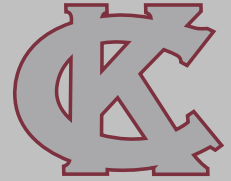


# CAMP KAWANHEE



## The Professional Benefits Of Being A Counselor

HOW IT CAN GIVE YOU AN EDGE IN COLLEGE & YOUR CAREER

October 2023



### Working at camp IS a REAL job

Feel pressure to find a summer internship?

Think you need to get employer name recognition to land that dream job?

The truth is, working at camp can be one of the best ways to launch your college experience, your career & your life! Few other jobs give you the chance to handle such high levels of responsibility at such a young age.

Camp is a great opportunity for you to develop & demonstrate the soft skills employers increasingly identify as key for hiring. It provides the environment to take on increased responsibilities that will make you more hireable **AND** provides numerous real-life examples of how you utilized those skills so **YOU** stand out.

What do you think you'll learn as an intern for the summer versus the opportunity to be a leader & role model at camp?

At camp you get to be part of a community where you are valued, empowered to be creative, held accountable, challenged by working long days and survive with little or no personal space... all while being responsible for a cabin of young campers for whom you're a role model & leader. Day in & day out you'll be acquiring, developing & honing skills you'll need in college, in a successful career & throughout your life. You'll get to work in an empathetic organization that cares about your success & helps you achieve that.

*What internship will give you the opportunity to do all that?*

### Working at camp checks these boxes:

- ✓ Is a working experience few others will have
- ✓ Challenges your personal & life skills in a way few other jobs are likely to
- ✓ Makes a difference & has an impact
- ✓ Shows perseverance
- ✓ Offers responsibility & leadership opportunities
- ✓ Demonstrates your loyalty coupled with career progression

"The great thing about overnight camp counselors is that they have **ACTUAL, REAL, VALUABLE** skills" says Michael McCutcheon, a career coach & counseling psychologist at Wanderlust Careers in New York City

### WHAT'S YOUR TRAIL?

The decision to work at camp isn't the usual or expected path. Doing so for several years may reveal how much you value sustainability, equity & the environment. It demonstrates you have commitment & shows you have the ability to take on a role, then grow & develop within the same organization.

More than ever, employers are looking for people with flexibility, who can adapt & grow once hired within the company. Whether you transition from camper to counselor, junior to senior counselor, or take on greater responsibility in an activity or lodge - you're showcasing the depth of your capabilities & growth as a leader. Planning & managing people are essential skills for camp & **NOT** the norm in other career experiences.

#### FOCUS

"It's the new IQ" says Georgetown Computer Science Professor Cal Newport. Imagine your job as a counselor without being focused. It's also time management & following through. You can be one of the few to show you have truly owned a deliverable from start to completion.

#### CUSTOMER SERVICE

Most entry level jobs have a customer-facing component but few graduates have real experience in this. As a counselor you face demanding customers every day & night - campers.

Critically your biggest test - drop off, when you have 10 mins or less to convince parents their most valued asset is safe with you!

#### FLEXIBILITY

Being adaptable to a rapidly moving workplace & market means being agile. Not a complainer but an agent of change.

Having the ability to overcome, being resourceful, remaining calm under pressure, handling setbacks - it's called grit or just another day at summer camp!

#### HUMILITY

Employers will be more interested in how you tackle tasks without experience or knowledge. Admitting you don't know things & asking for help are sure signs of maturity & signal you as trainable & a good collaborator.

Randstad Sourceright 2023 Talent Trends reports employers are placing a greater emphasis on skills development & coaching for their employees as a response to the economy & hiring squeeze. Focus is more than ever on hiring talent that leans into skill building, learning & development on the job.  
The role of Camp Counselor is that personified!

### Top Qualities That Will Make YOU More Hireable

Honesty  
Loyalty  
Determination  
Personal Work Ethic  
Eagerness to Learn & Adapt  
Growth Mindset  
Proactiveness

If you are working at CK, you've demonstrated you have these qualities

### WHAT SKILLS ARE EMPLOYERS HIRING FOR TODAY?

LinkedIn's Global Talent Report & others surveyed top-flight hiring personnel to find the skills employers are hiring for. At the top of the list: **soft skills, those interpersonal skills also known as Emotional Intelligence.** Over 92% believe "EQ" is equal to or matters more than hard skills. The top EQ skills in highest demand?

