

**Position Description**

Working Title:	Overnight Wilderness Instructor
Classification:	Association Temp Program (Non-Exempt)
Start Date:	6/24/2024
End Date:	8/2/2024, with the opportunity to extend until 8/30/2024
Duration (months):	Less than 3
Hours per week:	40
Days per week / schedule:	Sunday-Friday/ Monday-Friday
Work Location:	Arnot Forest Van Etten, NY; 4-H Acres Ithaca, NY
Supervisor Name & Title:	Rachel Bortin, Camp Director
Compensation:	\$3,250
Benefits Eligibility:	Not Benefits Eligible
Employment Type:	Temporary

**Position Summary**

The mission of Primitive Pursuits is to steward the health of our community by fostering life-long relationships with the natural world through exceptional mentoring and nature education. We have been providing nature connection programming to people of all ages for over twenty years and are excited to bring back our overnight summer camp at Arnot Forest.

An Overnight Wilderness Instructor helps facilitate the core aim of Primitive Pursuits; immersing groups of youth into natural areas, away from facilities and without modern gear, and engaging them in a fun way that sparks a deep, meaningful connection to the natural world, themselves, and each other. The key role of an Overnight Wilderness Instructor is to assist in the flow of the week’s activities centered on instructing youth on outdoor and naturalist skills, including but not limited to fire making, shelter construction, outdoor cooking, natural crafting, and primitive technologies. They act as mentors who share their naturalist skills and knowledge, promote stewardship, and nurture a healthy relationship in the outdoor environment. An Overnight Wilderness Instructor will work with campers ages 9-16. There will be housing onsite provided in one of our rustic cabins, which includes access to a kitchen and bathrooms. All meals while camp is in session are provided at no cost!

**Required Qualifications**

- 18 years of age or older
- Must pass all required screenings for working at a NYS Summer Camp
- Attend all of Staff Training June 24-28 and July 1-3 (subject to change)
- Commit to working camp July 7-August 2. May have the opportunity to extend employment to Primitive Pursuits Day camp; August 8-30
- Must be able to live and stay onsite for training and while camp is in session.
- Driver’s license and/or transportation to camp locations on time
- Minimum 1-year experience as an overnight naturalist/wilderness instructor **OR** overnight camp counselor working with youth ages 9-16 in an undeveloped setting
- Experience instructing youth on primitive technologies and wilderness survival/naturalist skills
- Experience in planning daily activities, projects, and games for youth ages 9-16
- Able to work in a changing outdoor environment and tackle new problems each day

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- Ability to learn and convey skill sets efficiently
- Demonstrate a high level of comfort and curiosity in the natural world
- Demonstrate ability to inspire and relate positively with youth
- Developing skills in specialized areas pertaining to wilderness living and primitive/naturalist skills
- Values diversity and inclusion and demonstrates an active awareness to issues of cultural appropriation and privilege
- Experience with Coyote mentoring
- Aim to uphold the 4 Values of camp: Belonging, Gratitude, Awareness, Getting Outside, in all interactions with campers, staff, families and parents and within programs, and activities

### Preferred Qualifications

- Must have RTE First Aid **OR** WFR Certification, and CPR for the Professional Rescuer **or** higher
- Reflect on a range of personal experiences working independently and within a team
- Experience in yoga, navigation, backpacking
- Experience in archery, outdoor cooking, natural crafting, botany, ethology, ornithology, survival type skills, music, plant, and animal identification, primitive technologies
- Passionate about learning new material and practicing skills outside of work
- Past experiences working with people of diverse educational and cultural backgrounds
- Experience in helping people with homesickness and/or separation anxiety

### Responsibilities

- Assist in leading day and night experiential environmental immersion activities for diverse groups of youth in the context of wilderness survival, living skills, outdoor/naturalist skills and knowledge
- Work collaboratively with other Wilderness Instructors and summer camp leadership
- Assist Program Specialists with facilitation and safety of specialized activities and skills
- Role-model passion, enthusiasm and comfort around engaging with the elements of nature
- Facilitate group energy and responding swiftly to group needs in order to effectively manage and engage each participant in a positive experience
- Actively contribute to planning, preparing, delivering, and evaluating each week and each day of programming
- Assist in creating and cooking meals in an outdoor setting (over the fire)
- Responsible for adequate supervision of campers and ensuring an emotional, social, and physically safe environment in which campers and staff can thrive
- Represent the high caliber of the organization when speaking to parents, staff and participants
- Deliver high-adventure experiences while keeping an unfailing eye on the safety of each activity, each participant and co-worker in accordance with risk management protocols
- Work and be on site during all required trainings and while camp is in session
- Stay in a cabin with campers while camp is in session **AND/OR** outside in hand made shelters/ tents
- Strong commitment to teaching and to sharing an appreciation for nature with people of all ages
- Work with youth ages 9-16

- Other Duties as assigned

## How to Apply

Please complete our online application including a cover letter and resume.

Applications will be accepted until May 1, 2024 or until all positions are filled.

## Contact

Rachel Bortin, Camp Director, [primitivepursuits-opportunities@cornell.edu](mailto:primitivepursuits-opportunities@cornell.edu)

## Additional Info

Please be sure to read the Notice to Applicants found on the Jobs with CCE page:

<https://cals.cornell.edu/cornell-cooperative-extension/join-us/jobs>

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No relocation or VISA Sponsorship available.

The Association may make reasonable accommodations to enable applicants to participate in the hiring process and employees to perform the essential functions of their job. If you require an accommodation so you may participate in the selection process you are encouraged to contact CCE Tompkins HR at [tompkins-hr@cornell.edu](mailto:tompkins-hr@cornell.edu).