



# Stanford Sierra Camp

“Sierra Camp has taught me to love, to challenge, and to create in the most glorious place I may ever know.” —Julio Delgado, Summer Staff '08

## Summer 2009 Application Packet

[ssc.stanford.edu](http://ssc.stanford.edu)

### Hello, Applicant!

Thank you for picking up this packet—you are about to embark upon a bright, multi-colored adventure. We're excited for you to begin your application and cannot wait to meet you. Before you begin filling the spaces with your words and ideas, though, please take a few moments to read these pages. They'll tell you some important information about Camp and the application process.

Each summer we hire 60 Stanford students to create a diverse and cohesive staff that is the heart, soul, and motor of Camp. If you are looking for a challenging environment, where you can give wholly of yourself in work and play, then you are likely to thrive at Sierra Camp. Developing programs for kids, conversing with adults, bussing tables, writing skits and making beds—you're there giving your all. There is no “ideal” staffer; we have no mold to fit. The unique contributions from each individual staffer make the magic of Sierra Camp. We sincerely hope this application process allows you to express the talents and perspectives that you would bring to this staff.

All applications are due at the front desk of the Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center by 5:00pm on Friday, January 16th. The Alumni Center is open from 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. When you drop off your application, be sure to sign up for an interview in the binder provided. First-round interviews begin January 20th and end February 6th.

Here is how the selection process works: all first-round applicants are interviewed by two members of the Interview Committee. 60 first-round applicants are chosen to go on to the second-round-interview pool, joining former staffers (usually around 30) who are reapplying. Final selections are made after the second-round interviews, which are conducted by Associate Camp Director Antja Thompson and Staff Director Alie Fohner. Former staff and new applicants are given equal consideration in the second round of interviews for the 60 available assignments. Decisions are made before spring break.

The reference form and the optional information form are also due on January 16th. Please request a reference from a present or former employer/supervisor or a member of the Stanford community who knows you well (for instance, an RF, an RA, or a former Sierra Camp staff member). The person completing the form should send it directly to the Alumni Center. Please double-check with this person to make sure we receive this form on time. The optional information form is separate from the application and is anonymous. Your response helps us learn more about our applicant pool and the effectiveness of our outreach.

Again, we look forward to getting to know you through both your application and your interview. **If you have any questions, please contact Staff Director Alie Fohner by email, in person at the Alumni Center, or via telephone at (650) 723-0462.** Also feel free to contact any member of the Interviewing Committee. We're always happy to talk about Camp!

Good luck and **have fun!**

The Interview Committee:

Alie Fohner, [afohner@stanford.edu](mailto:afohner@stanford.edu)  
Becca Richardson, [rrich89@stanford.edu](mailto:rrich89@stanford.edu)  
Graham Carroll, [grahamc@stanford.edu](mailto:grahamc@stanford.edu)  
Jeff Cornelius, [jcc09@stanford.edu](mailto:jcc09@stanford.edu)

Antja Thompson, [antja@stanford.edu](mailto:antja@stanford.edu)  
Garner Kropp, [gkropp@stanford.edu](mailto:gkropp@stanford.edu)  
Hannah Cory, [hcory@stanford.edu](mailto:hcory@stanford.edu)  
Jolene Kokroko, [jkokroko@stanford.edu](mailto:jkokroko@stanford.edu)

## Job Descriptions

**Kids' Group Leaders (31 staff total)** Camp provides organized children's activities every day. Each Kids' Group Leader helps design a weekly program that's exciting and entertaining for counselors and children alike. Activities are aimed at education and may include hikes, games, arts and crafts, boating, story telling, campfires, and anything else you can dream up. Prior experience working with kids is helpful; creativity, flexibility, enthusiasm, and the ability to work well in a group are essential. For additional information about kids' groups, contact **Jolene Kokroko, Kids' Group Coordinator via e-mail at [jkokroko@stanford.edu](mailto:jkokroko@stanford.edu)**.

**MUNCHKINS (4 counselors) Ages 3-4** These tiny tykes are adorable but unpredictable. They can be playful and imaginative, but also require cuddling and flexibility when left without Mom or Dad. Munchkin counselors are storytellers, crayon artists, and facilitators of exploration who are patient and love little ones.

