

# WHAT'S IT LIKE TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE CAMP BALDWIN SUMMER MINISTRY TEAM?

This is a ministry like few others and requires a lot of work from both its full time and summer employees to ensure that our campers receive the best possible experience. That being said, the foremost thing you will need as you serve at Camp Baldwin is a servant's heart. We strive to place the camper's needs and desires in the forefront of our ministry. Through our support and diligent work, we pave the way for the pastors, teachers, and counselors of our various groups to change the lives of those they minister to. Even though at Camp Baldwin you may not have a direct ministry to the camper, your ministry behind the scenes makes all that happens here possible... it is a truly amazing ministry.

The role of summer ministry team is varied and may not be what one expects when applying. We hope that although everything you do could never be outlined on a sheet of paper, it is our hope to give you a good idea of what to expect from the following lists.

## THINGS ALL SUMMER STAFF CAN EXPECT...

- LONG WORK DAYS:** Although our full time staff works hard to provide you with a schedule that averages 30 to 40 hours per week, it is quite possible to be called on to work beyond an eight hour shift on any given day.
- LONG WORK WEEKS:** On the average you will work a 6 day work week.
- HARD WORK:** There are many things that require a lot of effort when you minister during summer camp. Despite that, you will find it to be some of the most satisfying work you have ever done.
- HOUSEKEEPING:** Every summer ministry team member will help with housekeeping at some point or another which includes cleaning rooms, bathrooms and other 'common' areas.
- RULES:** We have a dress code, a curfew, speed limits, and other rules that you will need to 'know and love' while serving at Camp Baldwin...all for the good of the camp community.
- ROOM AND BOARD:** You will be given a room with 3 to 4 other summer staff and free meals whenever campers are served.
- LIMITED PAY:** This is a ministry position and our pay...although fair...may not be what you would find in other situations. It is our hope that you will find the personal rewards far greater than the *silver and gold* of this world.
- FUN:** People come here for a reason. It's a great place to be! You will be able to enjoy a myriad of different spiritual experiences while enjoying a recreational adventure on the shores of Wolf Bay.
- FRIENDS:** We strive to assemble an awesome group of young men and women to minister at Camp Baldwin and you will get to spend eleven weeks getting to know them. Life-long friendships are the norm for work at a place like this!
- CHANGED LIVES:** Every summer children receive Christ, teens dedicate themselves to Him... lives are forever affected by what happens here! And, **you** are a big part of that! Most of all...you may find by the end of your summer, that God has changed you in some way!
- SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:** The full time staff of Camp Baldwin is dedicated to making your summer experience a time of spiritual growth and Christian fellowship by providing encouragement through devotional times; special worship events and other staff activities.

There are TWO very integral parts that make up our camp's Summer Ministry Team:

**Recreational Staff :** The recreational staff's primary role is to provide direction and supervision to the camp's recreational areas, as well as serving a variety of other needs our campers may have.

**Kitchen Staff:** The kitchen staff is responsible for providing quality meals for our campers while maintaining a clean and pleasant dining experience.

## **THINGS THE RECREATIONAL STAFF CAN EXPECT:**

**BEING OUTSIDE:** All of our recreation activities take place outside, often for long periods of time. The summer here is full of bugs, heat, sun, and sand....after all, it is camp and it's camp on the Alabama Gulf coast!

**LIFEGUARDING:** Because a large amount of our recreational activity is water related, it is our hope to have all recreational staff certified as lifeguards. We can provide the training for those lacking certification. Although it is not a requirement to be certified, certain limitations may be placed on those assigned to aquatic activities without lifeguard certification.

**HARD WORK:** Lifting paddleboats in and out of the water, holding down the zip line so campers can be let off, carrying equipment are all part of a 'rec' staffer's duties.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The lives of the campers are literally in your hands when you lifeguard or attend a waterfront activity. A camper's safety is also your responsibility at the challenge course and other recreational venues. Serious accidents could result from a lack of attention to the details of your job. A vigilant team member is a safe team member.

**IRREGULAR SCHEDULE:** Flexibility is part of working at camp...especially for the 'rec' staffer and the schedule you may be called on to work. 'Variety is the spice of life' (in your work areas and/or work times).

**EXCITEMENT:** Because you are placed in the middle of the action, you get to see and interact with the children and youth as they are experiencing some of the most exciting parts of summer camp!

## **THINGS THE KITCHEN STAFF CAN EXPECT:**

**FAST PACED ENVIRONMENT:** We serve meals for breakfast at 7:30-8:30AM; lunch from 11:30AM - 12:30PM; supper from 5:30-6:30PM. With cleanup following each meal time, preparing for the next meal or next day.

**DISGUSTING THINGS:** Yes, disgusting things... Some people don't want to think about it but...more than likely, on any given day, (even though you wear gloves) you may be touching raw meat and/or cleaning up grease. OR, without a doubt, you will be handling dishes and utensils that have been in camper's mouths! None of which will hurt you but it's not for the squeamish!

**HARD WORK:** On most days, over an eleven week period, the Kitchen Staff may serve anywhere between an average of 700 to 1400 meals a day! That's a lot of lifting and moving and carrying and cleaning!

**FUN:** We work with a great group of people who like to joke and sing and talk and generally enjoy themselves...serving in the kitchen can be a great time!

**REGULAR SCHEDULE:** We know when they (the campers) eat and when they (the campers) will be done...so, for the most part, you will know when you work and how long you should be there.