- 1. Communication:** the ability to listen, read people's emotions, communicate effectively, convey your opinions & persuade others. None of this is easy! Your ability to present ideas & convince others is a life skill. Your success depends on your ability & reputation as an effective communicator & leader. And you get to do this on a daily basis with campers, parents, coworkers & leadership.
- 2. Creativity:** no longer the domain of art or design; it's problem solving. You need to be curious, open to all possibilities & able to think outside of the box. The event you have planned suddenly needs to change & you have 80 campers looking to you, expecting to have fun NOW!
- 3. Collaboration, Interpersonal Skills & Teamwork:** Work can often be done in teams, so employers need people to collaborate with colleagues and customers that may be living in different countries & time zones. "When you can effectively connect with others & become a bridge to continued progress, your value multiplies." Being able to constructively work through disagreements with people is a sure sign of maturity, as well as leadership potential.
- 4. Adaptability:** Change is constant so flexibility is key. Being able to adapt your thinking & actions to handle unforeseen circumstances is key to becoming an indispensable member of the team.
- 5. Time Management & Organization:** Being able to prioritize & focus on the goal & the constituent parts is crucial to a project's success.

**The underlying message? It's all about relationships, the how we do what we do. No matter what your work, to succeed you must interact with others. That means being a trusted, empathetic team player. And there is no CAMP KAWANHEE without team players.**

An Employer Knows When Hiring a Camp Counselor That Person Will Have Demonstrated These Skills:

Effective Communicator  
Lifelong Learner  
Self-Starter  
Resilient  
Creative  
Detail Oriented  
Leader  
Team Player

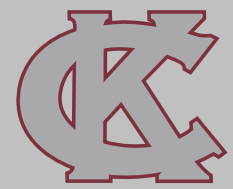


### Whether You Call It Resilience, Grit or Perseverance, A Camp Counselor Needs It!

You need to handle just about everything - from the homesick camper who can't sleep, to teaching an activity in the rain for 4 days straight, and then learning a camper in your cabin has lice. At camp you need to jump into action! Things can change at any moment & you are responsible for the campers in your cabin from breakfast through the night. You'll also be paying attention to every detail so when you write home to their parents about their child & his camp experiences, they can see you KNOW their child.

**So now you know a little more about how working as a Camp Counselor has the ability to make YOU stand out from other candidates, at school, at college, in life. All while you work for the summer by a lake in the woods of Maine. How does that internship measure up now?**

# CAMP KAWANHEE



October 2023

## Resume Building: The Benefits Of Being A Counselor

### HOW SUMMER CAMP COULD HELP YOUR RESUME & INTERVIEW

So you chose to work at Kawanhee as a Counselor. Thank you!

But are you really making the best use of your experiences working at camp?  
Does your resume best reflect all that you learned & were able to practice at camp?  
In an interview will you fully convey the extent of your role at camp?

Working as a Camp Counselor has the ability to make you stand out from other candidates, at school, at college, at work, in life...but only if you have fully represented the work experience in your resume & in an interview!

Before you say, "sure, of course I have," take a look at this flyer & then decide.

#### REMEMBER

Not everyone was fortunate enough to go to camp. So, not everyone appreciates what being a Camp Counselor involves. They may not understand the full extent of your responsibilities both running an activity & a lodge. So make sure to identify what you did, relating to the soft skills they may be hiring for & illustrating the range & scope of your responsibilities.

#### Tips To Make Sure Your Camp Experience Stands Out

- Use active language that details your duties. Try: lead, manage, communicate, facilitate, advise, collaborate, resolve, train.
- Select language that best describes your responsibilities & ties them to the skills sought by today's employers. (See CK's Professional Benefits of Being A Counselor flyer!)
- Have an anecdote at hand for everything on your resume. Experience is THE tangible asset, & your story may be the one they most remember.
- Working at camp is like being a project manager: SCOPE - the range of your responsibilities; SCHEDULE - when & where you are executing your job; RESOURCES - knowing what you need & whether you have it; EXECUTION - carrying out your duties so campers have fun but know you're in charge & they feel safe; RISK ASSESSMENT - what might go wrong, what does go wrong, assessing the situation in the moment & adopting a back-up plan, all while thinking on your feet and communicating!

