



## IEP - GLOBAL WORK EXPERIENCES

[www.iep.org.au](http://www.iep.org.au)

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### Press Release

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For Immediate Release

### Paddle all the way to an American Summer Camp!

With the Australian summer just around the corner, many Aussies are getting excited about how they're going to make the most of the glorious sun. But for some who are thinking a little more long-term, there's one particular way to ensure the summer fun never stops!

Each year, non-profit work and travel organisation International Exchange Programs (IEP) signs up hundreds of eager young Australians to work at Summer Camps throughout the United States, where they are employed to make a difference in the lives of American kids, meet new friends from around the world, and have a blast while they're doing it!

With Australia's reputation for having a water-borne, sun-loving population, it's no surprise that American camp directors love hiring Australian counsellors. And for those with an interest or experience in watersports, the chances of getting placed at camp skyrocket.

Canoeing is one such water-based activity, for which camp directors instinctively look to Australia for counsellors. Most of the 12,000 American camps hire international staff from around the world, and the Aussies that work across the US make fantastic additions for the 10 million children who attend camp annually.

IEP's 2011 Summer Camp coordinator, Dylan Stewart is excited about the success of Australian counsellors at camp. *"All over the lakes, rivers, and swimming pools of camps across America, Aussie counsellors are kicking goals. They're teaching American kids the skills and expertise required to not only stay safe, but excel in the water. All the while, they are working hard in pristine American wilderness, where laughter reigns supreme."*

And when talking about water-based counsellors, Dylan - who himself worked at a summer camp in 2006 - recognises that only the best candidates make the cut. *"Given the amount of candidates who apply for canoeing and other water-based positions, it's not surprising that so many Aussies are hired. As a population, our love of the water is well-known and celebrated throughout the world, and for good reason. Camp directors are falling over themselves to hire the quality Australian canoeing instructors in the lead-up to camp each year"*.

Participants who have proven experience instructing others, especially children, the finer art of canoeing, stand a stronger chance of placement than others. Campers will vary in their own experience and skills, so an adaptability and a willingness to step outside one's own comfort zone will definitely come in handy.

Finally, Dylan has a piece of advice for potential canoeing counsellors - increase your eligibility. *"There are a few steps that participants can take to make their applications more impressive. By completing a lifeguarding course, a First Aid course, volunteering your time with local kids or simply babysitting your younger cousins, your résumé will leap off the page. You will have camp directors across America wanting to hire you to teach their kids how to succeed on the water - and you'll have a blast while you're at it!"*



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IEP's *Summer Camp USA* program is available to Australians aged between 19 and 30, although some 18 year olds will be considered, depending on experience. It is designed to give Aussies the truly American experience of Summer Camp, a tradition that stretches back over 150 years. Camps generally run from late-May until mid-August, and participants' visas will allow a month of travelling after camp finishes.

Applications for Summer 2012 will open on 5 September 2011, and participants who apply early will stand the best chance of being placed at a camp.

For further information or to apply, head to [www.iep.org.au](http://www.iep.org.au) or contact IEP at [info@iep.org.au](mailto:info@iep.org.au) or on (03) 9329 3866.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

For more information, images or interviews please contact Dylan Stewart on the details below.

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