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January 2010

Dear Staff Member,

Hello and welcome to Chipinaw @ Silver Lake. I'm sure you have lots of questions and you're very excited about your travels to America. In addition to this letter, expect to receive an email from us every few weeks. It is our hope that these will answer some, if not all of your questions and give you an insight on what to expect at camp.

Chipinaw @ Silver Lake is located in the Catskill Mountains of New York State, about 2 hours from New York City. If you look on a map, we are actually in the Town of Bethel which is about 10 minutes from Monticello, New York. Chipinaw @ Silver Lake has about 250 campers and about 150 staff members, many of which are international like yourself.

Our international staff fly into one of three New York City area Airports: Newark Airport in Newark, New Jersey, LaGuardia Airport or Kennedy Airport (JFK) (each about 30 minutes outside of New York City). Plan to arrive on one of our scheduled pick-up days, make your own way into New York City and we will pick you up from Hostelling International NY. (See - International Staff Pick-Up Information Sheet) **Please send an email to [jobs@chipinaw.com](mailto:jobs@chipinaw.com) to let us know if you plan to use the pick up you have been assigned.** Don't rely on your sponsoring agency to tell us.

In accepting a job with Chipinaw @ Silver Lake, please be aware that most of you have been hired to arrive on June 21st, 2010. Others have been selected to arrive on June 15th, for you this first week is considered "Set-up week". We work from 9am-6pm getting the camp ready. Lots of manual labor, painting and cleaning. Bring a set of clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. Set-up week is a lot of work but it is also a lot of fun. It gives our international staff a chance to know their way around and unwind from their long journey. It also gives you a chance to get to know us, as well as each other.

**Waterfront staff arrival date is June 13th, 2010. Ropes staff arrival date is June 15th, 2010.**

We are looking for a select number of staff to join our "Pre Camp" staff on May 25th or June 1st for two or three extra weeks work. We pay \$180.00 US per week including room and board. Again, we work from 9am to 6pm, six days a week. Only apply if you are prepared to get down and dirty. We also look for people to work a week of post camp from August 17th to the 24th. We choose people for this option during the summer.

Chipinaw @ Silver Lake's orientation begins on June 23rd and is different from your sponsoring agency's orientation. We have a four day orientation to give you as much insight as possible about what the summer is going to be like, what is expected from you, and how camp works. The kids arrive on June 27th and camp will end on August 16th.

Chipinaw @ Silver Lake is by no means a religious camp, although a majority of our campers are Jewish, a large percentage of our staff are not. Jewish traditions followed at camp are a brief Friday night service along with Kosher meals. This simply means meat and dairy are not served at the same meal.

Another question that is often asked is, "What will be my specific duties at camp"? This will be answered in a future letter that you will receive via email, **please make sure we have your current email on file.** We will also go over this in detail during orientation. Keep in mind that as a specialist you will be teaching in your specialty area five to six hours a day. As a general counselor you spend the day with your campers guiding them and participating with them.

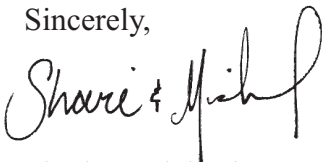
For those of you that have been hired to work as lifeguards, unfortunately, your bronze medallions and Aussie Swim certificates are not acceptable. New York State will only accept American Red Cross (ARC) certifications. They are - ARC LIFEGUARDING, ARC CPR FOR THE PROFESSIONAL RESCUER, and ARC FIRST AID RTE (RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES). The ARC - WSI course is accepted for people who want to teach swimming. However, we tend to need more people with the lifeguarding certification that can also teach. All Waterfront, Pool and Ropes Course staff need to be certified. The appropriate courses will be held at Chipinaw prior to orientation.

Also for your information, we do have computers and pay phones in our staff lounge at Chipinaw. In addition, we have several WIFI hotspots around camp so please feel free to bring your laptop. In your free time, you will be able to keep in touch with your friends and family once you are at camp.

Finally, please remember that working at a children's summer camp is a lot of work. This is in no way a holiday. If you speak to others that have done this they will agree. They will also tell you that if they could do it again they would and many do. It might just be the most rewarding experience you will ever encounter. As questions arise don't hesitate to e-mail us at [jobs@chipinaw.com](mailto:jobs@chipinaw.com).

We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shari & Michael". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed names.

Shari & Michael Baer  
Directors