

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Great Hollow Wilderness School. Whether you love to be outside or prefer the creature comforts of home, if you value young people and feel you have leadership skills and life experiences that can provide inspiration to students as they struggle to understand themselves, be successful and work toward making their dreams a reality, Great Hollow may be the place for you.

GHWS began operation in 1969 for Wesleyan University's Upward Bound Program. The purpose of implementing the outdoor experience was to give the students an opportunity to challenge the limitations that they impose on themselves and those imposed on them by others. GHWS provides a series of intense initiatives that help the students understand their strengths, leadership qualities and capacity for hard work. The program was initiated to provide students with the opportunity to experience concrete examples that illuminate their best qualities. These experiences in turn lead to the development of confidence and pride. GHWS helps create a sense of community among participants and aids in fulfilling the critical need that students be able to support one another. Wesleyan University's Upward Bound Wilderness experience still runs each year and is the cornerstone of GHWS. It embodies the commitment, philosophy, and spirit from which the entire program was built.

GHWS has expanded to serve other Upward Bound and educational opportunity programs, youth service agencies, public schools, private groups, sports teams, peer groups, individuals and corporations. We offer a unique working environment. Staff members are challenged in the same way that participants are. They are encouraged to explore their own leadership potential and self-understanding. They learn to work together effectively as a team in order to serve the young people who attend all aspects of the program.

GHWS is not for every one, and our staff sacrifices many of the comforts of home. However, helping a student to recognize his/her own talent and ability or watching an individual's sense of pride grow as they overcome an obstacle is an unparalleled reward. There is an educational crisis in this country. It is essential that we provide opportunities for all students to maximize their potential and the opportunities provided them, or help them develop the skills and confidence to make it on their own. If you feel you have the creativity, commitment, and desire to work towards the positive development of young people who are in need of role models, consider working at Great Hollow Wilderness School.

Sincerely,

The Staff at Great Hollow Wilderness School

# **Great Hollow Wilderness School**

225 Route 37 New Fairfield, CT 06812

Phone: (203) 746-5852 Fax: (203) 746-1232

[www.greathollow.org](http://www.greathollow.org)

Great Hollow Wilderness School (GHWS) is a branch of the Regional YMCA of Western CT, and is located on an 890 acre wilderness preserve in New Fairfield, Connecticut. Great Hollow is the oldest non-profit outdoor education program in Connecticut, and has been creating and managing change through experiential education for over 30 years. GHWS provides adventure programming, leadership development, and diversity education to Upward Bound and other school-based/educational opportunity programs. Great Hollow serves a wide range of participants from elementary and middle school students to corporate executives. The driving conviction of GHWS is the belief that experiential education is conducive to the growth of individuals from all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Great Hollow is unique in that we have made a commitment to serving populations historically under-represented in the world of outdoor education. Furthermore, GHWS actively works to recruit staff from under-represented populations into the field of experiential education. In doing so, the diversity of our staff group is a direct reflection of the students we serve.

Great Hollow combines adventure-based programs with strong group process. From the outset, students are told that everyone has something to contribute and that in order to succeed everyone must work together, and that if they can succeed at Great Hollow they can succeed anywhere. Participants go through a high ropes course, hike sections of the Appalachian Trail in NY, CT, and MA, cook over fires, canoe, rock climb, and make decisions both good and bad. Through programs and discussions, participants begin to see that they are directly responsible for their successes and failures; that their environment should not dictate their actions; and that with hard work and focus their dreams are attainable. Most of all, they learn that no matter what obstacles they are confronted with they should never lose sight of their goals. We offer young people an opportunity to be proud, to see intellect and ability where they have often seen self-doubt.

## **Duties:**

Staff members learn and share responsibility for all aspects of the program including logistics, working at high ropes and rock climbing sites, and instructing courses 1-14 days in length. Instructors work in teams of 2-3 and are responsible for the physical safety and emotional well-being of participants during all activities. Great Hollow instructors must be committed to not only to the success and growth of the students they work with, but as role models they must be committed to personal excellence, which includes their own growth and learning, as well as that of their fellow staff members.

We are looking for hard working, intelligent, and dynamic leaders to be positive examples for students in need of strong role models. The work we do here is very challenging and very demanding, but you will receive support from the community, and you will be trained in all technical skill areas including camping, rock climbing, high ropes courses, and other adventure activities.

