



Dear Prospective Counselor,

So many of our childhood memories involve being in the out-of-doors. For you it may have been a week at summer camp, a family fishing trip, or simply exploring the woods and streams behind your house. Shaver's Creek Environmental Center's **Outdoor School** is one such wonderful memory for the countless people who have participated in the program for 50 years.

Outdoor School seeks to share with upper elementary school children a sense of wonder about the world in which we live. The focus of Outdoor School is learning about and understanding natural systems and our relationships with those systems. Students participate in ecology lessons designed to give them the tools to be good environmental stewards.

Equally important to the Outdoor School experience are the personal interactions the students have with the counselors. Counselors serve as positive adult role models for these impressionable children. Counselors provide the students with guidance and leadership both in the cabins and in lessons. They play games, share in fun times, and comfort homesick children. The counselor can truly make a difference in the life of a child.

Outdoor School counselors are college students interested in leadership experiences with children. Outdoor School is also a place where counselors grow personally, learn teaching techniques, and practice leadership skills. Counselors are assigned a small cabin group to lead and will also assist our instructors in teaching lessons to larger groups of students. A week of Outdoor School is fun, challenging, intense, and definitely educational. At the end of the week, a hug and thank you from even just one student is an immeasurable payment for your dedication.

To be part of this memorable, enriching experience, fill out and return the attached counselor application. If selected, you will be among the few who have the skills and experience to make a difference in the life of a child. Please join us at Outdoor School—the memories will last a lifetime!

Sincerely,

Ellen 'Xylem' Will
Outdoor School Director

Shaver's Creek Environmental Center

Spring 2007 Outdoor School Counselor Information and Application

Where: Camp Blue Diamond, Petersburg PA—about 20 miles south of State College

Lodging/Food: Camping in cabins and all family style meals provided

Time Commitment: 2:00 p.m. Monday—2:30 p.m. Friday (**24 hr./day**). Counselors have free time on Wednesday afternoon (alternate times off possible if *absolutely* necessary).

Dates: *Weeks are Monday through Friday, unless noted. Weeks of April 1 (Sunday–Thursday), April 9, April 16, April 23, May 1 (Tuesday–Friday), May 7 and May 14.* We will work with you to select a week that is mutually beneficial.

Training: The Counselor Training sessions will be held at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center and are **required** for new **and** returning counselors.

Counselor Training I: Thursday, March 22, 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Counselor Training II: Monday, March 26, 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Transportation to Training and ODS: We will help coordinate car pools or pick-ups if necessary.

Credit: Penn State students who are accepted will be registered for SciEd 297A or RPTM 297A Outdoor School Field Experience for academic credit concurrent with ODS. Course information and registration materials will be available at Counselor Training. Non-Penn State students should contact us to discuss earning credit at their schools.

Applications: Complete the attached application, even if you have previously participated in ODS. **Returning counselors may submit their applications by January 23, 2007 to get first choice on dates.** Selection of counselors is made until all openings are filled. All applicants must **sign** and **submit a hard copy** of the background check consent form required by Penn State. (Counselors who have completed the background check consent form within the last year do not need to submit it again.) Applicants will need to provide verification of *PA Child Abuse History Clearance*, which must be submitted before attending ODS. If you do not have a current clearance we will provide blank forms at counselor training (ODS will pay the \$10 fee for the *PA Child Abuse History Clearance* for all students registered for SciEd 297A or RPTM 297A).

Print this information page; then **complete** the online application. Address questions to: eeb11@outreach.psu.edu.

Print, sign, and mail the signed consent form to:

Outdoor School Director
Shaver's Creek Environmental Center
3400 Discovery Road
Petersburg PA 16669

Outdoor School has a Fall Season too! In the fall of 2007 we will have at least four weeks of Outdoor School! Counselor Training will be in late September and programming will start immediately thereafter. Please contact us for more information.

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**INFORMATION AND CONSENT CONCERNING CONSUMER AND INVESTIGATIVE CONSUMER REPORTS FOR APPOINTMENTS OR EMPLOYMENT OTHER THAN ACADEMIC
(Required before proceeding with background checks by Act 15 U.S.C.)**

Unit Requesting Work: Shaver's Creek Environmental Center – Outdoor School

This form, which you should read carefully, has been provided to you because the University may request a consumer report and/or investigative consumer report, as those terms are defined by the Fair Credit Reporting Act, which governs also the procurement of background reports for employment purposes. The University will request such reports solely for employment-related purposes.

The consumer report and/or investigative consumer report will be obtained from HireRight, Inc., ("HireRight") located at 2100 Main Street, Suite 400, Irvine, CA 92614. They can be contacted at 800-400-2761. The information sought may include but not be limited to a number of sources, such as criminal conviction records; public court records; and when applicable, Department of Motor Vehicle records, credit reports, and verification of highest degree or certification earned. The information will be kept in strict confidence by HireRight and the University.

Although HireRight will not be doing a background check on your credit, the rules outlined in the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681g(a), also apply to criminal background checks and, upon your request, HireRight shall disclose to you a copy of the report in your file at the time of the request. Also on request, you can receive a copy of the "Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act" prepared pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681g(c), and you have the right to request additional disclosures of the nature and scope of the investigation pursuant to a pre-adverse or adverse action by the University.

CONSENT

I have read carefully and understand this Information and Consent form and, by my signature below, consent to the release of a consumer and/or investigative consumer report, as defined above, to the University in conjunction with my letter or indication of interest and resume or application for employment. This consent form in original, faxed, photocopied or electronic form, will be valid for any reports that may be requested by the University at this time or in the future relative to any employment position.

Applicant Last Name _____ First _____ Middle _____

Social Security # _____ Date of Birth (for ID purposes only) _____

Present Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

NOTICE TO CALIFORNIA APPLICANTS

Under section 1786.22 of the California Civil Code, you may inspect the file maintained on you by HireRight. You may also obtain a copy of this file, upon submitting proper identification and paying the cost of duplication services, by appearing at HireRight offices in person, during normal business hours and on reasonable notice, or you may receive a summary of the file by mail. HireRight has trained personnel available to explain your file to you, including any coded information. If you appear in person, you may be accompanied by one other person.

CALIFORNIA, MINNESOTA AND OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS ONLY

In accordance with the laws of California, Minnesota and Oklahoma, a resident of one of those states has the right to receive a free copy of his or her consumer report and/or investigative consumer report by checking the box.

I wish to receive a free copy of the consumer report and/or investigative consumer report on me that is requested.