

Hi Susie ma'am,

I wanted to let you know that I cannot work at camp this summer, due to a two week long trip to Europe at the end of June and a one week long trip to Wisconsin in mid-July. After juggling dates, I realized it would not be fair to myself or my campers if I was not there for the duration of the term or even just working one term only. Camp is too special of a place for a counselor to only work one term and, from a counselor's point of view, one term is definitely not enough time! Any and all counselors that have the privilege to be enjoying camp at its fullest should take advantage of working multiple terms. I know all of the counselors you hire this year will be incredibly wonderful, genuine, kind-hearted people who have quite a skill in keeping handfuls of campers entertained for weeks at a time... something I'll envy while gone!

Second, I just wanted to share with you about how camp has changed my life. As cliché as it may sound, I can't think of another person, place, or group of people who have impacted my life as much as the people who make up the Camp Champions family.

As you may know, after high school I chose to take one of the biggest leaps I have ever taken, attending an out-of-state college where I knew absolutely ZERO people. No teachers, friends, or even family members even resided in the state of Ohio where I chose to come to school, and I still sometimes ask myself why I chose to come here not knowing anyone. Although that answer may never be completely apparent to me, I can say that Camp Champions gave me all the skills I needed (and more!) to finally come out of my shell and start opening up to the people I have surrounded myself with.

I have had my fair share of ups and downs (like being invited to join a sorority, but also seeing that one awful midterm grade), and through it all, I credit Camp Champions with teaching me and giving me the chance to learn how to cope with unexpected highs and lows. Like mentioned, I was given the opportunity to join a sorority. After going through recruitment and ultimately receiving a bid from one of the sisterhoods I enjoyed the most, Alpha Chi Omega, I was then presented with the challenges of getting to know all of the girls in my pledge class as well as all of the active members! Thinking about camp, I was faced with the same sort of challenges: getting to know new groups of campers at each activity, working alongside new counselors, and connecting with these people on a personal basis. I have been able to develop my personality and attitude on subjects like this, and credit it all back to camp. Everything in life is a learning opportunity, and having the privilege to attend Camp Champions has been the "leg up" to life's new challenges and opportunities.

I apologize for this lengthy email, but I wanted to let you know how much camp truly has impacted my life for the better. How do you even begin to thank the people who have given you so much? The saying "you never know what you have until it's gone" is exactly how I've been feeling after realizing I can't work this year. Except I always KNEW camp is such a special place, and not being able to work this year has only increased the passion I have for the camp environment, campers, counselors, staff, and everything in between. I hope to stay involved with Camp Champions and continue hearing about what's going on in the camp life. There are no words to describe how much passion I have for camp, and I only hope this email gives you a little glimpse into how much Camp Champions truly does mean to me.

Thank you so much for this incredible opportunity you all have given me to be a camper and counselor, and I will continue to resonate the mission of Camp Champions wherever life may take me. These past 12 summers spent at camp have been the BEST years of my life and I would not have wanted to spend

my summers any other way. I know you all will continue to change other campers' lives as you have mine, and I wish I could be there to witness it and be a part of it. Each and every camper, counselor, and staff member has been instrumental in contributing to the person I have become today. I have no doubt you all will continue to do great things, and influence others around you to do the same.