

Myth Busters

Debunking some of the myths about volunteering for Co-op Camp



1

Myth: I'm not outdoorsy. Can't build a fire? Don't know your poisonous berries? Unsure what to do when a bear attacks? Luckily for you and the participants at Co-op Camp, your inability to cope with Mother Nature is no problem at all. Both the Candle Lake and Last Mountain Lake facilities feature indoor rooming, bathroom facilities, kitchen, and dining room areas. In addition, both facilities have their own separate staff teams that handle any campground problems, bear-related or otherwise. If you've ever walked through a park, you are more than qualified to staff at Co-op Camp.

2

Myth: I'm too old. Well, so are the Beatles and they're still awesome. Believe me when I say that your life experience will enable you to be a mentor and role model to the youth that attend these camps. In addition, most staff teams feature Junior Staff that are much closer in age to the participants. We rely on Junior Staff to bring the energy and enthusiasm that we don't always have throughout those long camp days. They also bring your coffee and slippers in the morning, they're so eager to please.

3

Myth: I don't have experience working with kids. Have you ever been a kid? No? Ok, now you're just making up excuses. Assuming you aren't immortal and were once a teenager, you share more common ground with today's youth than you think you do. Feeling reassured? Fine, there is also a three day staff training event that will prepare you for your camp and introduce you to the experienced counselors that will be at your side throughout the week. The curriculum and sessions are tailored to the participants' age group so while you will need to prepare a presentation, much of the work is already done for you.

4

Myth: I don't have vacation time left. Having a hard time deciding between Mexico and Co-op Camp? Why not do both? Some co-ops consider the staff training event and week at camp volunteer days. Check with your respective co-op or credit union to see if you have any volunteer days available. Since Co-op Camp has been around forever, your supervisor or manager more than likely has heard of it and would be willing to authorize your attendance. It's for the children, after all.

5

Myth: I'm not outgoing enough. What's that? I can hardly hear you. Please use your outdoor voice.

I'M NOT OUTGOING ENOUGH.

Hey, no need to shout. Listen, a great staff team takes all types of personalities. While you may think you are too introverted to be a good counselor, you might just meet an introverted participant or two who finds it much easier to relate to you than to the loud mouth juggling staff member taking centre stage. You might even surprise yourself. The atmosphere is infectious and before you know it, you're singing ridiculous camp songs at the top of your lungs. Co-op Camp makes participants and staff members alike more outgoing and confident individuals.

Are you still not convinced that you have what it takes?

Get in touch with the good folks at the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program to learn more. Or feel free to send me an email. I'd love to discuss why you'd make a fantastic addition to the Co-op Camp community.

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