

Sky Lodge Gap-Year/Internship Guidelines and Policies

Our Goal

- To provide students time to explore, grow, and determine what their calling is-all the while doing something worthwhile in ministry.
- To grow the student's spiritual lives and inspire them to be Gods hands and feet in the world.
- To give our students a front-row seat to ministry.
- To make sure our students leave the program confident in their identity in Christ, better equipped to take on the outside world, having a handle on their finances, and confident in learned skills.

Work Expectations/Schedule

- A typical week looks like (subject to change)-
- Monday (Off)
- Tuesday (8:15-3:30?/Off)- Cleaning/Intern activities after workday
- Wednesday (8:15-3:30?)- Projects/Youth Group after workday
- Thursday (8:15-3:30?) –Projects/Intern activities after workday
- Friday (8-10 hours) – Program/Projects/Food/Retreat
- Saturday (8-12 hours)- Retreat
- Sunday (5-8 hours/Off)- Retreat ((Depending on the week))

Work hours vary from week to week. Some days students will have activities (such as personal bible study or youth group) in the afternoon, and therefore work hours will be cut down to make time for those. Some weekends we may not have retreats, so those weekends may be off days, and work will resume on Monday. Students have 2 days off every week.

- The program is split into 3 semesters. Students can stay as many or as few semesters as they would like, whatever is decided at the start of the program. The semesters are:

-Beginning of September-Thanksgiving (Students get Thanksgiving through Christmas off for family time, vacations, etc.)

-December 26th-CCCA (A camping conference that the entirety of the staff attends) [Generally happens the middle of March]

-Middle of March-Middle of May

Payday

Wages for students are \$150/week, including room and board. Typically, staff gets paid on Wednesdays.

Housing/Food

- Sky Lodge will provide a living space, heat, and utilities for the student.
- One meal a day is provided on workdays with abundant food in the camp fridge for students to prepare any additional meals as needed. Students may also choose to purchase their own food.

Spiritual Life

- Sky Lodge staff have morning devotionals @ 8:15 preceding the workday. Students are encouraged to share how they are encountering God by having one assigned day per week to prepare a devo to share with the rest of the staff.
- When students first apply for the program, they are asked to list 4 goals they want to work towards, and the students will have check-ins to follow-up on those goals and their personal growth throughout the semester(s).
- Students are involved in weekly bible studies, hosted by Sky Lodge staff members and/or fellow Christians in the community.
- Students are encouraged to get involved in the youth groups/small groups in our community as mentors and leaders.
- Students are encouraged to attend seminars, conferences, and ministry outreach programs paid for by Sky Lodge.
- Students are encouraged to have personal study time/devotions and cultivate good Christian friendships/relationships with those around them. Tri-weekly solitudes (45 minutes spent alone with God) are also required.

Student Life/Expectations

- One thing we remind our students: **“You will only get out what you put in.”** How much effort is put forth and the student’s desire to grow are two factors that will determine how they spend their semester(s) here in the Road Ahead Program.
- Students will have the ministry opportunity to spend a week away at our sister camp, Heartland, helping with any projects or additional work they may have.
- Students will go through Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace textbook or a character-development book study during the semester, helping push them towards financial stability and/or personal growth.
- Game nights/Family-style dinners offered by staff and local church families are a regularity.
- Students are expected to keep their living space tidy, however, if it becomes an issue, cleaning assignments may be implemented.
- Laundry is FREE!!! (Located in Maple)
- Students are encouraged to post in a Sky Lodge weekly blog documenting their experiences, fun times, and any camp-related stories.

Sky Lodge Christian Camp's Gap-Year/Internship Code of Conduct

Attitude

The following attitudes should not be tolerated.

#1 – Gossip: sharing information with people who have no legitimate need to know.

#2 – Slander: telling something true or false with the intention of hurting someone.

#3 – Critical Spirit: finding fault with things without talking to the right person with a possible solution; someone who spreads the bad attitude to others.

#4 – Complaining: expressing a negative attitude toward a task or situation (This is a magnifying glass that makes one unpleasant task look and feel like “hell on earth.”)

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life. Philippians 2:14-16a

#5 – Laziness: The unwillingness to put forth an honest effort to work and serve wherever you are asked is not acceptable.

Handling disagreements:

Jesus tells us how to handle the disagreements and hurts that come up between people:

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or tax collector.” Matthew 18:15-17

Romantic Relationships

Coed relationships are a good, healthy, and natural part of life. They teach you much about yourself and how to relate to people who are different than you.

Rules regarding the opposite sex:

- Opposite sex is not allowed in sleeping/bedroom areas. **No exceptions.** (In the intern house, everything except the kitchen and living room are off limits to the opposite sex.)
- Curfew for workdays is 12:00 a.m., off-days curfew is 1:00 a.m.
- Opposite sex must be out of living spaces at midnight (12:00 a.m.) **EVERY NIGHT.**

- Visitors are allowed, however, check with the camp schedule and a full-time staff member before inviting them in order to make sure there isn't an upcoming retreat.
- Only same-gender sleepovers are allowed.

Music Policy

If we are hosting a retreat, only Christian music should be played in the service areas. Other times, music choices are up to the student's discretion, with the understanding that music should be God-honoring.

Earbuds/Headphones may be used, but tastefully. If earbuds/headphones hinder communication, students may be asked to use them sparingly.

Cleanliness

As the living quarters must be shared with many people, they must be kept orderly and clean. If cleanliness is lacking, cleaning assignments may be implemented.

Social Spaces

Any of the recreational buildings, including the Lodge, Hitching Post, C/R, etc. may be used by students unless camp is hosting a retreat. Then we must remember that "Camp is for the camper."

Use of Program Areas

You are more than welcome to enjoy all the program areas at Sky Lodge. In fact, we encourage you to! As you do, keep these things in mind: Do not disrupt the campers or interfere with their programs. Follow camp's rules when using each area. Put all equipment away properly. Swimming without a lifeguard is allowed only if at least one other staff member is with you.

Vehicle Usage

- Students must get permission from a full-time staff member to use a camp vehicle.
- Two vehicles, the camp van and our truck, Alan, are available for the interns to use.

Movie/Video Game Policy

- Watching movies with a rating above PG-13 is highly discouraged as a student of the gap-year/internship program. The following factors may be something to consider before watching a questionable film:

It is extremely difficult for one person to determine the “appropriateness” of a movie for a diverse group of people.

Everything is permissible, but not everything is beneficial. [1 Corinthians 10:23].

- The amount of time spent playing video games is left up to the individual. The same policy regarding movies, however, affects the level of appropriateness of the video game.

Remember, excessive time spent watching movies or playing video games is time taken away from meaningful conversations and fun adventures with other staff and interns, and time that could be spent with God and personal growth.