## **Community:**

Great Hollow is a living and working intentional community, where commitment and accountability to group created standards are crucial. Living and working among a group of 25-30 staff is definitely challenging but we confront and strive to overcome those challenges, both as a matter of necessity and intention. At the beginning of the season the staff draws up a full value contract, a statement of intention concerning how the community will function. It becomes the standard with which we hold each other accountable. It also serves as a tool that, ideally, creates a safe environment within which the group assists each other on a journey of growth and development. Not only are the staff members accountable as individual role models, but our community is also regarded as a model. We have the opportunity to model ideals that are often impossible in the larger community. By experience and example we teach ourselves and those we come in contact with tremendous lessons about what commitment, belief, creativity and resilience can bring about.

## **Housing:**

Great Hollow is a living and working community. We provide shared housing, food, and kitchen area which staff members are responsible for maintaining during the summer.

## **Salary for instructors:**

\$280/ week + Room and Board

\$100 less per week during staff training. That money will go toward providing the trainings you need (see below).

## **Commitment:**

**May 14<sup>th</sup> to the end of August – (Full summer season)**

### **There are also instructor positions available during these specific dates:**

- The end of June to August 14<sup>th</sup> - Center for Attention Related Disorders (C.A.R.D.) therapeutic day camp program; Wilderness Day Camp; Nature's Chorus Day Camp; Youth Services agencies.
- August 15<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of September - College outdoor orientation programs

**Great Hollow provides technical training in all areas during a mandatory 2 1/2 -week staff training May 14<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>, and throughout the summer. Wilderness First Aid & CPR training are TBD.**



**STAFF APPLICATION**  
**GREAT HOLLOW WILDERNESS SCHOOL**  
**AND CONFERENCE CENTER**  
225 Route 37 • New Fairfield, CT 06812  
(203) 746 – 5852 • Fax: (203) 746 – 1232  
mdebride@regionalyymca.org

Please type or print in ink.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Emergency Contact Person, Relationship & Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Social Security #** - - \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** / / \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. Citizen? \_\_Yes \_\_No If you are not a citizen, what type of Visa do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

Alien Registration Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Education**

High School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates Attended: \_\_\_\_\_  
Major: \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates Attended: \_\_\_\_\_  
Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other form of education: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates Attended: \_\_\_\_\_  
Major: \_\_\_\_\_

## Employment History

Starting with present or most recent, list all previous employers. Include self-employment, summer, co-op, and part time jobs. If space is inadequate, use a separate sheet of paper.

**If you are now employed, may we contact your present employer?  Yes  No**

Name of Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Function \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Employed \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Function \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Employed \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Function \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Employed \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Do you authorize us to secure confidential reports on your performance and ability from former employer?  Yes  No  
Other references?  Yes  No Your present employer?  Yes  No

Have you ever been disciplined or discharged for absenteeism, tardiness, failure to notify your employer when absent, or any other attendance related reasons?  Yes  No If Yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of a crime, including sex related or child abuse related offense?

Yes  No If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there litigation pending?  Yes  No If Yes, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been discharged or asked to resign from an employer?  Yes  No

If Yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**On a separate piece of paper, please answer the following questions and attach it to the application:**

- Please list technical experience or certifications: (example: CPR, LGT, Red Cross, Canoeing, etc.)
- Please describe any leadership and/or outdoor experience that you have.
- Please describe your experience and ability to work with individuals who are not like you.
- Why are you interested in working in an adventure based leadership development program?
- What do you think is the most significant problem facing society today? What role will you play in affecting change?

**References:** Please List Three

Name	Phone Number	Relationship

The above information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. Should I be employed by the YMCA, any misrepresentation, false statement or omission contained herein will be considered cause for dismissal. The YMCA has my permission to obtain all necessary information from the references I have listed, or any other sources, concerning my prior employment or personal history and I release all parties from any possible damages resulting from disclosing such information with or without prior written notice to me.

I understand this application does not constitute an employment contract of any kind. Should I be employed by the YMCA, I may resign such employment at any time at my discretion with or without prior notice and the YMCA may terminate my employment at any time at its discretion, with or without cause and with or without prior notice.

I further understand that should I be employed, such employment with the YMCA is provisional pending completion of a criminal records check, reference checks and verification of other data.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date