



MountainCamp 2010 ASCENDER Application

youth@mountaincenters.org

Dear ASCENDER Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in this longstanding Mountain summer camp tradition!! The **ASCENDER** (**A**ll **S**ummer **C**ampers **E**xploring **N**ature's **D**elights & **E**xperiencing **R**ecreation) program is a 5-week session in which youth experience hands-on work rotations in a variety of Mountain departments while developing interpersonal skills among the rest of the participants. The program will start on **Sunday, June 13th** and will finish on **Friday, July 16th 2010**. Rising 11th through 12th graders are eligible to apply.

ASCENDERS live as a group with two mentors and become acquainted with what it takes to keep The Mountain running. They will take on responsibilities in Food Service, MountainCamp, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other departments serving as "apprentices" to qualified staff members. In addition to working 5 days per week, **ASCENDERS** have one day off for recreation and one day to focus on team building and adventure activities. Their mentors, with guidance from the **ASCENDERS** themselves, will create a dynamic program that may include hiking, community service projects, planning evening programs for Camp, conflict management, Unitarian Universalist values, etc.

Mountain staff will review the applications and reference letters and notify the applicants by April 1st. Please put a lot of thought into filling out the application and know that there are a limited number of spaces available. Give the MountainCamp **ASCENDER** reference form to people (not relatives and preferably not individuals that have worked as staff at MountainCamp) who know your skills, character and experience level. The application and references need to be completed and **received by March 20, 2010** to be eligible for the program. Mail completed forms to:

**The Mountain
ASCENDER Application Form
Attn: Brian Gifford
PO Box 1299
Highlands, NC 28741-1299**

This summer will be exciting and rewarding as always! I look forward to receiving your application! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or to email me.

Thank you,

Brian Gifford
MountainCamp Director
828-526-5838 ext. 253
brian.gifford@mountaincenters.org

MountainCamp 2010

ASCENDER Participant Overview

youth@mountaincenters.org

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Interest in developing knowledge and skills in a rotating work environment
- Interest in developing interpersonal skills with the rest of the program participants
- Ability and willingness to place the needs of peers and camp above personal desires
- Ability to follow directions and accept guidance and supervision
- Good judgment, integrity, maturity and flexibility
- Enthusiasm, sense of humor, patience and self-control
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Understanding, acceptance and implementation of The Mountain's youth programs rules and expectations, overall mission, and core values.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES (may include, but are not limited to)

- Kitchen: Dishwashing, meal preparation for camp community, involvement in menu planning, deep cleaning of dining hall and storage spaces in preparation for yearly Health Department inspection, etc.
- Housekeeping: Assisting in the cleaning of public spaces and bathrooms, cleaning cabin spaces used by guests in programs, preparing sheets/towels/cleaning supplies used for changeovers, etc.
- Maintenance/Facilities: Painting, building, trail maintenance, sorting of camp recycling, etc.
- Youth Camp/Program: Assisting with daily youth camp activities, escorting guests to cabins, etc.
- Be a positive role model, setting good examples for peers and campers.
- Participate FULLY in assigned activities.
- Learn to respond appropriately to opportunities for problem solving and conflict resolution in the group.
- At all times, model and practice the philosophies and values of The Mountain, including responsible citizenship and community standards.
- Set a good example for campers and others including cleanliness, punctuality, sharing clean-up of shared camp spaces, sportsmanship, and table manners.
- Respect other's personal property, camp equipment and Mountain facilities.
- Clean ASCENDER living space throughout the entire 5-week session.
- Assume other responsibilities as assigned by the ASCENDER Mentors or other camp leadership staff.
- Possess mobility and agility over varying types of terrain throughout camp and off-site property.
- Participate actively in the ASCENDER program trainings and activities.
- Follow ALL camper and staff rules and regulations.
- Ability to attend the full session (not arriving late or leaving early).
- Understanding, acceptance and implementation of The Mountain's youth programs rules and expectations, overall mission, and core values.

I have read and understand my responsibilities and agree that I have the skills and abilities listed above.

ASCENDER Applicant Signature

Date

MountainCamp 2010
ASCENDER Application

youth@mountaincenters.org

Full Legal Name _____ Social Security # _____

Preferred Name _____ Email Address _____

Permanent Address _____
Street & Number City State Zip

Phone _____ Grade 9/10 _____ Birth date _____ Gender (circle one): M / F

WORK EXPERIENCE (Paid or Volunteer)

List the most recent position first

Employer Name Job Responsibilities Dates (from/to)

CERTIFICATIONS

List with expiration dates. Examples: First Aid, CPR, Lifeguarding, Swimming, Emergency Water Safety, etc.

CAMP EXPERIENCES

List any organized camp experiences you have had (attach extra sheet if necessary)

Dates	Camp	Activities involved	Camper or Staff

TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP

List all trainings that you have taken that are applicable to the position for which you are applying. Also, list any youth leadership roles that you have had.

APPLIED OR RELATED EXPERIENCES

Please TYPE the answers to the following questions on a separate sheet(s) and attach to application.

1. Why do you want to be an **ASCENDER** at MountainCamp? What do you hope to gain from the experience?
2. What do you think your job responsibilities will be as an **ASCENDER**?
3. What skills, interests and talents do you possess which would be an asset to the **MountainCamp** community?
4. How do you plan on being a role model for your peers and the youth at The Mountain?
5. How have you recently implemented two of the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism, listed below?
6. Describe an adult who has been influential in your life and what skills/talents/behaviors of this person you appreciate.
7. What else would be useful for us to know about you?

