

Y.A.P. - F.A.Q.

(Camp Barakel Young Adult Program Staff - Frequently Asks Questions)

Listed below are many of the most common questions asked by potential YAPS. We hope this document helps answer some of your questions concerning a summer of ministry at Barakel. If you have more questions please do not hesitate to get a hold of us for more information.

1. When should I apply?

Answer: APPLY EARLY!

The first applications were made available in November. While it is true that we are looking for the most qualified candidates for the different YAP positions, your chances of being accepted are greater the earlier you apply.

2. What about my Graduation or Open House?

Answer: Plan your open house early and try to be at workshop as much as possible.

We do think that it is VERY important that all YAPS spend as much time at workshop as possible. Not only does this allow some pre-summer training to take place, but more importantly it allows you to get to know us, as well as some of the people that you will be working with during your time at camp this summer. We do realize that often high school seniors are not finished with school when our workshop begins and we will do all we can to work around you and your families schedule. Here are some general tips that may help you, as you consider your summer at Barakel and the end of the school year.

1. It is *NORMAL* for YAPS to “come and go” during workshop. In other words if you do not need to be at school during finals week for instance, come to camp for those days and then go home to graduate.
2. If you plan your open house either the same weekend as graduation or earlier, it allows you to be at camp more or at an earlier time.
3. We understand that this is a busy, fun and memory filled time in your life, however much of the preparation for your summer ministry at Barakel is accomplished during workshop.
4. If you would like to have the opportunity to counsel a week then you **MUST** have been here for the majority of workshop.

3. Why do I need to do an interview? Must it happen at camp?

Answer: As a Yap you will be supervising minors and we must get to know one another.

Some of you have never had an interview in your life. We would be glad to be your first. An interview is a required component of the application process for summer staff at Barakel. Many of you have youth groups that come to Barakel in the winter and that is a great time to get your interview completed (Make sure you have your application sent to us prior to your arrival and that you let us know you are coming! JonF@campbarakel.org) We find that face – to – face interviews are most effective, so our strong preference is that these interviews are done here on site. We want you to see some of these places that you could be working and living. Car-pooling with others from your area who may be applying and/or scheduling a trip up with mom/dad is certainly encouraged. Other locations as well as phone interview are possible where travel or schedule is prohibitive.

4. What about money?

Answer: All positions at Barakel are volunteer positions. An Educational Assistance Fund is available to help those who qualify.

We do have a fund to help with those upcoming college bills for those that meet the requirements. These monies come from gifts and the profits from our camp store. To qualify you must:

1. have a need(!)
2. be a **full time student** at a college, university or trade school in the fall
3. serve at camp 10 full weeks of the summer (out of a possible 12).

5. I can't spend a whole summer at camp. Can I still come?

Answer: YES! No problem, all we require is at least two weeks.

Our summer camping season lasts 12 weeks. These weeks are made up of 2 weeks of workshop (primary training time), followed by 9 weeks of camping where we will have some combination of 3rd –6th grade and junior or senior highers. The 10th week is filled with wonderful ministry opportunities in working with special needs campers that we call HIS-ability Week. At that same time a work team is helping to clean and pick up after summer and a lifeguard certification class is held.

For most positions there is a 2-week minimum, and we would be happy to have you apply for any positions that are not an "all summer position" (see the job description sheet for more information.) Most YAPS are here for 6 weeks or more, but if you can only come for a couple weeks we are still interested in your being part of the summer staff team. The two weeks do not need to be consecutive. So for example, you could come for a week in July and a week in August. It would be helpful if you could come a few days before your first week begins so that you can be trained before campers arrive at your work area. ☺

6. I was really hoping to counsel. Can I be a counselor?

Answer: It is *possible* that you will get an opportunity to counsel if you are at camp for the majority of the summer.

At Barakel we desire our counselors to be a year out of high school before they counsel. Therefore all high school seniors who apply are automatically considered first for a YAP position. However, sometimes the need arises for some who would otherwise have been YAPS to move into a counselor role. Those decisions are made at camp as we evaluate the need and the applicants. There are other times however, when people are gone or ill that we ask YAPS to counsel. At those times we are looking for YAPS who were here for the majority of workshop and will be here for the majority of the summer.

7. Do I have to apply for a specific position, or can I just leave it blank?

Answer: You need to at least put down a preference.

We appreciate (and need) YAPS who are willing to work wherever and do anything, but it helps us if you give us a couple of ideas of where you might like to work (see the job description sheet for more information). Remember, we will do the training (see the next question) so don't worry about not knowing anything about a specific area. Read over the job descriptions and pick one or two, it can always change later - and it probably will.

8. Does it matter if I don't know how to do any of those jobs?

Answer: No, we will train you.

With the exception of the waterfront (it requires a separate Red Cross or YMCA certification) and piano player (that takes years of practice!), no experience is required. We will train you for all other jobs. Some experience is helpful and we will talk about that during the interview. For instance, if you have been a babysitter you do have some experience working with children. In some cases we actually prefer limited or no experience. For example often the best archery or riflery instructors are not the best shooters but instead they are good communicators or teachers. We will work hard to fit you into a position that meets a need at camp while challenging you in some specific areas and skills.

Have more questions – please email, call or write.

Yaps Program, Camp Barakel, PO Box 159, Fairview MI 48621-0159
989-848-2279
www.campbarakel.org JonF@Campbarakel.org