

Hey Melissa and Sarah!

Welcome to Forest Valley you will have a ton of fun! But it may take some time to get used to the new schedule and work (hopefully you're not scared of kids)! Also Melissa be prepared to be confused and mistaken as there is a specialist with the same name ;) If you have any questions the staff at Forest Valley will be happy to help you (especially Rosie, she is good at everything).

Some of the first things you will want to do at Forest Valley is decide how you will divide your daily tasks, feeding the fish, watering the plants, laundry, bags of fun etc., they will take up a lot of your time to make sure you have a plan. You will also want to become familiar with the property itself, so knowing the names of the buildings (E.R., Lodge, Den, Room 6, room.com, Great Hall, Nest, A-Frames, etc.) , knowing the names of common outdoors locations (Proudies, Pasture, Ranger, Critter Forest, Bridge, Sugar Bush, etc.), and the trails (Red (Main side of bridge), Blue and White (Across the bridge)). Obviously these will take time but just pay attention.

Next you want to decide what you want to do for your intern project, time is limited so get started ASAP. You can either ask specialists for ideas or find you own, make sure you clear it with your mentors first. In your first few weeks you will notice that everyone has different teaching styles, so they will all want different set ups. Some basic things that every specialist will want are Safety (Weather, Together, Alarm, River, and Wellness) and Schedule/Our day. Also figure out which styles work for you because eventually you will be teaching the classes.

Speaking of specialist, you will want to become friendly with all of them. They are very knowledgeable and are happy to help. A quick easy way to make them like you is to bring/make food, everyone loves food. Some conversation topics for, Rodway (Hipsters and Patagonia), Melissa (Cards and Motorcycles), Ken (Despacito and all things Teaching), Danny (Maximus (just say the name) and making things by hand (Primitive Technology on YouTube)), Gillis (Macklemore and wood splitting), Rich (Cooking and Salad King), Jana (T.U.S.C. and her internship at Forest Valley), Rosie (Everything), Stephanie (City of Guelph and her daughter).

Some other bonus things that will make your life easier are, helping everyone and seeing if they need help at the end of the day. Meeting with your team mate early in the morning and making a plan (How plans at Forest Valley end up: 1) Make the Plan, 2) Execute the Plan, 3) Throw away the plan, 4) Hope for the best, 5) Somehow it all works out). Have a backpack and dress appropriately (for the weather or the bugs). There will be difficult classes but the awesome ones make up for it. Otherwise just have fun the time will fly and be done before you know it!

Have fun,

Mikolas and Aliena
Fall 2017 UW Interns

P.S. Don't kill the fish or else they will be fed to the crayfish. Also clean their tanks ASAP it will have been about 2 weeks since the last time when you start.