

what is Club?



The Club Apprentice program is a premier leadership opportunity for Aloha graduates. Bridging the camper years to counselor years, participants in the program begin the process of learning how to become a successful leader at Aloha and in the outside world.

Through a blend of traditional programming with more specific apprentice-style leadership offerings, Clubbers begin to build a foundation for future work and leadership endeavors. Specifically, the Club experience includes training in Success Counseling; close mentorship in activity departments; residential living with peers; developing outdoor skills through the framework of the Aloha wilderness tripping program.

Many staff and alumni consider the 7.5 weeks in Club to be the pinnacle of their experience at both Hive and Aloha.

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Club is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to put everything we learn during our summers at Aloha into practice and road test our skills, while we reach for, achieve, and reflect on our “best self” every single day.

Club: 10th-grade graduates

SubClub: 9th-grade graduates

DubSub: 8th-grade graduates

TripSub: 7th-grade graduates



why is being a **Clubber** so important?

There are many things we hope participants will learn as members of Club. In general terms, Clubbers walk away from the summer having learned and internalized both technical and interpersonal skills—all of which will serve them well as they progress in their educational and professional careers. These include:

PRECAMP ARRIVAL

Clubbers will arrive at camp before the official Opening Day- halfway through our full staff “precamp” which is when we hold all our trainings. This early start to their summer intentionally invites the group to step out of the camper role and into the Counselor in Training mindset. During these first few days at camp, Clubbers will have a blend of targeted training sessions, introductory department and unit time, team development opportunities and whole staff time. Precamp serves to properly prepare our community for when campers arrive.

INTRODUCTION TO SUCCESS COUNSELING

Clubbers begin learning about our Success Counseling framework—an approach based on personal responsibility, choice, and empowerment—from the first day they arrive at camp. They participate in training sessions and have the opportunity to practice in small groups. Throughout the summer, Clubbers test out their counseling skills as they work alongside mentors in camper tents and shacks and get to watch senior counselors demonstrate the process.

Where appropriate, senior staff involve Clubbers in counseling situations. This is the ideal teaching model (gradual release) that allows Clubbers to put their developing skills to use, but in an environment where they are being closely supervised and mentored.

TEACHING AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Clubbers complete a teaching and skill-building apprenticeship in an activity department, where they are mentored by seasoned department staff. Clubbers are



assigned to departments based on their aptitude and enthusiasm, and immediately begin to learn the content and pedagogy of that department.

The process is similar in each department, whether it's Swimming, Archery, Tennis, or Performing Arts: the Clubber will train with knowledgeable staff; watch more senior counselors teach and lead campers in activities; and gradually start to take on teaching roles, while being closely monitored by the Department Head. Clubbers will also receive feedback from the senior staff, so that their knowledge and teaching skill can improve.

COMMUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Clubbers live in one unit together (3-4 Clubbers per tent), interspersed with counselor tents. Counselors are assigned a group of Clubbers and support them by listening, offering guidance or advice when needed, and helping them achieve their goals for the summer. By living together, serving as apprentices, and participating in trainings or activities as a whole Club group or as individuals, Clubbers face new levels of responsibility at camp.

Overall, the Club summer is marked by more independence and responsibility than in the past, but also a very close-knit community to help support these new challenges.



CAMPING SKILLS

Aloha believes that there are a number of outdoor skills that every counselor should be able to perform at a basic level. As there are many activities each summer — such as tent family overnights, tent family meals, and canoe breakfasts — that require specialized skill. To be fully qualified and confident in leading these activities, a Clubber (or any counselor) should learn and master some basic camping skills. As a result, Clubbers spend part of their summer learning, re-learning, or honing these skills in preparation for deploying them as a counselor.

APPRECIATION OF OTHERS

Club is a diverse group of young people with different interests, skills, temperaments, and backgrounds. Yet for seven weeks of the summer, Clubbers live and work alongside one another very closely. This propels Clubbers to return home with a much more open-minded and generous approach toward meeting and accepting others.

