

OGICHI DAA KWE

Wilderness Trip Leader & Counselor Job Description



Position: Trip Leader and Cabin Staff

Status: Full Time, Seasonal (mid-May to mid-August)

Location: International Falls, Minnesota

Salary: Commensurate with experience; room, board, and all meals included

Position Contact: Grace Gardner, assistant director, grace@ogichi.org

Ogichi Daa Kwe Overview & Mission

With a name meaning “strong spirited women” in Ojibwe, Ogichi Daa Kwe is a one-of-a-kind wilderness camp for girls located in northern Minnesota. Established in 2004, Ogichi’s program offers countless opportunities for growth through challenging canoe and backpacking trips, empowering activities, a wide-range of in-camp classes, and a healthy lifestyle. Undistracted by technology, unburdened by social pressures, and encouraged by passionate role models, the young women who come to Ogichi Daa Kwe discover a stronger version of themselves.

Our mission is to empower the strong spirits of young women through wilderness trips and lifelong community. We practice gratitude, value differences, and promote self-confidence.

Job Description & Opportunities

We are looking for strong-spirited staff women who share our values and are genuinely interested in leading girls in both an in-camp and wilderness trips setting.

Our counselors and trip leaders live in cabins with campers, teach classes, and supervise activities as part of our in-camp program, as well as lead canoe and backpacking trips in Canada and the United States.

Counselors guide campers through their daily routines, lead or supervise classes and activities, and promote a camp culture that is fun, safe, and appropriate. In the role of trip leader, staff members help plan, prepare for, and ensure the success of wilderness trips ranging in length from 3 to 21 days.

Responsibilities

- Ensure the safety of campers at all times
- Provide positive leadership during classes, activities, mealtimes, and free time
- Provide positive leadership on trips
- Help campers gain skills, develop self-confidence, and work as a team
- Lead or help teach morning classes, helping campers work toward class standards and goals

- Lead and supervise afternoon activities and games throughout the day
- Adhere to all camp policies and safety protocols and ensure that campers do the same

Required Qualifications

- At least 18 years old
- Desire to work with children in a wilderness setting
- Organization skills, self-motivated attitude, ability to handle multiple responsibilities
- Ability to handle the pressures associated with working and living with children
- Ability to work long and irregular hours, especially on trips
- Ability to leave your phone and other devices in designated areas, to be used only in an emergency
- Experience in at least one of our core activities: Archery, Arts & Crafts, Backcountry Cooking, Boat Building, Campcraft, Embroidery, Fitness/Conditioning, Jewelry Making/Beading, Paddleboarding, Riflery, Rock Climbing, Sailing, Small Builds/Big Builds, Song Writing, or Weaving

Physical Requirements

- Ability to lift at least 50 pounds
- Ability to participate in strenuous activities such as hiking, paddling, and portaging—often over challenging terrain and with heavy gear
- Ability to work for extended periods of time while standing, kneeling, paddling, etc.

Preferred Experience & Credentials

- Prior experience working with children
- Prior experience canoeing or backpacking
- Current Wilderness First Aid (WFA) or Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification*
- Whitewater training*
- Lifeguard certification*
- Other certifications: archery, climbing, low ropes course, riflery, sailing, boating

**Ogichi offers WFR, lifeguard certification, and whitewater courses before the start of the camp season.*

To learn more and apply:

Complete our [staff inquiry form](#) to set up an introductory call, or contact Grace Gardner, assistant director, at grace@ogichi.org.

Learn more about Ogichi Daa Kwe at www.ogichi.org.

Thank you!