Adventure Team Leader – Job Description

Camp Ondessonk

Position Title: Team Leader – Adventure Programs

Role Classification: Leadership Staff

Reports to: Adventure Coordinator

Number of Adventure Team Leaders for Summer 2020: 2-3 (two non-horse Adventure programs run each session)

Overview: The Team Leader role in the Adventure program is distinct from the Unit Leader role in Camp Ondessonk Traditional Camp in several key ways: Adventure Team Leaders (1) are responsible for a team process of planning and delegating responsibility among team members to execute programming and are almost never the sole staff member supervising the Adventure “unit” of campers. As such, Adventure Team Leaders (2) oversee an Adventure staff tasked with much greater leadership responsibility and expected hard skill competency than Traditional Camp general staff, necessitating that Adventure Team Leaders (3) share responsibility and provide a deeper level of relational coaching and regular feedback, which will include a formal staff development process provided by the Adventure Coordinator. Adventure Team Leaders also (4) shoulder a far greater amount of logistical responsibility as the go-betweens connecting the Adventure Coordinator and the adventure programs.

Required Qualifications:

- Age 21 or older
- Able to arrive May 15th and attend all of Adventure training through June 5th
- Current wilderness medicine certification *Wilderness First Aid* or higher
- U.S. driver’s license and able to drive a camp mini bus
- Previous experience backcountry camping and some summer camp/outdoor education background
- Previous leadership experience

Preferred Qualifications:

- Current Lifeguard certification
- Experience or certification in basic natural rock climbing/rappelling and swift water paddling
- Current *Wilderness First Responder* certification
- Previous experience leading others in the backcountry
- Comfortable facilitating Christian faith-based programming (such as group prayer, devotional journaling, and provided lessons and activities) in a Roman Catholic-majority context (alongside some staff and campers who are non-Catholic or non-Christian)
- Familiarity with environmental education (biology, ecology, geology, astronomy, etc.), especially that of southern Illinois, and interest in designing educationally rich experiences for campers

Responsibilities:

- **FULL ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN ALL STAFF TRAININGS**
  - TEAM LEADER TRAINING: Arrive May 15th and participate in all Adventure Team Leader and Camp Ondessonk Leadership Staff trainings as directed by the Adventure Coordinator.
  - ADVENTURE TRAINING ASSISTANCE: Attend all required trainings between May 15th and June 5th and assist the Adventure Coordinator and other Team Leader(s) in executing Adventure staff training.
LEADERSHIP OF ADVENTURE STAFF TEAM

✔ SUPERVISE Adventure staff as you work as a team to run Adventure programming.

✔ COACH Adventure staff throughout the summer, through scheduled feedback conversations and a general mentoring presence, investing relationally in the staff and their personal growth and health. This will involve formal and informal dimensions.

✔ EMPOWER Adventure staff by sharing and delegating responsibility and providing the staff with the tools to succeed, including them in planning processes, communicating program information, offering skill training, and allowing them to make mistakes (within reason) for the sake of growth and learning.

PREPARATION AND OVERSIGHT OF THE EXECUTION OF ADVENTURE PROGRAMS

✔ AID THE ADVENTURE COORDINATOR IN PREPARATIONS before programs begin, as directed by the Adventure Coordinator.

✔ OVERSEE TEAM COORDINATION: Work together with Adventure staff to make plans, communicate decisions, and coordinate the execution of program logistics and facilitation.

✔ FACILITATE PROGRAM ELEMENTS: including adventure activities (backpacking, rock climbing, paddling, ground-based team-building initiatives, etc.), front and backcountry camping processes (lead a flow for traveling, setting camp, cooking meals, managing water and waste, etc.), and other camper group experiences (fun activities, community-building, prayer and journal time, council lessons, Lodge ceremonies, etc.). Attend programming and assist all contracted Adventure vendors and guides according to expectations communicated by the Adventure Coordinator.

✔ COMMUNICATE WITH COORDINATOR AND CONTRACTED VENDORS regarding logistical information, emergency responses, and anything else directed by the Adventure Coordinator.