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It was during my Club summer that I learned how to be a confident young woman, how to embrace both my strengths and edges, and how to lead by example. To be a leader at Aloha, which had offered me so much throughout my adolescence, was the greatest honor imaginable.





OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD

At Aloha, we believe that if we want to teach young people to be responsible and to take on leadership roles, we need to give them chances to practice those skills. In the Club program, we do just that.

While a large portion of the Club program is closely supervised—with a mentor looking on and providing real-time feedback and coaching—there are also times when Clubbers have opportunities to lead. Sometimes this is done through contributing to the broader community – like running an evening program or creating a piece of furniture for us to use. These opportunities to step up help Clubbers come alive with enthusiasm, pride, creativity, and maturity—and they grow hungry for more.

With this newfound independence and responsibility, Clubbers are exposed to elements of the counseling world. As interpersonal challenges arise, Clubbers practice Success Counseling and other approaches they are learning, and over the course of the summer, grow their problem-solving skills. At the end of the Club program, they are more adept and self-sufficient at working through issues and finding solutions.



TEAMWORK

Almost all of the activities in Club are done in small teams or as a full group. Clubbers learn very quickly the value of doing projects together, and that more hands make light work. However, they also learn that operating as a team is often more complicated than working alone, and takes higher levels of communication, deliberation, listening, and compromise. Clubbers learn that a great team does not leave anyone behind, both literally and metaphorically, and they learn to watch out for each other and advocate for all members of the group during all activities.





LEADERSHIP STORIES TO SHARE

Our Club program isn't just a useful experience – for generations, it has inspired powerful stories that often help alumni get into their top choice colleges. Youth today are facing many challenges which universities will try to help them solve. Living in nature, building resilience, and developing healthy communities are key areas our world needs, and Club offers a lived experience of. Club Summer can provide your child a great case study to write and speak about as they move into adulthood, as well as a healthy model to re-create in their own communities.

WORK ETHIC

Through a variety of Club activities—from apprenticeships to camp projects to work in the dining room—Clubbers learn what it means to work hard. For many, this is the first time they have faced a higher level of responsibility. These challenges are a deliberate part of the Club program, teaching Clubbers:

- Hard work can be fun if you bring the right attitude;
- Hard work is always lurking “behind the scenes” of fun/worthwhile/magical events, and there is no escaping that prerequisite hard work if you want to have the reward at the end;
- When doing a job, it is important to do it well and to bring a level of detail and quality to it, no matter how small or unglamorous the job is. This approach, often noticed by others, allows Clubbers to take pride in their work and is what makes an organization great, rather than good;
- Clubbers can “do hard things” and push themselves beyond what they thought was possible.

At the end of the summer, Clubbers will have developed a new mental approach for situations where they used to give up or cut corners when the work got too long or tiring. After a summer in Club, participants report that they have a new understanding of their ability to summon a work ethic and a positive attitude even in situations where they would rather be doing something else.

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Club Summer came at the perfect time in my life. I was deciding what kind of young adult I wanted to be right when it began, which made the transition feel seamless.

Club struck the right balance of challenge and support in a community that lifts people up. It propelled my personal growth and self-confidence in a way which changed the way I felt about my capabilities forever.

**Charlotte Messervy,
Aloha Director**

WILDERNESS TRIPPING SKILLS

During the summer, the Clubbers will take part in a wilderness trip. The Clubbers will take an active role in planning the route, preparing the food, packing the gear, and working with counselors to cultivate a successful and safe experience.

Much like the trips we plan for campers, these trips offer Clubbers the chance to grow and challenge themselves in unique ways. They will learn to rely on the help and support of others; to overcome adversity; to communicate together; and to share an intimate experience that will transform the dynamic of the group and create a bond that can last long after the trip has ended.

WHAT IS THE TUITION?

Club tuition is the same as camper tuition for a full season at Aloha, Hive, or Lanakila. This season's tuition is posted on our website at alohafoundation.org/aloha/.

