**Sky Lodge Gap-Year/Internship**

**Guidelines and Policies**

1. **Our Goal:**
2. **To provide high-school graduates and growing adults time to explore, grow, and determine what their calling is-all the while doing something worthwhile in ministry.**
3. **To grow the student’s spiritual lives and inspire them to be God’s hands and feet in the world.**
4. **To give our students a front-row seat to ministry.**
5. **To make sure our students leave the program confident in learned skills, equipped to take on the outside world, having a handle on their finances, and confident in their identity in Christ.**
6. **Work Expectations/Schedule:**
7. **A typical week looks like (subject to change)-**
8. **Monday (Off)**
9. **Tuesday (8:30-?)- Cleaning/Intern activities after workday**
10. **Wednesday (8:30-?)- Projects/Intern activities after workday**
11. **Thursday (8:30-?) –Projects/Intern activities after workday**
12. **Friday (8-10 hours) – Program/Projects/Food/Retreat**
13. **Saturday (8-12 hours)- Retreat**
14. **Sunday (5-8 hours/Off)- Retreat ((Depending on the week))**
15. **Work hours vary from week to week. Some days students will have activities 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.**
16. **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:**
17. **Beginning of september-Thanksgiving**

**(Students get Thanksgiving through Christmas off for family time, vacations, etc.)**

1. **December 26th-CCCA [Generally happens the middle of March] (A camping conference that the entirety of the staff attends)**
2. **Middle of march-Middle of May**
3. **Payday**

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

1. **Housing/Food**
2. **Sky Lodge will provide a living space, heat, and utilities for the student.**
3. **One meal a day is always provided 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.**
4. **Spiritual Life**
5. **Sky Lodge staff have morning devos @ 8:15 three-four days a week preceding the workday. Students are encouraged to share by having one assigned day per week to prepare a devo to share with the rest of the staff.**
6. **At the start of each semester, personal/spiritual/financial goals will be set, and the students will have check-ins to follow-up on those goals and their personal growth.**
7. **Students are involved in 2-5 bible studies per month, hosted by Sky Lodge staff members and/or fellow Christians in the community.**
8. **Students are encouraged to get involved in the youth groups/small groups in our community as mentors and leaders.**
9. **Students are encouraged to attend seminars, conferences, and ministry outreach programs paid for by Sky Lodge.**
10. **Students are encouraged to have personal study time/devotions and cultivate good Christian friendships/relationships with those around them. Tri-weekly solitudes (30-45 minutes spent alone with God) are also encouraged.**
11. **Student Life/Expectations**
12. **Students get together at the start of the semester to write a collaborative “rulebook” that’s applicable to their goals and beliefs and go through the orientation/code of conduct of our program. (See below) (We allow the students to have a say in their rule-setting since most of our students are adults)**
13. **Students gather at the start of the semester to set spiritual/financial/mental/social goals and then work towards them during the year.**
14. **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. (Still a work in progress)**
15. **Sky Lodge offers life skill classes throughout the gap-year/intership’s program. Students are encouraged to attend all cooking, cleaning, communications, and computer skills classes, while art, carpentry, canning, or equine skills classes are optional. (Still a work in progress)**
16. **Students will go through Dave Ramsey’s *Financial Peace* textbook, helping prepare them for financial stability.**
17. **Game nights/Family-style dinners offered by staff and local church families are a regularity.**
18. **Students are expected to keep their living space tidy, however, if it becomes an issue, cleaning assignments may be implemented.**
19. **Laundry is FREE!!!**
20. **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**

**General rule of conduct:**

“So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 7:12

1. **Attitude**

Camp is more than a place to waste a few hours or earn a salary. Each area of camp is a place to see, understand and imitate Jesus.

 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” (Philippians 2:3-7)

1. **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

1. **Although you can find the following issues in church sanctuaries across America, each one is a sin. These 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 in a service area is not acceptable.

1. **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:**
2. Opposite sex is not allowed in sleeping/bedroom areas. No exceptions.
3. Curfew for workdays is 12:00 a.m., off-days you may stay up as late as you want (per your own discretion).
4. Visitors are allowed, however, check with camp schedule before inviting them to make sure there isn’t an upcoming retreat.
5. Only same-gender sleepovers are allowed.
6. **Policy regarding tattoos and piercings for gap year students/interns**

In the past, there had been an issue with piercings and tattoos of summer staff at Sky Lodge. The issue was with parents’ perception that their children could go to Sky Lodge Christian Camp get a piercing or tattoo and thereby subvert the parent’s wishes or knowledge. Parents trust Sky Lodge to be responsible for the summer staff and interns. Therefore, a policy for summer staff was put into effect in which new piercings and tattoos cannot be obtained while under contract at Sky Lodge Christian Camp.

Our program is a little different. However, parents still trust Sky Lodge to be responsible for the oversight of the students while here. To that end, the interns may get piercings or tattoos only after consent of the parents is communicated to either the Sky Lodge Camp Director or Program Director. We realize after the age of 18 it is legal to get a piercing or tattoo without parental permission. But again, we don’t want the reputation of Sky Lodge to be tarnished in any way. And we want to work in cooperation with parents while their children are at Sky Lodge Christian Camp.

1. **Music Policy**

During work hours- 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.

1. **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.

1. **Social Spaces**

The living room area of the students’ house may be used as a hangout space until curfew. After curfew, students’ must go to their own living areas, boys and girls, respectively.

Any of the other 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.”

1. **Use of Program Areas**

You are more than welcome to enjoy all of 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. If you had to take the cover off to use the pool, make sure you put it back on before curfew. If the cover wasn’t on, and you are the last two staff members swimming in the evening, put the cover on when you leave the pool.

1. **Vehicle Usage**

Students must get permission from a full-time staff member to use a camp vehicle.

1. **Movie 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 time spent watching movies is time taken away from meaningful communication with other people and with God.