✔ UPHOLD SAFETY STANDARDS, CAMPER SUPERVISION, AND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: Maintain and keep all Adventure staff accountable to all policies and procedures of Camp Ondessonk (in the Summer Staff Manual) and of the Adventure program as articulated by the Adventure Coordinator (in the Adventure Staff Manual) at all times during staff training (May 15th to June 5th) and from 9:00 a.m. Sunday to 11:00 a.m. Saturday every session worked, regardless of location or the presence of campers, as well as any time you are on Camp Ondessonk property from May 15th to August 2nd.

CULTURAL LEADERSHIP FOR THE ADVENTURE STAFF COMMUNITY

✔ ADVENTURE PROGRAM VISION: Understand, remember, and internalize the Adventure program vision laid out by the Adventure Coordinator and allow its core values and desired outcomes to play an important role in making judgments and decisions.

✔ MODEL to fellow staff and to campers: mature character, healthy relationships, and the vision and values of Camp Ondessonk and of the Adventure program at all times from May 15th to August 2nd. Work to create an excellent staff culture by the example you set.

Camp Ondessonk Adventure Program Vision:

Ondessonk Adventure Programs use purposefully facilitated, journey-driven, community-based, environmentally educational, spiritually engaging, and reflection-filled outdoor adventure experiences to foster the development of self-confidence, mature character, healthy leadership, environmental stewardship, and grounded faith in campers and staff alike, through transformational encounters with self, others, nature, and God.
ADVENTURE STAFF: TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Backcountry Outdoor Living: the specific outdoor skills that are essential to individual/group sustainability in the backcountry

Risk Management: a structured approach to manage actual risk, emotional risk, and perceived risk through: risk assessment, utilization of management and instructional resources, and knowledge and execution of emergency protocols

Planning and Logistics: the knowledge, skills, and abilities to ensure proper planning and implementing of Ondessonk's Adventure Camp Programs

Leadership and Leadership Development: the ability to accurately self-assess as well as those essential skills concerning or involving relationships between people; the ability to effectively implement a decision

Nature/Environmental Integration: the knowledge of concepts that embody ecological and cultural literacy, ability to teach them, and the planning and management skills needed to ensure the preservation of resources through personal connections for past, present, and future generations

Adventure-Based Experiential Education: the ability to know and implement theories and practices of teaching, processing, and transference

Christian Spiritual Programming: incorporation and integration of the values and teachings of Camp Ondessonk's heritage and identity of Catholic Christian faith into the learning experiences and program elements of adventure trips

ADVENTURE GENERAL STAFF: JOB EXPECTATIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

1. TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT: Staff need to fully engage in the process of staff training, including being present for all six weeks of training, completing all necessary certifications and assessments, contributing to community building and development, and completing any required assignments.

2. PROGRAM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: Staff will take part in program planning for the summer adventure programs, and will be responsible for developing lesson plans, logistical preparations, and group development plans.

3. CAMPER SUPERVISION: Staff will be responsible at all times for the safety and development of this group within the activities of the program.

4. WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP: Staff will develop a thorough understanding of principles of trip leadership through the process of training and will be required to follow all safety procedures and policies in order to conduct an adventurous, learning-rich, positive tripping experience.

5. GROUP FACILITATION: Staff will develop a thorough understanding of principles of group facilitation and development through the process of training, and will be responsible for developing a safe, authentic community in the groups they lead.

6. RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Staff are responsible for developing supportive relationships with each participant of their group during Adventure Camps, through planned interactions, intentional conversations, and an appropriate level of support and challenge.

7. POLICIES AND MODELING: Staff will be responsible for living out the policies, vision/mission, philosophy and objectives of Camp Ondessonk and Ondessnk Adventure in words and actions during their entire time on staff.

8. SAFETY: Above all, staff are responsible for maintaining the physical, mental, and emotional safety of their campers, both while out on trips and while back at camp. Staff are responsible for following all guidelines set by Camp Ondessonk during their time on staff.