**SNOOPERS (4) Ages 5-6** Snoopers are known for being active and wonderfully imaginative. These kids live for stories, wacky games, and entertaining counselors who want to be wild and spontaneous (just like the Snoops) in their programming. While these kids are of school age, they still require close supervision.

**MENEHUNES (5) Ages 7-8** Here's a quote from a famous cheer, "Menehunes: we're so loony." These kids are energetic and curious about the natural surroundings, and have an easier time being separated from their parents than they do from their counselors. If you prefer a certain amount of wholesome insanity in your daily life, the Hunes could be for you.

**YAHOOOS (5) Ages 9-10** These tiny humans have a seemingly endless supply of energy and are quick to make their presence known around camp with loud and crazy chants. Yahooos love hearing stories, figuring things out, learning cool things, but most of all, they enjoy having counselors who are willing to listen and converse with them.

**MIDOREES (5) Ages 11-12** Midorees are an awesome balance of hyper kid and budding adult. They still enjoy the silly side of things, but are old enough to begin doing more challenging activities, They sometimes pretend to know it all, but don't be deceived. They are impressionable and truly value learning from and with their counselors.

**SUAVES (4) Ages 13-14** Suaves are, if nothing else, super cool and social. They love getting to know each other and their counselors, but the challenge is to get them to develop deeper friendships and encourage them to try new things. Read a teen mag or two and catch an episode of TRL to brush up on your pop culture and get ready to be a role model. Each week includes an overnight hike.

**TEENS (4) Ages 15-18** Prerequisites: motivational talents, being able to balance being a role model for older teenagers with setting guidelines and boundaries, and, most importantly, a true desire to get to know and make an impression on slightly younger individuals. The program is very flexible, but should concentrate on taking advantage of our beautiful location. Each week includes an overnight hike.

**Other Programs (29 staff total)** In general, these positions require instructors to develop and implement their own programs. While all staff members interact with children daily, leaders of these programs tailor their activities towards adults. Some of these jobs involve fewer program hours and can be combined to fit your interests.

**ART INSTRUCTOR (1)** Art instruction is intended for adults and includes lots of interesting conversation. The Art Instructor should be competent in a variety of media, and creative and innovative ideas are welcome.

**BOATDOCK COORDINATOR (1)** The Boatdock Coordinator is responsible for general maintenance of the Boat Dock and its vessels: 9 sailboats, 20 Funyaks (small plastic kayaks), 6 canoes, 5 rowboats, 6 sea kayaks, and a partridge in a pear tree. Initiative, ability to take ownership over a place, an eye for safety, and excitement about learning/refining skills like sewing, fiberglassing and fixing are more important than extensive experience.

**CHALLENGE COURSE INSTRUCTOR (1)** From upper and lower ropes course, to orienteering, to family courses, to any other team building activities, this leader develops programs to help guests learn about themselves, work with others, and conquer any challenge you may throw at them.

**CRAFTS INSTRUCTOR (1)** Adult guests like interacting with you as much as learning the crafts you teach. Crafts in the past have included stained glass, batik, basket making and pysanka. We encourage innovation-- take it away!

**CULTURALIST (1)** The Culturalist facilitates discussion and creates child, adult, and staff programming that will enhance cultural awareness and foster a diverse and inclusive environment.

**DANCE INSTRUCTOR (1)** Got moves? Dance instructors of the past have taught swing, hip-hop, ballroom, salsa, line, belly, gum boot, square, hula, and break dancing. This instructor must be patient, supportive, and willing to groove.

**DINING ROOM HOST/HOSTESS (1)** The Dining Room Host/Hostess is in charge at mealtimes, knowing the ins and outs of the dining room, and comfortable managing peers. This job requires a friendly demeanor, a love of people, and excellent delegation skills.

**HIKING LEADER (1)** Hiking Leader organizes and leads three adult hikes each week, and helps guests plan and organize their own excursions in nearby Desolation Wilderness. Backcountry safety and wilderness skills are important.

