



what is **Club?**

Club is a seven-week leadership program at Aloha designed to prepare campers to become effective leaders in any community. They learn Success Counseling principles and become more effective team members, communicators, problem solvers, and decision makers.

Club is the pinnacle of the camper experience—and for many, it is one of the highlights of their time at the Alohas.

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

QuadSub: 6th-grade graduates

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

There are many things we hope campers 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:

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 in camper tents (3-4 Clubbers per tent), interspersed with counselor tents. Counselors are assigned to a tent 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.

In contrast to previous summers as campers, as a general rule, no one reminds them to show up at meetings, complete required tasks, or clean their tent. Yet Clubbers receive mentoring around managing this “adult” schedule. As one example, staff members help the Clubbers learn to use a summer calendar as a planning and tracking tool. This calendar helps them to think ahead and track the increased number of responsibilities on their plate. Clubbers learn that being organized in this way is helpful and actually increases their enjoyment of the work. 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.

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. For this reason, many Clubbers are in contact with others that they may not have gotten to know in previous summers, and with whom they might not spend time outside of camp. But because these Clubbers spend so much time together at Aloha, they learn a lot about each other and bond through shared experiences. It is truly magical when Clubbers realize that they have developed a deep respect and affection for other Clubbers that they could never have predicted. And in many cases, this propels Clubbers to return home with a much more open-minded and generous approach toward meeting and accepting others.

CAMPING SKILLS

Aloha believes that there are a number of outdoor skills that every counselor should be able to perform at a basic level. In fact, this is a practical issue, 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, including fire building, cooking, pitching a tent and tarp, basic knots, axe use and safety, basic bow canoe strokes, basic canoe J-stroke, and water safety, among several others. As a result, Clubbers spend part of their summer learning, re-learning, or honing these skills in preparation for deploying them as a counselor.

Clubbers live in their very own unit, without counselors in their tent. There are typically 8 Clubber tents, 3 counselor tents nearby, and 1 beloved Club Shack!





OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD

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. They cherish putting their learning into action and starting to give back to the camp that they love so dearly. We believe that young people—in all environments—crave times when they can take on more responsibility and do real work, but that they are rarely provided the chance to do so.

When Clubbers design an evening program for the entire camp community, lead an activity in their department, or make a meaningful contribution to camp on a daily basis, they come alive with enthusiasm, pride, creativity, and maturity—and they grow hungry for more. 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.

With this newfound independence and responsibility comes, undoubtedly, conflict. As interpersonal conflicts and other 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.





WORK ETHIC

Through a variety of Club activities—from apprenticeships to camp projects to work in the kitchen—Clubbers learn what it means to work hard. For many, this is the first time they have faced a demanding 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.

TRIP-LEADING

Wilderness tripping is a crucial part of the Aloha experience, and during this summer Clubbers begin to learn about the process of planning and leading trips for young people. This new responsibility entails Clubbers — working under the supervision of experienced trip leaders on staff — take an active role in planning the trip route, preparing the food, packing the gear, and communicating with other staff members on the trip about creating a successful and safe experience.

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.

Even if some members of Club have not been avid wilderness trippers in their camper career up until now, this practice in designing and implementing an off-campus trip has many benefits, such as allowing Clubbers a view into the complicated and meticulous planning process of a trip leader; giving them practice with communicating and collaborating with other staff members; teaching them how to seek out information from various access points in our community; honing their organizational and clerical abilities (underrated skills for any counselor to possess); and giving them a taste of active management of a small group in a way that is quite different from opportunities that exist on campus. This introductory experience in trip planning and leading serves as a wonderful foundation that Clubbers can build on in subsequent years, and many current 21+ trip leaders remark that their first Club trip-leading experience remains a crucial memory in their toolkit.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Each Clubber takes on community service contributions otherwise assumed by counselors. This is yet another way Clubbers help keep camp running over the summer. There are community service contributions such as filling out the community schedule board daily, helping with the summer slideshow, or helping with young children of counselor staff. There are organizational contributions such as planning an assembly or an evening program, planning a camp event like a tournament, organizing Club pancake breakfast, or Club Vespers. There are also contributions that help them become a valuable department counselor, such as getting a high rank, or getting a first or second rank in a department in which a Clubber is not apprenticing.

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/.

