



# Puget Sound Interfaith Youth Camp

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## About Puget Sound Interfaith Youth Camp

### **Vision**

With the goal of a more peaceful and just world, Puget Sound Interfaith Youth Camp offers a safe place for youth from a variety of faith and religious perspectives to be themselves, have a great time in a beautiful natural setting, and discover more about their common humanity.

Organizers hope that campers' growing understanding of each other's worldviews will result in greater respect, appreciation, empathy and compassion.

### **Goals**

- Increase Awareness of Differing Faith Perspectives
- Build Pathways to Communication and Respect
- Develop Leadership Skills
- Build Pathways to Peace and Justice

### **Where is the Camp Held?**

The camp is held at Camp Seymour, a facility of the YMCA located on the Key Peninsula in Pierce County. This location provides wood-paneled cabins and an array of outdoor activities, including canoeing, kayaking, arts and crafts, court sports, hiking, campfires and more. For more on the camp, visit [www.campseymour.org](http://www.campseymour.org)

### **Partners**

The camp is a collaborative effort of representatives from or members of Associated Ministries, Interfaith Works (Olympia), Mas Jid Al-Nour (the Islamic Center of Olympia), People for Peace Justice & Healing, Temple Beth El, and YMCA Camp Seymour.

**CAMP COUNSELOR**  
Puget Sound Interfaith Youth Camp

**Responsible to:** Camp Director

**General:**

- Camp will take place August 23-28 at YMCA Camp Seymour on the Key Peninsula, near Gig Harbor, Washington.
- 6 day commitment: from 11:00 a.m. Saturday, August 22 to noon Friday, August 28, 2009
- \$200 volunteer stipend. Room and board provided

**Qualifications:**

- At least 20 years of age
- High school diploma or GED; one or more years of college preferred
- Experience as a camper or working with children as a leader or assistant leader
- Good character, and able to act as a positive role model for children
- Ability to relate to one's peers as well as children
- Flexibility, with ability to accept supervision
- Must pass a multi-state background check

**General Responsibility:** To live with and guide 8-10 campers throughout their camp experience

**Essential Functions:**

- Be physically able to accompany campers to any/all camp activities
- Be able to communicate verbally with campers, & provide instructions
- Have visual ability to recognize hazards in the camp setting, & the auditory ability to respond appropriately to warnings
- Be able to observe camper behavior in daily camp life, to respond to health & safety concerns, & to deal appropriately with improper behavior

**Specific Responsibilities:**

- Live in a cabin with 8-10 campers & another counselor
- Work harmoniously with your co-counselor
- Provide leadership & guidance to your campers in daily living, with special attention to
  - Punctuality at all activities
  - Personal hygiene & safety
  - Cabin neatness
  - Camper participation in all camp activities
  - Mealtime behavior & habits
  - Respect and sensitivity for each other & staff
- Assist program staff in specific activities as requested
- Interpret the rules, policies & traditions of the camp to the campers
- Set a good example in personal language, appearance & health habits
- Supervise & assist in cleaning of cabin and other assigned facilities on last day
- Oversee your campers until their parents pick them up at the end of camp
- Know where your campers are.

**CAMP DIRECTOR**  
Puget Sound Interfaith Youth Camp

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- Camp will take place August 23-28 at YMCA Camp Seymour on the Key Peninsula, near Gig Harbor, WA
- 6 day on-site commitment: 11:00 a.m. Saturday, Aug 22 to noon Friday, Aug 28, 2009
- Camp Director is a stipended position. Compensation negotiable.
- Room and board provided

**QUALIFICATIONS**

- At least 25 years of age
- High school diploma or GED; one or more years of college preferred
- Minimum 2 years experience a working with adolescent children as a leader or assistant leader
- Minimum 2 years as staff at a residential camp
- Experience with interfaith dialogue, activities or studies preferred
- Good character, and able to act as a positive role model for staff and campers
- Ability to relate to one's peers as well as campers
- Supervisory experience
- Must pass multi-state background check

**GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Become familiar with goals, objectives, philosophy of PS Interfaith Youth Camp
- Communicate regularly, in person by phone or email with designated steering committee chair, and attend meetings of camp steering committee when possible to participate in planning
- Work with the steering committee to prioritize, plan and implement safety, risk management, and child protection policies and procedures in order to insure the safety of each camper.
- Be main bridge of communication between staff, steering committee and YMCA Camp Seymour
- Work closely with YMCA liaison. Maintain effective communication to enable early detection and resolution of problems, especially in matters of camp rules and procedures, and camper responsibilities for facilities
- Become familiar with camp emergency procedures and coordinate response of staff during any emergency
- Keep health and safety of campers and staff paramount at all times. In the event of an accident, violence or discovery of illegal substances, works with YMCA liaison to respond and communicate appropriately
- Be on site at all times during camp
- Demonstrate professionalism and confidence through preparedness, cleanliness and impartiality
- Dress appropriately and modestly, being sensitive to modesty issues of differing cultures
- Fully embrace the responsibility of respecting and serving each camper
- Provide clear, direct, sensitive, and age appropriate communication with campers, volunteers and staff
- Submit a report to steering committee within two weeks of close of camp, including evaluation of schedule, program, and staff.