**KITCHEN CREW (6)** Ah, the kitchen...by far the most intense and vibrant space at Camp. Walking into the kitchen you can feel the love, the passion, and the energy it takes to create 1,000 meals a day. Working in the kitchen is a blast but requires the ability to handle repetitive work and being indoors at an outdoor-oriented camp.

**MUSIC DIRECTOR (1)** The Music Director directs the weekly *a cappella* performance for adult guests, sings at the campfire and with the little tots, and performs with other staffers at the Friday barbecue. Patience, spunk, and a love for teaching are crucial.

**NATURALIST (1)** "What type of woodpecker lives in this area?" and "Is this a White pine or Jeffery pine?" are just a couple of the many wilderness questions the Naturalist has to be ready to tackle. Weekly duties include leading educational nature hikes and activities for adults. Past Naturalists have focused their programming on wildflowers, local geology, bugs and insects, fire ecology, lake health and eutrophication and most recently, compost. Add your expertise to the list!

**KIDS' NATURALIST (1)** The Kids' naturalist works with kids' group leaders to develop hands on educational programming that utilizes Camp's beautiful location. He/she spends 2-3 hours with each kids' group each week.

**NIGHT WATCH ASSISTANT (1)** The most beautiful time at Camp is arguably at night, when the guests go to sleep and the stars come out. Two nights a week, this is the Night Watch Assistant's time to shine. Duties include looking out for bears and other camp intruders as well as general cleaning of the lodge.

**OFFICE ASSISTANT (1)** The office is the control center of Camp. The Office Assistant helps write the daily information letter on what's happening at camp, answers phones, oversees guest check-in, creates a friendly office environment, is Apple literate, and remains chipper working indoors at an outdoor-oriented camp.

**PHOTOGRAPHERS (2)** Camp's two Photographers capture weekly events using digital SLRs, as well as take family portraits, provide photo clinics, organize sales, and create an original slide show at the end of each week. An outgoing and positive attitude is essential. The Photographers capture everything from basketball tournaments to sunsets to sun-soaked Munchkins.

**ROCK CLIMBING INSTRUCTOR (1)** This instructor is a climbing enthusiast who teaches adult and teenage guests safe climbing techniques. Safety is a primary concern, as are patience and the ability to motivate.

**ROWING INSTRUCTOR (1)** Teach adult guests in Camp's fleet of single shells how to slice the early morning glass of Fallen Leaf Lake. Instruction takes place from the shore as guests, some of whom are regular rowers and others whom wish they had better coordination, take to the water.

**SAILING INSTRUCTOR (1)** This instructor teaches a variety of sailing clinics to adults and older children using Camp's Escapes, Lasers, Hunters, and Hobie Cats. Knowledge of sailboat maintenance is preferred; a positive attitude, patience and assertiveness in teaching people in shifty winds is required.

**SKI DOCK HEAD (1)** The Ski Dock is unique at Camp in its logistics and responsibilities. The Ski Dock Head is comfortable managing peers and is a great communicator; as he/she oversees the daily working of the dock and the maintenance of the ski boats, and helps motivate and train the other Ski Dock staff.

**TENNIS INSTRUCTOR (1)** Having won Wimbledon is not as important as loving to teach. The tennis instructor runs clinics and tournaments for adults and children, is enthusiastic, positive, and a skilled ball-feeder, and can pull out a drill at any moment.

**VOLLEYBALL INSTRUCTOR (1)** Spending much of the day in the sand, this instructor leads several clinics open to all skill levels, focusing on putting the fun in fundamentals. The grand finale each week is the staff-guest volleyball match, a long-standing Camp tradition.

**WATERSKI/WAKEBOARD INSTRUCTORS (5)** Do you have the patience that it takes to teach skiing and wakeboarding? Instructors help guests of all ages and skill levels enjoy these sports and perfect their technique. How well you slalom is less important than careful attention to safety and how well you interact with people--you'll interact directly with many families each day.

**YOGA INSTRUCTOR (1)** From a serene deck overlooking Fallen Leaf Lake, this instructor guides guests of all levels in discovering yoga. Enough diverse knowledge and patience is required to lead a few hour-long sessions.

