse them. In other words, if they apply for the program they need to be 100% certain that they are able to start working at a camp on or before June 18. If they are not certain whether they can make the deadline, they should not apply.”

5. **What you get:**

- Travel from arrival airport in the US to your camp.
- Pocket money ranging from \$1.400 - \$1.500 based on your skills and experience.
- Fantastic support to guide you through the application process and find you a placement at camp.
- A preparation course to get you ready for camp (Skype).
- Camp Leaders Guidebook.
- Assistance with your J-1 visa and cultural exchange permits (DS-2019 document).
- Up to 90 days medical insurance.
- 24-hour support whilst in the USA.
- Food and accommodation whilst at camp.
- Time to travel in the USA after camp (30 days after visa expires).

6. **What you gain:**

- Friendships to last a lifetime.
- International contacts and work experience.
- The opportunity to learn new skills and enhance your existing skill-set.
- Independent travel experience and confidence building.

- An enhanced CV.
- Unrivalled Camp Leaders support service.
- Knowledge and guidance from the Camp Leaders staff who have all worked at camp in the USA.
- A rewarding, fun and life-changing experience!

7. **Third-party costs:**

Since you will be participating in a program involving children and a country for which a visa is required to work, there are rules and regulations that result in some additional costs as follows:

- Flight to and from the USA.
- Visa fees to be paid to the US embassy (currently around 150€)
- Travel expenses to the US embassy in Madrid to apply for your J-1 visa.
- Fees for criminal background check.
- Fees for a medical check or vaccinations by your physician, if applicable.

8. **First Contact:** online application + first e-mail from Camp Leaders + c + d

a. **Online application.**

b. **First e-mail:** “Please complete your online profile within the next 7 days on our Camp Leaders website and let me know when you are available to speak on Skype. Our office hours are Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Please notice the latest available date to start with camp is the 18th of June and you need to be available for 9 weeks. Please remember, the earlier we can accept you to our program, the better are your chances of getting a job at camp.”

c. **First contact or “information chat” (normally 30 minutes on Skype or telephone).**

d. **1st Interview on Skype (60 minutes).**

e. **2nd Interview with the Camp Director.**

f.

NOTAS:

1. J-1 VISA: <http://j1visa.state.gov> Bringing Cross-Cultural Experiences Home: J-1 Visa by the Numbers
Every month you can find more than 170,000 participants in the United States, working, studying or teaching through the J-1 Visa Program. Visa is bringing the intercultural experience to America's backyard.
2. DS-2019: <http://j1visa.state.gov/participants/how-to-apply/about-ds-2019/detailed-description-of-the-ds-2019>
Form DS-2019 , “Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status” is a Department of State controlled document that can only be produced through the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). SEVIS is the Department of Homeland Security database developed to collect information on the F, M and J visa holders. The Form DS-2019 is the basic document required to support an application for an exchange visitor visa (J-1). It is a 2-page document. Foreign nationals are required to sign page one of the form agreeing to the instructions and certification language relating to participation in the exchange program found on page two.

Frequently asked questions

1. How will I be paid by camp?
2. Will my local bank card work in the USA?
3. How much money should I budget for camp?
4. Why do you require a payment before my Video-Skype interview?
5. Who will interview me at my Video-Skype interview?
6. What will my interview consist of?
7. When will I find out if I have been accepted?
8. What happens if I cannot make my scheduled interview?
9. Where should I send copies of any documentation?
10. I don't have a passport, what should I do?
11. How do I provide a reference?
12. Who can provide a reference?
13. How many references do I need?
14. Why do I need a police background check?
15. Do I need to undergo a full medical examination?
16. What does it mean to be "Ready to Hire"?
17. How do I become "Ready to Hire"?
18. What does "On Review" mean?
19. Can other camps see my application when I am on review?
20. **I am placed! What happens now?**
21. What is a "J-1" visa? What documents are needed to obtain a J-1 Visa?
22. How do I book a visa interview?
23. What happens at my in-person interview at the US Embassy/Consulate?
24. What does "proof of ties" mean?
25. What documents are needed to obtain a J-1 Visa? DS-2019 form; SEVIS; I-797C
26. Are there any other passport requirements that I should be aware of?
27. When can I book my flights?
28. Which airport will I fly to?
29. What documents will I need to pass through immigration?
30. How do I get to camp from the airport?
31. What does my insurance cover?
32. I have a problem at camp, who should I ask for help?
33. I have a family emergency and need to return home immediately, what do I do?
34. I have to leave camp before the end of my contract, what happens now?