



**United States Department of State**

*Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs*

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

Dear Camp Counselor Participant:

Congratulations on your participation in the Camp Counselor Program this year! On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, I want you to know that your decision to come to the United States is important to us. We want your stay in our country to be a life-changing, positive experience for you.

Your health, safety, and welfare are our top priorities at the Department of State. Being prepared before coming to the United States will help you have a better camp counselor experience.

Before you leave, you should:

- Contact your camp employer to confirm job offer details. Make sure all terms and conditions are clear and that you understand them all. If there is anything you do not understand, ask your camp employer or your U.S. sponsor before you come. Your job terms must follow all state and federal laws.
- Notify the camp and your U.S. sponsor of the exact time you will arrive in the United States.
- Make sure you fully understand the best way to travel to your camp address. If your sponsor is not meeting you, plan the journey to your destination carefully.
- Make certain that you have enough money to cover your expenses. Your U.S. sponsor should provide you with an estimate of the needed amount. Ask your sponsor for this information if you have not received it already.
- Study the pre-arrival materials provided by your U.S. sponsor. Make sure you understand your rights in this country and in the program, as well as your obligations, such as updating your address once you arrive. Contact your U.S. sponsor if you have additional questions.
- Learn about the area in which you will live and work in the United States before you come, especially about that area's public transportation, medical facilities, banks, etc. Your sponsor is the right resource to advise you if that is not clear.
- Make sure you keep information on your rights close at hand at all times, as well as emergency resources – they should be included in your orientation materials.

During your time in the United States, we hope you will see and learn about many new things, meet Americans and make new friendships. You are one of thousands of young people from all over the world who will tour and work in the United States on the Camp Counselor program this year. As you meet new people, they will learn about your country and culture. Your decision to come to the United States on this program will help create new relationships between our countries.

Your U.S. sponsor, identified on your Form DS-2019, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Program (J-1) Status, is your first point of contact throughout your stay in the United

States. If you have any questions about your exchange program or need assistance of any kind while in the United States, please do not hesitate to contact your U.S. sponsor. Your U.S. sponsor gave you an emergency telephone contact number in your program orientation materials. This telephone number is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In the event that you have concerns or issues that have not been resolved through your U.S. sponsor, the Department of State can also be contacted through our J-1 Visa Emergency Helpline (1-866-283-9090) which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or by e-mail at [jvisas@state.gov](mailto:jvisas@state.gov). We are pleased that you made the decision to participate in the Camp Counselor program and hope that you enjoy your stay in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin J. Lerner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'L'.

Robin J. Lerner  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Private Sector Exchange

