



IEP - GLOBAL WORK EXPERIENCES 1300 300 912 – www.iep.org.au

IEP – SYDNEY
Locked Bag 5065
Sydney South NSW
1235

IEP - MELBOURNE
PO Box 13278
Law Courts Post Office
Melbourne VIC 8010

Ph +61 2 9299 0444
Fax +61 2 9299 0399

Ph +61 3 9329 3866
Fax +61 3 9329 1592

Press Release

2010 Summer Camp USA Launched to Encourage Early Applications

IEP has launched their *Summer Camp USA* program for 2010 and is encouraging all applicants to get in early for the best chance of landing a placement for the 2010 camp season.

Non-profit working holiday organisation International Exchange Programs (IEP) are inviting skilled Aussies over the age of 19 who enjoy working with kids to apply to the popular program before camp placements begin to fill up.

The tighter job market in the US during the 2008/09 season saw competition for camp placements become fierce as camp directors became more selective with both local and international hiring. A clear trend emerged identifying a very high success rate amongst applicants who submitted their application prior to November 30.

With around 15,000 different types of camps throughout the States, participants can hold skills in a variety of areas from sports, to music, arts, crafts, drama and experience working on a waterfront.

Previous experience with children is also highly regarded however IEP's Marketing Manager, Tennille Balaz, explained that by applying early, there is plenty of opportunity to build on current skills and experience before heading over to camp.

"As the beginning of the camp season is still nine months away, many applicants don't realise the importance of getting their application submitted early," Ms Balaz said *"Applicants who apply over the next few weeks are allowing themselves enough time to take courses or gain accreditations that might determine whether or not they are placed at camp in 2010."*

In previous years, Australian summer camp organisations were able to place a higher volume of unskilled applicants on *Summer Camp USA* based solely on their enthusiasm and willingness to learn however, as the American job market has become more competitive over the last year, these applicants must now consider ways in which they can increase their skill level in preparation for the camp season.

The *Summer Camp USA* program includes a personalised placement service, meaning IEP works with each individual candidate to maximise their chances of being placed at a camp, and offers them advice on how to increase their skill levels to make their application stand out from others.

Despite the economic downturn, there is definitely still a place for Aussies at American camps. Camp directors love the Aussie work ethic, sense of humour, sporting ability and the international feeling that Australian camp counsellors contribute to camp. IEP's *Summer Camp USA* applications are now open, with camp placements expected to start in early October.

People interested in *Summer Camp USA* can contact IEP to discuss their eligibility on 1800 SUMMER CAMP or email summercampusa@iep.org.au

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Media Contact

Naomi Joyce-Marketing/PR Coordinator
Naomi.joyce@iep.org.au
International Exchange Programs (IEP)
P:02 9299 0444
F: 02 9299 0399
www.iep.org.au