**STAFF:**

- Work as an effective team player while exercising leadership, initiative and creativity
- Conduct staff orientation and training, with input from steering committee
- Establish clear direction for conflict resolution among staff
- Supervise and direct staff
- Facilitate daily staff meetings, troubleshooting and keeping staff on task and on schedule
- Negotiable re hiring, firing, and evaluation of staff

**SCHEDULE:**

- Understand timing and content of program schedule
- Maintain the daily schedule, and enforce or adjust it as necessary.

## **FAITH LEADER**

### **Puget Sound Interfaith Youth Camp**

*Faith leaders are clergy or other well-informed, authoritative adults from specific religions/faith traditions*

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- Room and board provided
- Must pass a multi-state background check

#### **Prior to camp:**

Attend staff orientations

#### **Primary duties**

1. Be the resident expert on your own faith tradition
2. Set an example of interfaith respect, cooperation and relationship-building
3. Be a resource to staff members, and moral support to campers
4. Be available to answer questions, and/or assist campers in answering questions about their own specific faith tradition
5. Conduct one or more short devotional experiences at which all campers would be welcome, either to participate or just to observe \*
6. Present a 'Faith Explore' session, as directed by the Program Committee \*\*
7. Participate in the 'Faith & Stereotypes' session \*\*\*
8. Co-facilitate the 'Talking Circle'\*\*\*\*
9. Bring faith resources for campers to see – books, symbols, pictures, other items representative of your faith practice

#### **Additional activities**

1. You may volunteer to offer prayer or other words at a meal
2. You may be asked to assist with camper registration on Sunday, or with camper checkout on the last day.
3. Participate in camp evaluation

#### **\* Devotional Experience**

There will be a time scheduled daily for devotions, besides those dictated by specific faith traditions.

You may plan for a daily devotional, or just one during the week; about 15-20 minutes. The intent is for campers of other faith traditions to be able to observe or experience the practices of traditions other than their own. Campers should be invited to participate or observe, at their own comfort level.

Design an experience that is truly representative of your practice. This might include corporate prayer, meditation, singing, scripture reading, etc. If there are sacred objects appropriate to your practice, the campers would probably enjoy seeing them used.

*(Faith Leader Job Description continued)*

**\*\* Faith Explore**

This activity will be divided into three segments of about 35 minutes each, with 5 minutes for transition. Campers will have opportunity to visit with 3 different faith leaders, for 35 minutes each. You will be given a list of possible topics for conversation

This is an opportunity for you to

- Tell a little bit about your faith tradition & beliefs
- Tell of your own faith journey (how/why is this your tradition?)

**\*\*\*Faith & Stereotypes**

This session will begin with all staff and campers in one large gathering to talk about and identify specific faith stereotypes. After some all-group activities, you will be asked to facilitate a small group of campers to look at the stereotypes about their own faith traditions. You will help kids share how they might be/have been affected by stereotypes; how is that stereotype incorrect; what would they like others to know.

The session concludes with small groups coming back to the whole and reporting on their discussion, and how like their new interfaith friends to support them in light of stereotyping.

**\*\*\*\*Talking Circle:**

This activity is an opportunity for kids to process the thoughts and issues of the week. In small groups, facilitated by faith leaders, they will pass the 'talking stick' and speak about something like : 1) I feel bad when.... 2) I feel good, or appreciated when.... Then, the whole group comes back together for a final process. (More detail will be forthcoming.)

## **Camp Nurse/Medic Puget Sound Interfaith Youth Camp**

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- Room and board provided

### **Qualifications:**

- Be physically able to access the entire camp
- Be able to communicate verbally with campers and provide instructions
- Have visual ability to recognize hazards in the camp setting and the auditory ability to respond appropriately to warnings
- Enjoy working with adolescents
- Must be one of the following: a licensed physician, Registered Nurse, Legal Practicing Nurse, Emergency Medical Technician, certified medic or first responder
- Have current drivers license
  - Must pass a multi-state background check

### **General Responsibilities:**

#### **PRIOR TO THE WEEK OF CAMP**

- Attend staff orientations
- Arrange with Steering Committee Chairperson to check health supplies on hand; determine what additional supplies, drugs, and equipment will be needed; provide Chairperson with list of additional supplies needed
- If asked to obtain supplies, purchase them and save receipts for reimbursement

#### **BEGINNING CAMP**

- Set infirmary cabin in order for your use
- Make brief presentation about camp health and safety at staff orientation
- Collect camper and staff medical history and medications during registration
- Discuss special health concerns with parents; see that each camper has a completed medical history form before the parent leaves
- Maintain forms in alphabetical file
- Make presentation about basic camp health and safety to entire camp at orientation

#### **DURING CAMP**

- Participate in daily staff meeting if possible
- Be available 24 hours/day
- Keep record in a logbook, of each treatment rendered, including date, time, name, symptoms, description of injury, treatment and instructions given
- Distribute all daily medications to campers and staff for them to self-administer
- Supply camp with prompt and appropriate medical care
- Administer first-aid as needed
- Make arrangements with Camp Director before sending anyone to the doctor or hospital.
- Attempt to notify parents before sending any minor to the doctor or hospital. Be sure to take camper's health form to doctor or clinic

#### **END OF CAMP**

- Return all camper medications to parents at the completion of each week
- Make a record of health supplies to be reordered the following summer
- Pack and store health room supplies. Discard outdated supplies
- Participate in camp evaluation