

Dear Raeana and Nicole,

ESCAPE WHILE YOU STILL CAN. Just kidding. Our names are Evan and Katherine, and together we are (or we were) the Forest Valley interns for Winter 2017.

Let us start this letter off by saying, Welcome to Forest Valley! Congrats, your cover letter and resume was read, you passed the interview, the hard part is done. Nope, wrong answer friend, the hard part is yet to come. In a matter of days, you will be introduced to multiple teaching styles, programs, grades and students of all learning levels. You will need to learn how to creatively entertain, encourage, and engage within the first couple minutes of being at Forest Valley. It's a lot to take in the first couple of weeks, but learning these skills will set you up for success for the rest of your term and can also translate over onto other jobs in different industries.

Learning how to navigate through the waters of Forest Valley can be hard, but do not fear! We have compiled our lists of tips and tricks to get you through the next two months.

Tips

- Be friends with the other intern! You're spending the term together, so you might as well have fun. If that doesn't work, just do everything in your power to make sure you are Intern Number One. (Just kidding, but really be friends.)
- Don't be afraid to ask questions! Everyone around you is here to help you succeed, and are all willing to take the time to help you. If you're unsure of anything, the best thing you can do is ask questions.
- Go out and get lost. Take a map, and go for a walk. Knowing the trails and knowing where certain trees or landmarks are, is an extremely valuable piece of knowledge and will help you succeed ten fold. During the first week, before or after program take a walk along the different trails (red trail, blue trail, white trail). Also know the nicknames of several locations (the old tennis courts, playground field, thruway and thruway field, room 6, the big damn loop, etc.) as they will be key in you being able to find places. (We printed a map and placed it on your bulletin board for reference.)
- Keep a notebook. You'll need to debrief with your specialist after each day of program, and having your notes in one spot will really help to keep track of the feedback you receive from each day. Especially if it's been awhile since you last did a program. The other alternative is keeping a really good record on your daily feedback sheets/day plans.
- Start working on your project ASAP. Unfortunately for you two, there are only 2 months for you to complete your project. From experience, it is possible, but start working very

quickly! Depending on your project, timelines may be constantly changing and things may hold you back, so the sooner you start, the better. Time is tight at Forest Valley.

- The mosquitoes are Forest Valley SUCK. Evan has luckily escaped the horrors of these mosquitoes, but as someone who has been here Spring term (and has a terrible relationship with mosquitoes) long sleeves and pants (which are also light and breathable), will be your best friends if you want to avoid bites.

There's so much more we could over, and it's a lot of take in. But if you listen, observe, ask questions, and jump in feet first you'll find it to be smoothing sailing from here on out. In all honestly, working at Forest Valley is a wonderful time, and we are confident you both will make the most out of this term.

However, these are just our tips. If you really want to succeed, you will have to make your own.

Cedar tea and maple candy,

Evan and Katherine

Winter 2017 UW Interns

P.S. Tina would really like for you to fix the kindergarten drums ASAP.