



## Laketrails Base Camp

### **CAMPER WORKER** **Description and Duties**

A Camper Worker is an experienced Laketrails camper who assists in the maintenance of the Laketrails island in exchange for a significantly reduced rate of his/her camping fees. To be a Camper Worker one must typically be at least 16 years of age and have attended at least one Laketrails session. This teen should be knowledgeable in the Laketrails program and be enthusiastic, friendly, cooperative, and flexible in nature. Most importantly, Camper Workers must be willing to act as a positive role model for other campers. This is very much a peer leadership position, and as such, Camper Workers are expected to show age appropriate maturity, good judgement, tolerance, respect, and acceptance of others, as well as a good work ethic. A good Camper Worker is willing to listen and learn from the adults on the island, show respect for Laketrails rules of living, and strive to do their very best at any assignment.

Actual Camper Worker positions vary a bit from year to year, but generally consist of the KP Boss, Sanitation Engineer (outhouse cleaner), Floor Specialist, Trash and Recycling Master, and Kitchen Assistant. In addition, Camper Workers do much of the lawn mowing and often help with special projects such as digging crud pits, moving outhouses, and general cleaning. It's even possible that Camper Workers are asked to stay in Base Camp to complete a special project or work assignment for one session during their tenure at camp.

Camper Workers assist the Guides on canoe trips and, at times, are called on to help teach basic wilderness skills such as canoeing to other campers. Additionally, as a role model for other campers, it is important for Camper Workers to learn from their Guides about the natural features of the northern boreal forest and Lake of the Woods environment. This includes plant life, wildlife (including mammals, birds and aquatic creatures), geology, etc. Camper Workers will not only gain knowledge of the environment, but they are expected to model the Laketrails philosophy of conservation of all aspects of the natural world. This means learning to care for wild creatures and plants and their habitats as well as conserving resources by actively practicing and teaching our recycling program to others. In this way, the Camper Worker becomes an integral part of inspiring curiosity and care for the environment amongst others.

Camper Workers have opportunities for many experiences not available to all campers. They stay in Base Camp between sessions, and they occasionally participate in some of the staff meetings. They also witness many of the inner workings of the camp, and have chances to provide their insights to the camp staff. For this reason, Camper Workers can become an important informal link between other campers and staff.