**Work Ethic & Determination**  
Pretty much every employer or college wants someone with these qualities. Having worked at summer camp you'll have many ways to demonstrate that you have those skills. Running an activity some with inherent safety issues with a bunch of easily distracted campers & getting everyone to have fun isn't a cakewalk.

#### Parallels At Work

Your decision to work at camp isn't the norm. Perhaps you withstood pressure to tread the more traditional path of an internship. And maybe that's because you believe a camp position provides greater opportunity for real life experiences and greater possibilities for responsibility & leadership, all while fulfilling a mission & social purpose you strongly support.

Employers realize that once hired, an important component to retaining someone is high identification to the corporate mission, its values & social purpose.

There are certainly some parallels working here!

#### Interview Power Plays

What other job gives you 10 minutes to meet & reassure an adult they are wise to entrust you with their most valued possession - their child? Leading a group of campers (& sometimes counselors) living in close proximity for a long period of time requires leadership, quick & flexible decision-making & a reputation for fairness. It also builds endurance - the ability to be "on-duty" around the clock & still come up with the goods! Long hours & this kind of work ethic demonstrate dedication. And you are responsible for your campers health & safety - that's HUGE! These skills equate directly to what an employer is looking for - so don't miss the opportunity to talk about it.

#### Communication & Conflict Resolution

Camp's "no technology" policy emphasizes your ability to read & process emotions while being able to resolve differences in person & avoid the anonymity of texting. Camp places intense expectations on 'face to face' communications with fellow counselors, campers, staff, leadership, & parents. Skillful communication helps to anticipate & resolve conflict, navigate individual differences while maintaining team spirit & fostering respect. Your communication skills underpin your ability to organize & instruct campers, assess difficult situations like homesickness or behavioral issues, & identify multiple approaches for distinct people. In terms of written communications, don't undervalue the camper reports you draft each summer. Writing a detailed-oriented, perceptive summary & evaluation of your campers' summer is no easy task, especially as parents will know immediately if you 'get' their child. Your words, verbal & written, are often book-ending impressions for campers & their parents.

## TIPS: HOW TO ARTICULATE YOUR COUNSELOR EXPERIENCE ON YOUR RESUME

Many employers will be able to connect the dots & see for themselves the value of your camp experience. But your resume will stand out more if you can do that for yourself.

- ▶ How many years have you been at camp? This can demonstrate loyalty, longevity, persistence, passion & that management wanted to keep you around!
- ▶ What positions have you held? Junior counselor, lodge counselor, department head, DOA, trip leader, lifeguard, captain, coach, mentor..... these all describe & accentuate leadership, responsibility & an ability to grow.
- ▶ What responsibilities have you had? Use verbs rather than just describe! "I organized this league"... "I managed my activity"... "I planned Grey & Maroon events"... "I managed a cabin of 8 year-olds, most of whom had never been to camp before"... "I saw an opportunity to improve"... "I volunteered to organize...."
- ▶ What skills have you developed? Consider a separate section of your resume to list the soft & hard skills you possess. Have examples for the soft skills you identify which could include: effective communicator, leadership, problem solver, conflict resolution, collaboration. Examples of hard skills could include activity-specific abilities &/or certifications like: CPR, First Aid, Belaying, JMG, etc.

## HOW TO NAIL THAT INTERVIEW

It might seem obvious but with a little extra work you may be able to better align what you can offer to an employer.

- **Do Your Research** - Know what the culture & structure of the organization are. This can give you a clue as to the skills they most value & seek. How important are soft skills to them? Which ones?
- **Give Specific Examples** - Mention & expand upon moments that best illustrate your skills. Offering real world examples, as opposed to speaking in generalities, is more compelling & can show more insight.
- **Show Humility** - Giving the impression you know all the answers isn't the most attractive quality in a candidate. An admission of what you don't know but an awareness of where to find out an answer absolutely is!
- **Maintain Articulate & Confident Demeanor** - Remember your poise when introducing yourself to parents & campers on that first day even though you might have been really nervous? How about that announcement you made in the Dining Hall that got the entire camp on their feet? Or the candid, emotional speech you gave at testimonials? Use those interpersonal & public speaking skills to your advantage in an interview!

