



Staff Testimonials

Rewarding; Refreshing; Blissful; Inspiring; Life-changing: Just a few words to describe my 3 summers at Camp Kirk. Not only has working at camp provided me with invaluable experience for my future career, it has opened my eyes to the power of positive reinforcement. The encouragement and support campers and staff consistently receive lets us all know that who we are and what we do is recognized, appreciated, and worthwhile. The knowledge that someone believes in you can create miracles, and that's what Camp Kirk is all about. Watching campers challenge themselves and face their fears on a daily basis is inspiring, and seeing them return year after year with noticeably higher levels of confidence and self-esteem makes the job all the more meaningful. Although some days can be demanding, when we come together every night for Closing Circle, the joy is contagious, and you can't help but feel loved and connected to everyone. I miss "the sounds, the songs, and the laughter," and I am forever grateful to Henri and Jane, everyone I've worked with throughout the years, and most importantly the incredible kids who help create the magical place that is Camp Kirk.

- Jessie Chronowski, 3rd year staff

Being part of the Camp Kirk team has been such an enriching experience. Just knowing that every little bit of support we give to a child could be that thing that will get them through tough times at school or at home makes our job more than worth the hard work. I truly wish that I had been sent to Camp Kirk as a child, because I feel like every single child can benefit from the amount of love and support that you feel as part of the Camp Kirk family.

- Jenny Lugar, 1st year staff

" All of the staff at Camp Kirk work hard to make sure the campers are having fun and to raise their self esteem. But the thing that really surprised me is how much the staff works to raise the self esteem of each other. It is by far the most supportive environment I've ever worked in. I learned a lot about myself and what I can do in my first summer working at Camp Kirk. It was definitely one of the best jobs I will ever have."

- Sabrina Fraser, 1st year staff

My summer working at Camp Kirk was most definitely one of the most life-changing experiences of my life. Yes, the hours were long and the work difficult, but at the end of the day, it was incredibly rewarding. You knew that you had made a significant difference in a child's life, even if it didn't seem that way. The staff at camp were absolutely amazing, and through working together we made every day fun and easier to get through. The welcoming atmosphere at Camp Kirk is second to none, and you really feel like a valued member of the Camp Kirk Team. My summer at Camp Kirk was, without a doubt, the best summer I had ever had!

- Dale Gold, 2nd year staff

'Camp Kirk's inclusive environment provides campers and staff alike an opportunity to challenge themselves without fear of judgment or ridicule. Their beautiful way of celebrating differences makes it easy for everyone to be themselves, make new friends and have lots of fun! CK ROCKS!'

- Katrina Zealand, 2nd year staff

Working at Camp Kirk was a life changing experience. Coming into it, I was nervous and unsure about what to expect. These feelings changed during pre-camp, as the staff was provided with top notch training and welcomed into the Camp Kirk family with open arms. No staff member is an island and everyone shares the common goal of boosting a child's self-esteem. The days were long at times and it was without a doubt, the most difficult job I have ever had. However, it was also the most rewarding. The ability to impact and change a child's life, during the most important stages of development, is a privilege. The supportive environment and high staff to camper ratio, allows campers to be themselves, in a structured and safe environment. It brought a smile to my face seeing the once '*quiet student*' become the '*talkative and humorous*' camper. And the so called '*wilderness hating, negative Nancy*' transform into a '*risk taking, positive out-looking*' outdoor enthusiast. Camp Kirk and its staff are able to bring out the best in every child and give them a chance to shine. To witness these changes within a child and be part of it, can only be described as magical. As a teacher now with over ninety students, I can say that the traditional classroom environment is not meant for all. Having a learning disability makes the surroundings even harder to endure. Camp Kirk gives students the skills needed to succeed in the classroom and in life. It immerses them in the outdoors, challenges them by choice through a host of activities, nurtures them in a caring and supportive environment, socializes them with peers who share similar life challenges and gives them the fuel needed to give it their all, during the next school year. For future and potential applicants, I would highly recommend working at Camp Kirk. There is no other camp like it in Canada and the staff is the cream of the crop. You are treated like gold by Henri and Erica, the cooks and the food is amazing, the lodging clean, the music heart warming and the word '*boring*' is non-existent with all of the activities and infrastructure. Simply put, it will be the best summer you ever have!

- Jonathan Campbell - 1st year staff

"We always talk about the magic felt at Camp Kirk, but it is truly something that must be experienced individually to understand. Camp Kirk provides countless opportunities for each child to feel confident and successful in anything they do!"

- Michelle Reiterer, 2nd year staff