

# Are we a match?

Whether you grew up in Israel, rural China, the Amazon basin, New York City, Provo Utah, or Small Town Nebraska would have a lot to do with your world view; your religious beliefs, ideas about sex, thoughts on children, what is right and wrong, and who you are. Growing up in the 2010s, 2000s, 1980s, 1960s, 1930s, or 1800s would also have a huge influence on your values, behavior, and thoughts. Growing up Black, Asian, White, or Hispanic would similarly influence your worldview.

Summer camps differ widely in culture similar to the diverse cultures on Planet Earth. You are now considering a singular culture – Camp Augusta. Whether you are hunting for a job or a partner, you need to consider different possibilities until you find one that is a great fit. There are over 12,000 summer camps, and this one is unlike most of them. Is this culture/camp a good match for who you are? Do the values and expectations fit with your own? If not, you should find a summer camp that is more like one at which you would be happy.

“Fake it till you make it” does not work here. Make sure you are a good fit for this camp, and then let’s talk :-)

## Substances

- If you smoke, or recently used to, please do not apply here. We are a smoke free site, and this is not the place to detox.
- If you could absolutely, positively, happily NOT partake of any mind-altering substance all summer - then please consider applying. If you need to drink to the point of being drunk, or partake in other drugs, for pleasure and happiness on a weekly basis, do not apply here. On a weekend day off, an alcoholic drink to chill, relax, and enjoy is within reason.
- ‘Junk’ food is not consumed at camp often. Staff do buy their own treats and store them in the staff house for consumption away from campers. However, if you *need* to consume candy, soda, fries, and other things of that nature – Augusta is not a great place to do so.

## Media

- Media, particularly regarding celebrity, beauty, and pop culture, is not common at Augusta. We want campers to have space from media and technology to explore, and we want that for you too. If you can't imagine not reading magazines (Cosmo, US, People, etc.), checking on celebrity gossip (she is dating WHO now??), or watching YouTube (beyond curiosity) for a few months, you will not enjoy your time here.
- The summer will be a huge shift if you watch TV/play games every day for a few+ hours and cannot comfortably spend your day away from TV shows.
- You will be confused and unsatisfied if social media is primarily how you connect with your community. Social media is a reality of life today - and if the idea of only having time to spend 20 mins or less a day on social media is too much for you to handle – you will struggle at Augusta.
- You will struggle if video games are something that you always go back to in your down time, or to fill time. If they are part of your life at all, you've gone weeks/months essentially without playing, and you feel just fine.
- Branded clothing and obsession with trends is not a thing at camp. If you think this social status is essential to who you are - separate just from style and self expression through clothing - you may not enjoy the dress-for-utility way of life here.

## Constitution

- Generally, you get more than 7 hours of sleep a night. Extremely rarely will you get less than that, and you prefer 8+ hours of sleep. If you routinely sleep less than 8 hours, you will struggle at Augusta.
- Camp life is busy and active, you will be teaching 4 activities a day plus cabin activity and running around in an Evening program. You need to be physically fit to cope with this without burning out. *If exercise regular is not a part of your life you will find camp a strenuous and difficult place to be.*

## Traits

- The greatest skill you must possess is the ability to forgive yourself and others. Without that compassion and forgiveness, the humanity of the humans around here will eat at your soul.
- People have told you that you are a very generous person. You have a communal, not equity, perspective (see Top 10 document). You don't care about your job description specifics; if you can, you help out. However, you can also draw the line and take a break when you need it.

## Professional Role Model Appearance

Children in America have a lot of ideas put into their head about how they need to look to be cool, be liked, be accepted, etc. They can be quite nervous if their clothing doesn't make them fit into their peer group.