## What Is An Employer Looking For?

In the current economic uncertainty & hiring squeeze, businesses need to be flexible & agile. They are increasingly looking for talent they can develop into different roles. For that they need employees who are quick & eager to learn, dedicated to personal growth & able to teach others. They are looking for adaptability, especially important in the hybrid working environment.

- ▶ While many may think summer at camp is repetitive, you know that each day is different. So bring to the interview examples of your adaptability in practice.
- ▶ Learning & development are the characteristics of a successful Counselor, which also means being receptive to feedback which is an essential component of growth.

## Be Proactive

Are you observant? If you see a disaster that's about to happen or something that's not going to work, do you jump into action & fix it?

Employers love to see evidence that a hire solves problems. So think about your time at camp, of any situations where you were proactive, thought of a solution, perhaps raised it to Camp Leadership & were part of the implementation!

## ETHICS & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

As an SC you are a role model for those around you, around the clock! You embody the values of Kawanhee & demonstrate the behaviors we ask of our campers on a daily basis. You facilitate the development of a vast number of skills. These include, among others, helping campers appreciate & learn from those with different values & backgrounds, & helping them explore who they are & what they care about. Just ask any camp alum - your impact can last a lifetime.

## TEAMWORK

Camp is one big team effort from every member from the first day to the last. You'll need to work effectively with children & adults of all ages, backgrounds, languages & cultures. It's no small feat finding creative ways to foster teamwork in the lodge or in your activity. Developing empathy while recognizing disparate interests & objectives isn't something you're born with. It takes time, perseverance & a willingness to learn. And you got to practice it on a daily basis!

How many summer jobs offer exposure to these types of challenges & help you succeed?



# THE KAWANHEE FACTOR: COLLEGE

Alumni Thoughts about CK's Impact on the College Experience

## ADMISSIONS:

100% of alumni interviewees identified CK as having a positive impact on getting into their college!

74% indicated they wrote one or more college app essays about CK.

College essays generally want to see you relate a specific, personal part of your life to broader ideas of **challenge, community, and assistance**. Kawanhee is a fantastic place for that.

Grant Moravec  
Cornell '23  
Camper: '11-'16  
Counselor: '17-'23

## Top 3 Skills from DAILY LIFE at CK

### Independence & Intention

There is a lot of **unstructured time** at camp, which we learned to make the most of. We were able to be creative and autonomous. College is very similar!

Jake Zellner  
Vanderbilt '17  
Camper: '08-'10  
Counselor: '11-'14

Drake Williams  
CU Boulder '20  
Camper: '06-'12  
Counselor: '13 & '19

I always thought it would be cool to swim the head of the lake and I remember thinking 'I'll be more prepared next year and try it then', year after year. Finally, I realized that I just had to go for it even if I thought I wouldn't make it. And I did. Still makes me think about how even if you think you aren't, **you'll never know if you're ready for something until you go for it.**

Starting every morning with a cold-plunge in the freezing waters of Webb Lake prepared me for college more than I could have ever imagined. **I always had a go-getter mindset once I entered the dorms**, and waking up for class was never a problem.

Colin Holstein  
University of Kentucky '18  
Camper: '07-'11  
Counselor: '12-'19

### Finding & Being Your Authentic Self

CK was where I developed social confidence, **learning that I could come out of my shell and people would value me.** This was reinforced when I played piano at every Open Mic Night, and can realistically be all traced back to when I starred as Max the Axe in our Deer '07 skit.

Caleb Julloss  
Brown '18  
Camper: '07-'11  
Counselor: '12-'15

Sam Reynolds  
Emerson '18  
Camper: '07-'11  
Counselor: '12-'16

Camp taught me that I could be my full self without worrying about how I am perceived by others and **I could be accepted 100% for who I am by the right people.** Camp is full of the right people!

