

Welcome to Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre!!!! Congratulations!!!

Get ready to be thrown in the deep end, bring your floaties and keep your head above water. If you feel like you're sinking, you're moving in the right direction --- towards the shallow end... where there's smooth sailing :).

We hope you've enjoyed the video and you have found it helpful in getting yourselves somewhat familiar to this new outdoor adventure. Here are a few of our tips we wish we had when we first started:

1. The write-ups for each program is located in Room 6 on the top shelf on the right wall. We recommend you read it before doing that program. It gets you familiar with the activities you might have to do during the day.
2. Always wear long sleeved everything!! The bugs are terrible.
3. Explore the program cupboard (in the back of the Great Hall) to get to know where everything is located and to get a better understanding of the program activities.
4. Honestly, explore the entire centre. Go explore all the portables, locate where the E.R. is, the cookout shed (Sugar Shack), ERP Shed (behind the sugar shack), and all the teaching spaces. It is even more helpful to know the names of all the locations (old tennis courts, the reseed area, Prowdy's, Junior, thruway field, etc...). If you are feeling extra adventurous, take a hike to get yourself familiar with the trails!
5. To get on the staff's good side, bring food ;).
6. Carry a notebook with you during program and write down things you think are important (all the different activities, important vocabulary, stops along the hike), as you might have to teach some stops the next time you are teaching that program.
7. Make sure you debrief at the end of the day with your specialist to see how you can improve. **Everyone at this centre is super super helpful and extremely easy to talk to if you have any questions!!**
8. Have fun with the kids! Don't zone out during the hike :) Get engaged!!

The most challenging thing if you haven't worked with kids yet, is classroom management. Getting the student's attention, keeping them on the trail and focused could be a real challenge sometimes. To help you get their attention, use the teacher's stop-and-listen signal! Try your best to minimize time spent on keeping them focused and more time exploring the forest :).

Now, let's talk about the intern project. You will have to come up with an intern project to help Forest Valley in some way. We suggest starting this project ASAP as time flies by. You have a bit of time in the morning before the buses come to work on your project and a bit of time after program (depending on the day) to continue working on your project. Start brainstorming ideas for projects from the beginning and choose the one that most interests you! This project is your chance to show your creativity! If you are having trouble coming up with your intern project, you can definitely ask any of the people working at Forest Valley if they have any ideas for projects you can complete :) -- I'm sure they will have tons of suggestions!

Also, the last thing you should know is that each specialist teaches programs a little bit differently, and within the next couple weeks, you will hopefully have worked with different people and figured out what type of teaching style you like the best, because soon enough, you will also start teaching the programs!! So pay attention to how the specialist run their program and make sure you are able to jump in whenever you feel comfortable enough!

Enjoy your work term!

All the best,

Nicole, Rae, and Daniel

Spring 2017 UW Interns