

So, you want to be a counselor?

Great...it could be one of your most exciting summers...a summer filled with hard work and long hours-but the personal rewards that can't possibly be measured. Stagedoor campers are talented and motivated BUT they are first and foremost teenagers. So before you confirm your position, before you sign anything or agree to anything, be sure you know what you are getting yourself into!

As a counselor, you are the caretaker of a group of girls or boys. It is your responsibility to not only wake them up in the morning and be sure they are all there at bedtime but also to check in with them during the day. Does one of your campers seem sad? Did you notice all the roommates were sitting together at lunch or was one of them missing? You are not alone! We have group leaders and returning counselors and lots of staff to help if you see a problem or have a worry. But if you don't know there is a problem, how can we solve it?

Coming to Stagedoor as a stage manager or an assistant choreographer will give you extra experience for your resume and your life and we are so glad that you are considering joining us! But first and foremost, you are a counselor. This is not always a glamorous job and you have to recognize that, like a big sister or brother, not all the duties are fun. Here is a general list:

Meal Duty-Each meal there are six counselors that eat before the kids so that they are available to take attendance (to be sure everyone is eating!), wander around the dining room (to be sure no one is throwing food or choking, etc) or needed to go find a camper missing from the meal.

Phone Duty-Two counselors are needed to monitor the phone room. One to sit outside and make sure the older kids don't jump the line in front of the younger kids and one inside to help with dialing and any crying that may occur.

Entry Duty-During the day, we do our best to have someone sit at the entry table by the driveway, stopping visitors and directing people to the front office.

Floor Duty-During rehearsals and classes, we have a counselor sit on each floor to insure that no one is skipping a class, no one came back upset, etc.

There are other duties: *attendance, office, evening rec, grounds*, etc. But you get the idea. This job is about taking care of the kids. You are the eyes and ears of the camp. You are the ones that keep the kids safe!

During session changeover (the 24 hour period between when one group of kids goes home and another group arrives), it is the counselors that vacuum and dust the rooms, decorate the halls and generally clean up in anticipation of the next group of kids.

The hours are long. Some days you may get up at 8 a.m. and not find your bed again until 1 or 1:30 a.m. Are you doing theater? Of course! Depending on what you have been hired for, you may be teaching classes or have several rehearsals. And there is time during the day to socialize, to take a two hour scheduled break, to check your e-mail, etc.

But your campers come first. Our campers are your campers. We all end up pitching in, helping out, and making things work smoother for the campers, for the shows, for ourselves.

Are you ready for the summer of theater? Of teenagers? Of being part of a team?

Then join us!