### Comfort in Close, Diverse Communities

When you're in a small lodge with 10 people you're going to have to learn how to work & socialize with people who annoy you or you don't think you have anything in common with. In fact, sometimes **those people go on to be some of your closest friends.** That served me in college and beyond.

Mac McReynolds  
Bates '17  
Camper: '06-'10  
Counselor: '11-'15

Ben Smith  
Harvard '12  
Camper: '03-'05  
Counselor: '06-'12

We come from different economic, geographic, and cultural backgrounds, but for 7 weeks we live, eat, play, and grow together. When you get to college, **not only are you prepared for the wide array of people you'll meet, you're excited about it.** (Plus, it makes sharing space and having a roommate SO MUCH easier.)

I still think about just I was welcomed on my 1st day of camp **anytime there is a newcomer to a group that could use a friendly face.**

Max Zambito  
University of Dayton '17  
Camper: '04-'10  
Counselor: '11-'17

### BONUS: THE JMG FACTOR

52% of alumni interviewees identified Junior Maine Guide, unprompted, as serving them either in their application process or during their studies at school or both!

It taught me **humility, perseverance, and dedication.**

The biggest lesson I learned from camp is that in failure. Failing year one and then coming back and having another chance at success really allowed me to **reconsider my approach to how I work through difficult obstacles in life.**

I didn't think of myself as especially driven or intelligent until JMG. Passing JMG really **built my confidence, and changed the trajectory** of my high school & college experience.

It was a huge challenge that taught me about **delayed gratification.**

JMG is the first time I learned that I could **enjoy studying and the fruits of those labors.**

## BONUS: THE REFRESH FACTOR

Going to CK the summer before college applications helped me **stay grounded through a stressful process.**

I was **fully recharged** after a summer of friendship, nature, and spirit. It was exactly what I needed returning to a stressful college environment

I don't think the average person would understand the love & support system that camp provides. Coming "home" to the same friends, + new friends, on the shores of Lake Webb every summer, was **truly therapeutic.**

The time away from "regular life" allowed me to **reset and reflect** on how to be fully present in it.

## Top 3 Skills from COUNSELOR WORK at CK

### Time Management & Planning

Sean Duncan  
Whitman '06  
Middlebury: '15  
Camper: '93-'98  
Counselor: '99-'07

Through balancing lodge & activity responsibilities along with season-long projects, I grew in **awareness of how to realistically budget my time.** This was instrumental in organizing my college studies.

I think camp helped me learn how to manage an independent schedule in a way that allowed me to meet my responsibilities and be successful. These are **simple behaviors and habits that have been internalized,** from how I wake up in the morning to how I organize my day overall.

Graham Marvin  
NYU: '12  
Camper: '00-'05  
Counselor: '06-'15

### Responsibility & Accountability

Suddenly YOU are in charge. Not only of yourself, but of children who are looking up to you and counting on you. **Ready or not, you have to grow up.** It made the transition to college much easier when you're responsible for yourself.

Ben Smith  
Harvard '12  
Camper: '03-'05  
Counselor: '06-'12

**I don't know many jobs for college-age students that are given as much leadership responsibility as a CK counselor.**

We are running activities and responsible for the happiness of a bunch of younger boys. We have to be "on" 24 hours-a-day. That experience has really helped me stay engaged in longer term projects in college & beyond.

Gregor Hoffman  
Macalester '11  
Camper: '98 - '04  
Counselor: '05 - '08

Jed Morgan  
Brown '26  
Camper: '13 - '19  
Counselor: '21 - '23

Having to end a night out with fellow counselors early, to wake up for polar bear swim, was perfectly relevant experience for college. **Ending a night out at a college and waking up early was much easier for me** compared to many of my classmates.

### Adaptability & Creativity

Mac McReynolds  
Bates '17  
Camper: '06-'10  
Counselor: '11-'15

We got a torrential rainstorm that flooded the soccer field and we turned it into the world's largest slip & slide. Being ready to switch gears and remain positive when things aren't going to plan is a skill CK is simply the best at teaching. **It helps your resilience in the face of inevitable adversity,** and it makes people at school/work want to be around you.