Campers get their ideas from their current friends, magazines, television, movies, music, stores, et cetera. This is true throughout time – why did men used to wax their curly mustaches, but not do it now? Why do many women wear makeup? Clothing and appearance are culturally defined. It is only natural and normal to explore and try things with our appearance, however, many of the images portrayed from the current cultural sources in America are not healthy ones. Think diet culture, ubiquity of makeup and skincare, and toxic masculinity. We believe the focus is unhealthy because *children* are focused on their sexuality, their body image as a determinant of their worth, and how they are perceived, often as more important than how they feel. We are, as an organization, sad about this way of the world, and do what we can to create space for our campers to be away from it.

Thus, as a professional role model looking to be a beacon in the storm, your clothing and appearance should follow some guidelines. The intention is not to police self-expression, rather, to encourage comfort and utility first and foremost, and to help create distance between camp and the 'real world' campers are used to. We find that self-expression is always possible, even within guidelines.

A simple t-shirt and shorts is the unofficial "camp uniform."

Shirts should not be belly shirts, and shorts and pants should not ride low on the hips. Short length should not be much shorter than your middle finger straight by your side. Tank tops should not have spaghetti straps. Icons and graphics should be appropriate to discuss with campers (no beer logos, no inappropriate language, no risqué pop culture).

Every day you are likely to run or jog, bend over or climb a ladder, wear a full body harness up in a tree, or do physical labor of some kind. And, it gets hot and sweaty often. Our clothing guidelines are culturally driven, sure, but we are even more dedicated to comfort and safety, and long shorts and a T-shirt are the tried and true solution!

Style and individuality are very welcome, keeping in mind the goals and objectives of camp.

## Personal Relationships

At camp, people sometimes form new close (sometimes romantic) relationships. Also, people sometimes come to camp coupled. That's all well and good. And, from camp's perspective, such relationships should not be the campers' business.

Relationships outside of marriage/long-term commitment are not displayed, discussed, or known about as far as the campers are concerned. Why? Because, we believe, children are hurried into dating, relationships, and sex. Television shows are often focused on relationships (especially ones filled with drama) and sex, or sexualized images. We would rather children spend a week or two just being kids and reclaiming some of the joy and innocence of childhood, and that the counselors they look up to model this joy. They've got over 60 years to be an adult.

If you have a problem with this, please cleanly communicate with our director before you arrive.

## We believe . . .

. . . that spirit, mind, and body must be nourished richly and simultaneously. We value music and art just as much as physical activity and adventure. We foster respect for self, for fellow humankind, and for the created world of which we are stewards. We find that the deepest community can arise out of the strongest individuality when trust, tolerance, and understanding prevail. Above all, we love to have fun—because smiles and laughter and joyful optimism are the forge of community, relationship, and our own humanity.

We believe that at camp, children should stop thinking about what they wear, what it takes to be cool, and growing up too fast. They should think about canoeing, roasting marshmallows, appreciating community, enjoying true friendships, singing, wondering at the stars, and communing with nature. Thus, we leave popular culture at the door. We believe that imagination is a precious gift to be protected and not trampled by intense media bombardment.

We believe that campers should do their best work whenever possible, and not engage in something half-heartedly. Campers should take pride in their work. The arrow should fly true, the art should be artful, the drama well-rehearsed, and the dining decorum playful, yet reverent. We must not always ‘succeed,’ but we short-change ourselves if we don’t give it our all anyways. We try, and fail, and learn.

We believe that children learn best when they discover truths for themselves. Children should explore, create, and challenge. Feeding children answers and giving them facts deadens their thirst and hunger for what is true and possible. Play is a tool for learning, and not something given so many minutes during the day. Through play, children learn social skills, their passions, and their potential.

## Our Values

- Safe / secure / healthy
- Free Choice
- Small Groups
- Individual Attention (1:2)
- Small Camp (<100 campers)
- Guidance
- People who love to learn!
- People who look to discover themselves
- Child centered
- Not glitz or gimmicky
- Rustic
- Non-Profit -> Children first
- Co-ed
- Fun is within camp
- Not typical sports-oriented
- Non-denominational (not religious)
- Absence of technology in our programming