



Frequently Asked Questions

After I submit my Application, when will I hear back from Emma Kaufmann Camp?

You should expect to hear from an EKC Leadership within one week of submitting your application. If you do not, please email Jordyn Kay at Jkay@jccpgh.org or Brooks Weaver at bweaver@jccpgh.org to make sure your application was submitted successfully.

What happens when I'm hired to work at EKC?

Once hired, your application will be approved on Campminder and your staff forms will be made available to begin completing. You will be notified via email once this occurs. You will also receive an email from our human resources department, detailing everything you need to do in order to complete your clearances prior to the summer. Employment is not considered final until Human Resources at the JCC has received all paperwork and can add you to the agency's payroll.

If I'm hired as a General Counselor, when will I know which age group of kids I'll be working with?

We do not hire General Counselors to work with a specific age group. When placing counselors in units, we consider fit, experience working with a particular age group, and the overall staffing needs of Camp. Staffing assignments are made during staff training week. We want our staff to be as successful as possible while at Camp, and will do our best to place staff in positions which will allow them to do so.

What age are staff usually and where do they come from?

Counselors and Activity Counselors must be High School Graduate Age or equivalent. The majority are 18-21 years of age. Program Specialists are ages 18 and over. Supervisors must be at least 21 years of age or entering their senior year of college. EKC has Camper Care, Administrative and Program Teams with adults of all ages.

EKC is made of domestic and international staff. During a typical year there are between 115 – 135 staff working at Camp. EKC has about 15 – 30 international staff per year from Israel, England, Australia, New Zealand and other countries.

Where do EKC campers come from?

Campers come from all over the United States as well as other countries. Most of our campers come from Pittsburgh (60%), Maryland and Ohio. There is also a cohort of 15-25 campers that come from Israel every summer.





As a staff member at EKC, are there any trainings or certifications that will need to be completed prior to arriving at camp?

All General Counselors must be lifeguard certified, however Exceptions can be made at the discretion of EKC leadership. Activity Counselors and Specialists may need specific certifications, depending on which Specialty Area they are working in. All staff must complete the virtual ASAP Camp Safety training prior to arrival at Camp.

EKC will also provide staff the opportunity to obtain these certifications at Camp, prior to the start of staff training week.

What are the ages of Campers at EKC?

At EKC, campers live in the following units:

Sabra: Rising 2nd – 4th Graders

Kineret: Rising 5th & 6th Graders

Halutzim: Rising 7th & 8th Graders

Teens: Rising 9th – 10th Graders

Staff-in-Training: Rising 11th Graders

What does Camp housing/living accommodations look like?

General staff members usually live in cabins with the campers. The cabins in Sabra, Kineret and Halutzim all have bathrooms attached to them. Teen staff members live in Teen Village in platform tents with campers and use a shower house. Supervisors and Leadership staff live in a variety of different housing around camp.

Do I have to be Jewish to work at EKC?

Emma Kaufmann Camp is open and accessible to everyone, regardless of age, race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or special need by welcoming individuals of all backgrounds, embracing their uniqueness and diversity under our communal tent.

When do I get paid?

Staff members are paid depending on how their job is classified. We have hourly and salaried positions. All Positions are paid on the JCC's pay period which is bi-monthly.

When do I have time off during the summer?

All staff members receive at least one, 50 minute period off during the day and have free time at night, including nights off outside of camp. Staff also receive days off from camp. Each staff



member receives two 42 hour day off blocks during session one and one 42 hour day off block during session two (leave on Friday at 6pm and return to camp Sunday at 12pm). Staff also have off during intersession which is the Wednesday – Saturday between sessions.

We also understand that people have busy lives outside of Camp, with prior commitments and important events happening in their lives. We will do our best to accommodate schedules. Additional time off can be given at the discretion of EKC Leadership.

What if I have dietary restrictions?

EKC is well equipped to handle all food allergies and special dietary accommodations. We are prepared to meet dietary needs including, but not limited to, vegetarian, gluten free, diabetic friendly, and lactose intolerant as well as other allergy restrictions. We have a separate gluten-free kitchen and serving window to accommodate gluten-free individuals. Meals at EKC are Kosher-style and are not supervised by a Mashgiach.

Meal options include fresh fruit, peanut butter and jelly, salad bar with many different options including tuna, and coffee and tea. Meals are served family style with the exception of weekly cookouts that take place in the pavilion rather than in the dining hall.

What is Staff social life like at EKC?

We strive to create a dynamic staff culture with fun social activities in and out of camp. We have optional nightly activities for staff and one major staff event per week. Some of our staff's favorites include: Dodgeball, Cooking in the Camper Kitchen, Rock Paper Scissors Tournament, Campfires, Yoga and Meditation, Bingo, plus many more.

Staff have use of our air-conditioned Staff Lounge which includes a fitness center, computers, comfortable seating, soda machines, television with Direct TV, Ping Pong and a Pool Table.

What is there to do around Morgantown, West Virginia?

Morgantown is home to West Virginia University as well as a plethora of shopping, entertainment, and dining options. Morgantown is also known for its scenic camping and hiking. Morgantown is 1 hour 45 minutes away from Pittsburgh and 3 hours and 30 minutes from Washington DC.

Will I have to attend Staff Orientation and Training?

Yes, all staff members are required to attend staff training and orientation week.

What if I am not available to work the entire summer?





We prefer staff to be available for the entirety of the summer. However, we may hire staff members for partial summers depending on our staffing needs and the position for which you are being considered.

Will I have access to my cell phone and other technology?

EKC is now a screen-free environment for campers and staff. Other than playing music, cell phone usage by staff, including texting, is limited to time off and must be conducted in the Staff Lounge, outside of camp, and away from the cabin areas after campers' bedtime.

How will I do my laundry at camp?

EKC has washers and dryers, along with detergent, for staff to use free of charge, during their free time. Staff members are not able to use the camper laundry service.

Am I required to live at camp?

General Counselors are required to live at Camp. Some Specialists and Operations positions are not required to live at camp. Nurses do not live at camp. Please contact Jordyn Kay at Jkay@jccpgh.org or Brooks Weaver at bweaver@jccpgh.org if you have specific questions about living at camp.

May I bring my vehicle to camp?

Yes, you may bring a vehicle to camp. All vehicles must be parked in EKC's designated parking lot at all times.