

4-H/Youth Development
February 1, 2011

Working, Camping, Learning

4-H summer camping in Kentucky is one of the largest co-educational camping programs in the United States. All Kentucky programs are American Camp Association-accredited camps.

Kentucky's camps encompass 300 to 1,500 acres at four locations. Over 8,000 youths ages 9 to 14 participate each summer, along with hundreds of teen and adult volunteer leaders and Cooperative Extension agents.

If you are looking for a summer job that gives you the opportunity to be a positive and encouraging influence in many children's lives, consider working at a 4-H camp.

All staff members are required to have training and certification in CPR and First Aid before they begin working at camp. Lifeguards and health care providers must have current certifications prior to employment.

The camp staff does not stay in the cabins with the children, but lives in separate staff quarters. Meals and excess medical insurance are also provided during each camp session. Training for managers takes place April 29 to May 1. Camp instructors' training is set for May 22 through 25 at Lake Cumberland 4-H Educational Center in Jabez and May 26 and 27 onsite at each camp respectively.

Pre-employment criminal background checks are conducted on all new camp employees. Interviews for the 2011 season (including returning staff) are set for mid to late March. The deadline to apply is March 4.

The four camps have different staffing needs which are listed at <http://www.kentucky4h.org/camp>, under the employment opportunities tab. Applications must be completed online at <http://uky.edu/hr/ukjobs>.

Camping schedules vary by location, but employment generally begins May 22 and extends through late July or the first week of August. Camp employees work 40 hours or more a week.

Working at 4-H camp is a terrific opportunity to do something worthwhile with your summer. You enhance your résumé with the experience and serve as a role model for young campers.

Direct your questions to the Pendleton County Cooperative Extension Service.