

Dear Potential Camp Ondessonk Summer Staff Member,

“The best part of life is to decide to make the journey through life like a best selling book. Tell a fantastic story when you are ready to tell others how you did it. Make your life the best story ever written through a journey filled with overcoming obstacles, taking risks, and continuing to develop.” – Catherine Pulsifer. I am so glad you have decided to consider Camp Ondessonk as a chapter in your book for summer 2025. There will be obstacles along the journey; but most importantly there will be growth for your leadership, relationships, and life skills.

It is no secret that working for a residential summer camp can be both the hardest and most rewarding job you have ever had. There are long hours involved, caring for up to 32 children as they (and you) adjust to life in the outdoors; but even the hardest times bring memories to be made, friendships to develop, and lives to change. If you choose to work at Camp Ondessonk for the summer of 2025, I cannot say precisely where you may find struggle or success; but I can promise that you will change the lives of the campers and staff that you interact with each week. You will be the one that someone goes home and brags to their friends and family that they know you; the one that someone will be looking for as they cross the covered bridge in 2025; the one that future staff will look up to and have looked up to as a leader, mentor, and friend. So yes, some days will be long and hard but the reward at the end is worth adding to not only your story, but to all of our stories.

As you continue to think about working at Camp Ondessonk for the Summer of 2025, I want to share some information with you about the changes you will notice. This list is not everything but is the start of what is to come so that you can have a better picture of Summer 2025 at Camp Ondessonk.

- Challenge blocks will include everyone in a unit, and be focused on low challenge. Senior Campers will have a special opportunity during their second swim block to do the water zipline, and a Friday arrowhead hunt opportunity.
- The Special Activities Coordinator will assist the Dining Hall Manager in being the voice of meals to utilize large crowd engagement strategies to help meals continue to be efficient.
- The Layover program will only run after Sessions 1, 3, 6, and 8. In this change the O.W.L.s will receive additional chances to practice programming.

“No one can decide the road that inspires us to kick-start a journey better than the one embarking on the path. We may find others joining our journey, but we have to take the first step alone to reach our destination.” – Dr Prem Jagyasi. As you consider this first step to working the Summer of 2025 at Camp Ondessonk, I hope you find your mind open to all of the possibilities this summer holds, and hopefully join our team for an incredible experience. If you join us, although your first step may be alone, you will find a community and family ready to walk next to you, ready to raise you high when you succeed and help you up when you fall. Ultimately, I know that whatever decision you make, it will be the best decision for you and your journey.

It takes courage to work at Camp Ondessonk, and I know whether you choose Camp or not, you have so much courage even considering it. Thank you for considering Camp Ondessonk employment as part of your summer adventures this year. I look forward to reviewing your application and hopefully getting the chance to interview you.



Nolan Hurst
Camping Services Director
Camp Ondessonk