Being a counselor makes you **really good at improvising,** because new things always throw a wrench in your plans. This is really important and useful in college, because you often have a lot going on, and a number of surprises can derail your plan, forcing you to adapt.

Grant Moravec  
Cornell '23  
Camper: '11-'16  
Counselor: '17-'23

## FINAL THOUGHTS

I must admit that I considered not coming back to camp during my high school years as I wanted to focus on Soccer/training. However, I am **forever grateful that I decided to come back to camp** for those summers as I was able to both train here and spend time with people who I cherish and will always have a special place in my heart.

BONUS: if you go to camp you already have your **shower shoes, caddy, and robe.**

I learned that **life is not all about you...** a hard lesson when you are 18. That taught me to take on projects & join organizations that are extra work, but are worth the effort in the long run based on relationships made and satisfaction earned.

Working at camp has allowed me to understand **what really matters in life** - friends, family, happiness, self-acceptance and self-care. Everything else is "tier 2"

**I'd encourage every camper** who has the opportunity to become a counselor to do so, and don't look back!



# THE KAWANHEE FACTOR: CAREER

Alumni Thoughts about CK's Impact on their Job Experiences

## Securing a Job:

87% of alumni interviewees identified CK as having a positive impact on getting their current job.

100% indicated they either included CK on their resume or talked about it in their interview, or both!

My counselor experience **boosted my resume** and provided me with valuable experiences to talk about in interviews.

Brandon Helgason  
Sr. Financial Analyst  
Camper: '08-'12  
Counselor: '13-'19

I bring camp up **unsolicited in every job interview**. It shows I'm not only a human being with interests outside of the office, but that a lot of the traits I pride myself on were developed at camp.

Graham Marvin  
Film/TV Production  
Camper: '00-'05  
Counselor: '06-'15

Mac McReynolds  
Lawyer  
Camper: '06-'10  
Counselor: '11-'15

I was told on 2 separate jobs that including my camp experience on my resume was the **kicker to being hired**.

## Top 2 INTERPERSONAL Skills Developed at CK

### Effective Communication

Camp is a diverse place and you get **comfortable communicating with a wide variety of people**. This exposure made me extremely open-minded, which is key when building work relationships.

Colin Holstein  
Account Manager / Recruiting  
Camper: '07-'11  
Counselor: '12-'19

Being a counselor taught me **how to keep an audience engaged** which has helped in my sales skills. I remember adapting counselor styles in my activity based on the age group.

Max Zambito  
Chief Growth Officer / Recruiting  
Camper: '04-'10  
Counselor: '11-'17

Part of my job was to see camp through the eyes of new campers nervously unpacking their trunks. Camp could seem like a foreign land to them. I knew I had done my job when, after mere weeks, a kid who at first didn't want to be at camp now didn't want to leave. I still depend on these skills. **I can't effectively represent my clients in court if I don't first understand where they're coming from**—what they experienced, how it affected them, and what they need to feel they have attained a measure of justice.

Jamie Strawbridge  
Civil Rights Attorney  
Camper: '94-'97  
Counselor: '98-'04

### Emotional Intelligence & Teamwork

One summer I was managing a camper who needed extra support. I was **balancing how much to help him while giving him enough space to face the challenges by himself**. It was an enormous lesson in emotional intelligence.

Ignacio Lasso  
Management Consultant  
Camper: '07-'09  
Counselor: '10-'12

I've worked in an outpatient health clinic, a substance abuse center, a jail and now a school. In all of these environments I have found that **I rely on the social and emotional skills** that I first learned at CK.

Rohan Doherty  
School Therapist  
Camper: '10-'12  
Counselor: '13-'23

I just made a huge career change and don't think it would have been possible without the social skills and **feeling of self-esteem that I developed** at CK.

Caleb Tulloss  
Analog IC Design Engineer  
Camper: '07-'11  
Counselor: '12-'15

The nature of being a counselor and **intense bonds you make with your community** feel very similar to a film set, and I believe that gave me a head start in feeling comfortable on one.

Sam Reynolds  
Film/TV VFX Supervisor  
Camper: '07-'11  
Counselor: '12-'16

### BONUS SKILLS

Camp played an important role in getting me out of my shell. I also met some of the funniest, most joyful people there, who definitely helped me **shape and find my own sense of humor**.

