

### Position Description

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|---------------------------|---|
| Working Title:            | Extended-Day Wilderness Instructor      |
| Classification:           | Association Temp Program (Non-Exempt)   |
| Start Date:               | 6/23/2025                               |
| End Date:                 | 8/29/2025                               |
| Duration (months):        | Less than 3 months                      |
| Hours per week:           | 20 hours; 6/30-8/29 40 hours; 6/23-6/27 |
| Days per week / schedule: | Monday-Friday / 2pm-6pm                 |
| Work Location:            | 4-H Acres; Ithaca, NY                   |
| Compensation:             | \$18/hour                               |
| Supervisor Name & Title:  | Rachel Bortin, Camp Director            |
| 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. Primitive Pursuits offers a variety of programs year-round, with our biggest program being our summer day and overnight camps.

The Extended-Day Wilderness Instructor will oversee and supervise campers after the conclusion of the regular day camp program. The key role of this person is to ensure the safety, supervision and wellbeing of all campers who remain onsite after the day camp program ends. They will work within a small team to create engaging and creative activities for campers ages 5-12 that help spark a deep meaningful connection to the natural world, themselves, and each other.

Prior to the start of camp, the Extended Day Camp Coordinator will be required to attend all of staff training (40-hour work week) to get comfortable and familiar with camp operations, risk management protocols and policies.

### Required Qualifications

- 18 years of age or older
- Must pass all required screenings for working at a NYS Summer Camp
- Driver's license and transportation to various camp locations on time
- Attend and assist in staff training June 23-26, 2025
- Commit to working at least 5 weeks of the camp season June 30-August 29, 2025
- Experience as a wilderness instructor/camp counselor working with youth ages 6-16 in an undeveloped setting **OR** working with youth ages 6-16 in an out-of-school or classroom setting
- Able to work in a changing outdoor environment and tackle new problems each day
- Ability to learn and convey skill sets efficiently
- Demonstrate a high level of comfort and curiosity in the natural world
- Developing skills in specialized areas pertaining to wilderness living, primitive or naturalist skills **OR** seeking to learn specialized skills pertaining to wilderness living and primitive or naturalist skills

- Ability to inspire and relate positively with youth and teens
- Previous experience with primitive technologies and wilderness survival or naturalist/outdoor skills
- 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
- Other duties as assigned

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## Preferred Qualifications

- Ability to thrive in rigorous outdoor physical education activities
- Experience in planning daily activities, projects and games for youth ages 6-16
- Experience instructing youth on primitive technologies and wilderness survival/naturalist skills
- Passionate about learning new material and practicing skills outside of work
- Experience working with people of diverse educational and cultural backgrounds
- Experience with Coyote mentoring

## Responsibilities

- Arrive to work on time and ready for the day ahead
- Create and implement experiential environmental immersion experiences for diverse groups of youth in the context of wilderness survival, living skills, outdoor/naturalist skills and knowledge
- Contribute to brainstorming, planning and leading the daily and weekly activities and skills
- Role-model passion, enthusiasm and comfort around engaging with the elements of nature
- Role-model appropriate footwear, clothing, and outdoor gear for the summer camp experience
- 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 efforts of the Extended-Day Camp Coordinator in planning, preparing, delivering, and evaluating each week and each day of programming
- Represent the high caliber of the organization when speaking to parents, staff and participants
- Deliver high-adventure experiences while keeping an unflinching eye on the safety of each activity and each participant and co-worker in accordance with risk management protocols
- Work with campers ages 5-12
- Other duties as assigned

## How to Apply

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

Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2025 or until a suitable candidate is found.

**Please note:** this position is dependent on securing enough extended-day wilderness instructors and campers to run the program. If we do not have enough extended-day wilderness instructors or campers, we will not be able to offer this position.

## 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).