

## Esperanza Summer Camp Volunteer Job Description 2019

Hello summer camp applicants! We are so excited that you are considering being a part of camp on the west coast of Vancouver Island this summer! This document should answer many of your questions about Esperanza Summer Camp and who we would like to have on our team.

If you are unfamiliar with Esperanza, you can check us out at <http://www.esperanzaministries.com> or see a few photos from past camps on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/esperanzanootkasound>. We are looking forward to reading your application and getting to know you better.

### Requirements:

- Applicants must be 15+
- Fill out the application form here: <https://goo.gl/forms/DMPDnuswqSD5ChhA3>.
- (Unless you know Stephen or Alana Johnson personally) Two character references, preferably from a spiritual leader, an employer, a teacher, and/or an elder. References must not be related to the applicant.
- A criminal record check. For anyone in British Columbia, this can be obtained at <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm> with the code WL9JBTSCHN. For outside BC, please contact Stephen Johnson ([camp@esperanza.ca](mailto:camp@esperanza.ca)) about how to obtain a criminal record check. This is free since it is a volunteer position.

### We are looking for camp counsellors who:

- Love Jesus
- Are hard working
- Have a positive attitude
- Like to have fun
- Are proactive and willing to take instruction
- Are culturally sensitive
- **Are flexible.** This one is really important, as there are many unexpected changes and times where we play it by ear instead of sticking to a strict schedule or the original plan

**Dates:** We are ideally looking for counsellors who can commit to the entire month of camp. However, we understand that this is not feasible for many who are working full time or are saving money for school. We really encourage all applicants to be a part of staff orientation, but also know that this is not possible for many people's schedules.

Here are the camp dates. On your application you will be asked to indicate the ones for which you're available. Staff are expected to arrive at least one day before campers, particularly if it is their first time at camp.

#### Staff Orientation: July 20-23

- This is when we get to know each other, discuss camp policies and expectations of staff, and prepare camp for campers!

#### Kids Camp: July 24-26

- Co-ed ages 6-8
- Two nights
- Highlights: piggy back tag, crafts, and exceptionally cute smiles

#### Boys Camp: July 28-Aug 2

- Boys ages 9-12
- 5 nights: campers arrive in time for dinner on the 29<sup>th</sup> and leave after breakfast on the 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Highlights: high energy, pillow fights, mischief, and lots of dock jumping

#### Girls Camp: Aug 4-9

- Girls ages 9-12
- 5 nights: campers arrive in time for dinner on the 5<sup>th</sup> and leave after breakfast on the 10<sup>th</sup>
- Highlights: lots of singing, swimming, laughing, and time to grow relationships

#### Teen Camp: Aug 11-16

- Co-ed ages 13-19
- 5 nights: campers arrive in time for dinner on the 12<sup>th</sup> and leave after breakfast on the 17<sup>th</sup>
- Highlights: teenage humour, meaningful discussions, overnight trip to Catala Island, and night games

#### Debriefing: Aug 17-18

- This is when we get to talk about our highs and lows from camp, talk about what can be better for next year, and have some fun!

**Cost:** \$15/day or \$50/week (the lesser of the two). If finances are an issue, please feel welcome to contact Stephen to make alternate arrangements. We encourage applicants to raise funds through their community and church so that they can be paid for their ministry at camp.

**How to get to Esperanza:** Drive to Campbell River and call Esperanza to let them know when you are leaving so they can pick you up from the dock when you arrive.

Boat runs are expensive for Esperanza, so please try to coordinate with another boat before had to save a trip! Cell service ends about 15 minutes outside of Campbell River. Head west toward Gold River (fuel up!) and continue past Gold River to Tahsis. This is a logging road that is in good shape. Most of it is now paved. You will arrive at the dock in Tahsis and an Esperanza staff member will meet you at the dock and direct you where to park. The boat trip from Tahsis to Esperanza is about 20 minutes. Driving time from Campbell River to Tahsis is 2-3.25 hours.

### **A “normal” day at camp:**

7 am: Staff Meeting, Devotion, and Prayer Circle

7:30 am: Wake up campers

8 am: Breakfast! Counsellors sit with their campers. After breakfast is dishes or cabin clean up. Each cabin will be on dishes a few times during the week. Other staff will be on a dishes rotation.

9:15 am: Campfire (without a campfire in the morning...we just call it that). All staff sit among the campers. There will be a speaker and a song leader each week.

10 am – 12:15 pm: Morning activities. Activities include: water sports, archery, hiking, riflery, crafts, fishing, wood working, field games, board games, improv, guitar, dance, etc. Staff lead activities. We offer any activities that our staff feel comfortable leading, so if there are others you would like to run, let us know! Counsellors have one activity (1 hour) off every day for alone time.

