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For immediate release

Competition Heats up for Summer Camp USA

Every year, thousands of young Aussies head over to the USA to experience one of the world's most well known working adventures, life as a camp counsellor!

With the Australian winter finally coming to a close, it is once again the time of year that many young, adventure-minded individuals start planning for the year ahead and applications to work at summer camp start rolling in.

Working at a US summer camp offers Australians much more than just an endless summer spent making hundreds of new friends and the chance to see the world. It is also the opportunity to develop exceptional leadership and life skills which will set many counsellors up for life. It's a truly unique experience and one that is becoming increasingly competitive each year, as more and more international staff apply for camp placements.

Non-profit work and travel organisation International Exchange Programs (IEP) has seen an increase in competition for camp placements for their *Summer Camp USA* program in recent years due to a growing recognition of the benefits that can be gained through a summer at camp.

"Each year, more and more highly skilled applicants are seeking employment at camps in the US," IEP's General Manager, Tennille Balaz explains. *"Applicants who are planning a career in teaching or recreation or who are hoping to move into a leadership role in the future, recognise that working as a camp counsellor is the perfect stepping stone to getting into their desired field."*

But it's not just the participants who are gaining from the experience. For US Camp Directors, the increase in highly skilled applicants means that they can hire exceptional staff who can easily take on the challenge of camp counselling. Directors no longer need to simply fill staffing numbers as they can select staff with exceptional skills who meet the specific needs of their camp.

Applications are now open for IEP's *Summer Camp USA 2011* and applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible for the best chance of securing a placement for the upcoming camp season.

To be eligible, applicants must be over 19 years old and have experience in a camp-related skill or activity. High demand areas for counsellors include waterfront, rock climbing, horse riding, music, sailing and outdoor education. Experience working with children or in leadership is also highly regarded.

Anyone interested in applying for the program are encouraged to contact IEP on 1300 300 912 to discuss their eligibility or visit www.iep.org.au to complete an application.

*****ENDS*****

For more information, images or interviews please contact Simon Lock on the details below.

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