



Horizons Apprentice Program

The Horizons Apprentice Program is a leadership program for 8th and 9th grade graduates. While we hope many graduates of the Apprentice Program choose to return as camp counselors in future summers, the program is designed to give participants tools to use beyond camp, enabling them to become confident, resilient, and responsible young leaders in their communities, in college, and in future employment.

Apprentices participate in a wide variety of programming, which fall into four main categories:

- **Theoretical Training:** Apprentices are introduced to success counseling, risk assessment, and basic educational theory.
- **Skills Training:** Apprentices hone hard skills such as wilderness techniques for fire/shelter building and learning/teaching canoe strokes. They also work on their soft skills such as communication, self-awareness, and team building.
- **Leadership Development:** Apprentices have opportunities to bring their counselor-in-training skills into action, planning and facilitating activities for campers while receiving guidance from experienced staff.
- **Community Projects:** Apprentices lead projects that benefit our entire camp community. Over the last two summers, Apprentices used their creativity to redecorate and repurpose two buildings, maintain trail networks, and improve a dilapidated mural. Apprentices design and implement a plan which involves connecting with Horizons staff to collaborate, gathering equipment, assigning tasks, following the timeline, and navigating potential adaptations along the way.

It goes without saying that being an Apprentice is a ton of fun as well! There is space to be playful adolescents and enjoy being part of the Horizons community. Opportunities such as leading an assembly, staying for an overnight (for 9th graders), and creating new activities tie into the underlying theme of self-sufficiency and personal growth. The Apprentice Program intentionally spans two years. 8th grade graduates attend a two-week session and 9th grade graduates attend a four-week session. This allows 9th graders the ability to delve more deeply into their learning and practice their skills.

Additional Opportunity! Upon graduating from their four-week program, successful 2nd Year Apprentices can implement their training and earn a stipend for assisting camp counselors during Horizons Session 4.