Ben Smith  
TV Writer/Producer  
Camper: '03-'05  
Counselor: '06-'12

**CPR, First Aid, AED** training made me more comfortable at work from a safety perspective.

CK is responsible for the interesting parts of my interests and skills on my resume — **canoeing and Spanish language**.

Am I allowed to say 'chicks dig a guy who can **build a fire**'? I still use my campcraft skills!

From making mealtime announcements to opening up at testimonial vespers, I've found myself comfortable doing all kinds of **public speaking** as an adult. Not only do I use this at work on set, but as a wedding officiant!

# Top 2 MANAGERIAL Skills Developed at CK

## Leadership

Jake Zellner  
Student / Northwestern  
Graduate Business School  
Camper: '08-'10  
Counselor: '11-'14

As a counselor, you are the key to making each camper have an amazing summer. **You need to be able to analyze team/cabin dynamics** to make the lodge inclusive, fun, and cohesive.

Gregor Hoffman  
Head of Strategy /  
Health Tech Startup  
Camper: '98 - '04  
Counselor: '05 - '08

People in my corporate work setting really appreciate my **positive camp counselor vibes style of leadership.**

Juanki Fernandez  
Investment  
Management Analyst  
Camper: '06-'12  
Counselor: '13-'14

My experience as a captain gave me the confidence to believe that I could **succeed in a corporate setting.**

Baillie Stein  
Project Coordinator /  
Agriculture Consulting  
Camper: '10-'13  
Counselor: '14-'18

One of my campers had an allergic reaction and I was the only one with him. I helped him to the nurse to get the help he needed. That gave me **confidence to be cool in hard situations** when you're responsible for someone else.

## Patience & Tenacity

One of the best things about camp is you can **find success in something every day, and if you weren't successful, you were supported by others.** This mindset helped tremendously in my first years of teaching, where I was very overwhelmed, and success was often hard to find.

Anders Helgason  
Middle School Teacher  
Camper: '08-'10  
Counselor: '11-'16

Camp taught me that certain things take time and determination. In my current job I often find myself frustrated because certain tasks seem like there's no clear path to completion. **Usually it just takes a few steps back and time to think,** which is something I feel that I learned at camp.

Eddie Trayner  
Founder & Entrepreneur/  
Custom Campervans  
Camper: '07-'12  
Counselor: '13-'19

Nothing can prepare you to work with a difficult co-worker more than having to **convince a stubborn 9-year old to get in the lake at 9am on a chilly morning.**

Mac McReynolds  
Lawyer  
Camper: '06-'10  
Counselor: '11-'15

## BEYOND CAREER: LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

I know I have 100+ "brothers for a lifetime" that believe in me, and will always be there for me. Knowing this has **given me the courage to push myself personally & professionally.**

What sets CK apart is its permanence in our lives. **My camp friends from 11 years-old are among my closest and will be in my wedding.** We regularly take trips together, even though it has been nearly a decade since we stopped going.

Having **CK roommates** in NYC was truly formative. Would recommend 10/10.

Throughout my life CK has served as my **greatest social outlet.** I can't imagine not having these people in my life.

CK quite literally acted as a social support network after college. Since graduating 8 years ago, I have lived in 6 different cities. I had the confidence to uproot every year or two as life continued to present opportunities because I knew that in each new place, **I could find a network of supportive camp friends and/or fall back on them for new friendships.**

At my wedding **80% of my groomsmen** were CK friends.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Kawanheens have helped **guide me, my mindset, and decisions everyday** - work & beyond. I really don't know where I would be today without CK.

I credit CK as the place that **crystalized my love for working with youth.**

School does a pretty good job of teaching the tangibles, but **CK is unmatched in teaching the intangibles.** Employers aren't looking for average. Living the Kawanhee way definitely sets us apart.

Some summers I'd agonize if I should do summer internships or go to camp -- what looked "best" on my resume -- but I usually decided my time spent in Weld was what would **make me happiest and help me be the person I wanted to be.**

Being a counselor, although challenging, is **incredibly rewarding work,** and I continue to feel that sense of reward today.