12:30 pm: Lunch! After lunch is dishes and a bit of camper free time. Camper free time is a good time for staff to hang out with campers and get to know them better and to be supervising to be sure that they are safe.

2 pm – 3 pm: Activity (Similar to morning activities)

3 pm – 3:30 pm: Tuck Shop time! Campers and staff give cash to the directors during registration at the beginning of the week. They can then purchase čamas (sweets/treats) from the Tuck Shop during Tuck Shop time. There is also Esperanza clothing available for purchase.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm: Activity

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm: Free Time! Campers get some free time. Counsellors are encouraged to take this time to hang out one-on-one or in small groups with campers. All other staff should be spending time with the rest of the campers. A lot of campers will spend free time jumping off the dock, hanging out by the campfire, playing on the swings, etc. Activity leaders can engage kids in different activities like archery or crafts.

5:30 pm: Dinner! After dinner is dishes and a bit of camper free time

7 pm: Wide Games. Some games include Stealing Sticks, Capture the Flag, Gold Rush, King of the Ring, and Amoeba.

8:30 pm: Campfire (with a real campfire, unlike the morning)

9:30 pm: Cabin Time

10 pm: Lights Out and Cabin Checks. Directors will come around and make sure lights are out. We encourage conversation after lights out or just going straight to sleep. We let the counsellor make that judgement call. Electricity from the power generator is shut off soon after 10.

Cabin size: Cabins are 4-7 campers. Counsellors will spend a lot of time with their cabin. We encourage counsellors to bring decorations, game ideas, story books (a story book Bible particularly for kids, boys, and girls camps), and small group activities that they can do with their campers during free time and cabin time.

**Esperanza Camp Community and Culture:** We are a small, remote community located in a sheltered inlet. Most of our campers come from the surrounding communities and consider Esperanza a second home. If this is your first time at Esperanza, be aware that you are walking into someone else's home and history. Esperanza has been a part of these children's families for generations from the time it was a hospital and a counselling centre. This place's traditional name is Tlay-Mak-Su, a name it has held long before it was ever called Esperanza. It was a stop over location for the surrounding First Nations communities. The history that some of these campers carry to this place goes back centuries.

Esperanza is off grid (meaning no cell phone reception and limited internet access) and provides its own power through mostly diesel generator in the summer and a hydro electric dam during the rainy months...which is most of them. Be prepared for rain and sun, usually within the same day.

Esperanza is a non-denominational Christian organization that runs year round. Several families and individuals live at Esperanza and know the campers who will be coming. They are great resources for learning about the community and campers that you may have in your cabin. They are also always willing to pray with you. They love Jesus and want these campers to know his love and comfort, too.

Most of our campers are from low socio-economic situations. For some, this will be the only place during the year where they are served food three times a day. Some have a history or are currently in the care of foster parents. Many struggle through school because of learning challenges. More than 50% of our campers are First Nations and have been exposed to Christianity throughout their lives at camp or in their communities. Many of them go to school together and have strong relationships with each other. Many are related and keeping up with who's related to who is always a fun exercise. They love to tease and they love to play. You may get called names in Nu-

chah-nulth that will result in a lot of giggles from those in the know. Be prepared to laugh along with them. With all the difficulties that many of our campers struggle through, they laugh the hardest and give the best hugs of any kids that we know!

**Application:** All applications are available online at <https://goo.gl/forms/DMPDnuswqSD5ChhA3>. If you require a paper copy, please contact Stephen at [camp@esperanza.ca](mailto:camp@esperanza.ca).

### **What Happens After I Submit My Application?**

We will confirm that we have received your application. We will review your application and then set up a phone or Skype call so that we can get to know you and answer any questions you may have.

### **Camp Positions**

Want to be a part of camp, but not sure what role you will fit? Know someone else who would like to be involved in camp? We have a lot of different positions that need to be filled, including:

- Lifeguard
- Camp nurse
- Cook
- Kitchen help
- Activity leader
- Song leader
- Speaker
- Camp grandparent
- Administrator

Contact Stephen if you have any questions about any of these positions or if you have another skill to offer at camp this summer.

Esperanza operates through respect of each other, respect of the land, and honouring our Creator. At camp, we do this through play, songs, games, food, and meaningful conversations. Being a camp counsellor will be one of the most challenging, tiring, rewarding, and formative times of your life. We are looking forward to reading your application and will get back to you as soon as we can. If you have any questions, contact Stephen Johnson at [camp@esperanza.ca](mailto:camp@esperanza.ca) or 250-896-9752.