**NEW PROGRAM** SSC is an outdoor classroom where alumni and their families engage in the interests of our staffers. As the teacher, what new programs would you host? Past programs have included fly fishing, astronomy/star gazing, book discussions, music reviews, Chalk/Jock Talk, and knitting. Create your own position, and come tell us about it; we're always looking for innovation.

## Camp Information

Stanford Sierra Camp is a facility operated by SAA-Sierra Programs, L.L.C. for Stanford alumni families, faculty, staff, and friends. The camp is located on the south shore of Fallen Leaf Lake, nestled between Desolation Wilderness – a spectacular national wilderness area with ample hiking opportunities – and beautiful Lake Tahoe. The lifeblood of Camp is its student staff: 60 diverse, dynamic, and dedicated individuals who ensure that during each of Camp’s 12 one-week sessions, the approximately 290 guests have the time of their lives.

- 60 positions are available, all of which require boundless energy, a positive attitude, and hard work.
- Staffers are scheduled for a 6 day, 47 hour work week.
- Everyone gets 1 1/2 days off per week. Time off beyond your 1 1/2 days is allowed **only for emergencies**. All staffers are required to work for the whole 2009 summer season.
- Staffers eat meals with guests; it’s a great time to establish friendships as well as alumni contacts.
- About half of your scheduled hours are spent on your specific program and half are spent working in other areas (e.g., dining room, Hobart (aka dish washing), games day, social cruises). Individual instructors of adult programs usually work more than half of their scheduled hours in non-program areas.
- Camp is located about a half-hour’s drive away from the nearest town – South Lake Tahoe, CA.
- Staffers live closely together in rustic cabins. (Oftentimes the view makes up for the tight quarters.)
- At least 4 hours every Saturday are spent cleaning cabins. Everyone gets a chance to scrub toilets.
- All staffers must attend the Orientation Weekend, which will be one of either April 10-12 or 17-19, 2009.
- CPR, First Aid, and Lifeguarding are required. We will arrange and pay for these classes during spring quarter for people who are not certified. If you opt not to take the courses arranged for you, then you must complete them on your own.
- Compensation for the 12 week season, in addition to room and board, is approximately \$6,000 before taxes (a weekly salary plus weekly tips from guests).
- Staffers must arrive at Camp by June 15th for orientation. The summer season runs until September 12th.
- At the end of the summer from September 12-14, Sierra Camp runs a volunteer Kids’ Camp for students from East Palo Alto Charter School. We highly encourage staff members to help with this very rewarding program which brings in 80-100 fifth and sixth-graders to Sierra Camp each year.

## Sample Schedule

Below shows a typical week’s schedule (in this case for Nick Garbo, a Midorees counselor). Note that in addition to Nick’s scheduled time with the Midorees, he is also scheduled for dining room, lifeguarding, Astrocruise (taking guests out on Camp’s pontoon boat at night), and an early morning exercise session (Nick loves showing guests the yoga moves he picked up in class at Stanford).

All staff participate in Saturday morning cabin cleaning, one all-staff meeting, one group meeting, and the introductory meeting (where each counselor group performs a skit for the guests) each week. Other shifts during the week vary from staffer to staffer to complete the program at Camp, but each staffer has plenty of opportunities to meet guests and enjoy time off. Possible activities for days off are as limitless as your imagination and energy level. You can do whatever you choose!

Name: Nick Garbo                      Assignment: Midorees

	6:30	7:30	8:30	9:30	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:30	4:30	5:30	6:30	7:30	8:30	9:30	10:30	Hrs		
Saturday							Housekeeping / Staph Meeting				Boatdock						Intro Mtg.		6.75	
Sunday					Midorees				Ftn		Midorees			Dinner Head			Midorees		9.50	
Monday				Midoree meeting			Midorees											Half Day Off...	7.75	
Tuesday																		...Full Day Off!	0.00	
Wednesday			Morn Ex				Lunch				Lodge Mainte- nance						Campfire		5.50	
Thursday							Midorees										HOBART	Midorees	Astro- cruise	10.00
Friday					Midorees			Lifeguard		Kids Talent Show							Dinner		6.00	
																				45.50

**For more information on the Stanford Sierra Camp experience check out [ssc.stanford.edu](http://ssc.stanford.edu).**