ASCENDER applicants may be contacted for a telephone interview. Please list the number at which you would like to be reached: _____

An exact date/time will be coordinated by email.

REFERENCES

Please list the three names and addresses of people (not relatives and preferably not individuals that have worked as staff at The Mountain/MountainCamp) who know your skills, character and experience who will be completing the letters of reference for you. **Reference forms must be sent directly to Brian Gifford, MountainCamp Director, by the reference person.** Your application is considered complete when all reference letters have been received.

Reference 1:

Name	Relation to you	Day Telephone
Street & Number	City	State Zip

Reference 2:

Name	Relation to you	Day Telephone
Street & Number	City	State Zip

Reference 3:

Name	Relation to you	Day Telephone
Street & Number	City	State Zip

If selected to participate in this program, I would strive to carry out a program within the framework of The Mountain's core values derived from the 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism:

- ❖ The inherent worth and dignity of every individual
- ❖ Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- ❖ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth
- ❖ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- ❖ The right of conscience and the use of democratic process
- ❖ The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
- ❖ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

I understand that as an **ASCENDER** I am a program participant and NOT an employee of The Mountain.

I understand that I must follow all program participant guidelines including:

- ❖ I will not use unlawful drugs, alcohol or tobacco products.
- ❖ I will not engage in sexual relations.
- ❖ I will not bring or use firearms, fireworks or weapons of any kind.
- ❖ I will not use violence in my words or actions.
- ❖ That as an **ASCENDER** I am entrusted with the upholding of The Mountain's community standards and if I betray this trust I risk my current and future participation at The Mountain; my behavior - positive or negative - impacts the entire Mountain community.

All information on this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Applicants Signature

Date

MountainCamp 2010
ASCENDER Reference
youth@mountaincenters.org

Thank you for completing this reference for _____. S/he has applied to be a participant in The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center's ASCENDER program. Working in a camp setting is an intense living situation; therefore it is important that a ASCENDER enjoys and understands children, and works well in a team situation with other young people and adults. We would appreciate your careful analysis of the above applicant's character and skills. Your statements will be kept confidential. **Please return completed form to Brian Gifford, MountainCamp Director, at the address listed above. References due by March 20, 2010**

ASCENDER PROGRAM INFORMATION: The ASCENDER's (All Summer Campers Exploring Nature's Delights & Experiencing Re-Creation program) will live during the 5-weeks program as a community with two mentors and approximately 7 other program participants (male & female). The participants will be serving as "apprentices" while rotating through a variety of Mountain departments including the Kitchen, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and Youth Camp. In addition to working the 5 days in departments, the ASCENDERS will have opportunities as a group to develop interpersonal skills, team build, complete community service projects, and play. Applicants should have interest in developing work and interpersonal skills related to working with youth and adults in a camp community. ASCENDER's need to have the ability to follow directions, accept guidance and supervision, place the needs of peers and the camp community above personal desires, work as a positive team member, and have good judgment when working with others.

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? _____

Why do you believe that this person is interested in the ASCENDER program? _____

What could the applicant contribute to this program? _____

Please check all the words that can be used to describe the applicant:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dependable | <input type="checkbox"/> Loyal | <input type="checkbox"/> Excitable | <input type="checkbox"/> Well-liked |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skilled | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustworthy | <input type="checkbox"/> Idealistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Aggressive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Tactful | <input type="checkbox"/> Reliable | <input type="checkbox"/> Frail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stable | <input type="checkbox"/> Outgoing | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative | <input type="checkbox"/> Mature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alert | <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent | <input type="checkbox"/> Emotionally Stable | <input type="checkbox"/> Compassionate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fun | <input type="checkbox"/> Shy | <input type="checkbox"/> Serious | <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated | <input type="checkbox"/> Friendly | <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet | <input type="checkbox"/> Patient |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orderly | <input type="checkbox"/> Uses Initiative | <input type="checkbox"/> Role model | <input type="checkbox"/> Follower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loud | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual | <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible |

Place a mark in the box that best notes the applicants capabilities:

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Unsure
Ability to interact with youth					
Relationship with peers					
Concern for others					
Responsibility level					
Warmth of personality					
Honesty					
Communication skills					
Ability to ask for help					
Leadership ability					
Common sense					
Desire to learn					
Adaptability/Flexibility					
Self-discipline					
Positive attitude					
Sense of humor					
Sound judgment					
Enthusiasm/Energy					
Work ethic					
Physical stamina/health					
Ability to accept supervision & guidance					
Adaptability to group living					
Tolerance to diverse populations					

What would you identify as this applicant's greatest strength and/or weakness? _____

Do you know of any behaviors, activities, or associations which indicate the applicant is not reliable, honest, trustworthy, and of good conduct and character? _____ No _____ Yes *If yes, please explain* _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____
 PRINT NAME _____ TITLE/POSITION _____
 COMPANY/INSTITUTION _____
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Desire to learn					
Adaptability/Flexibility					
Self-discipline					
Positive attitude					
Sense of humor					
Sound judgment					
Enthusiasm/Energy					
Work ethic					
Physical stamina/health					
Ability to accept supervision & guidance					
Adaptability to group living					
Tolerance to diverse populations					

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