

FAQ for New Staff

<http://mishmar.com/index.php/en/staff-inquiries/faq-new-staff.html>

So you've just been hired to work at Pripstein's for the summer. Congrats! You're in for an awesome summer. Here are some common questions that come up for newcomers on staff (click on each question for the answer) :

Q: How should I be packing for the summer?

A: We would first recommend that you check out our clothing list. Keep in mind that this list was made for campers, so some of the items on there are not applicable to you. We also can appreciate that some of you are coming a long way, so it might not be practical for you to bring all that is recommended. Use your discretion, and don't hesitate to ask us if you're not sure.

We should mention that we don't provide bedding. We recommend bringing either a fitted sheet and a sleeping bag, or sheets and a comforter, and of course, a pillow. There is a Wal Mart in Sainte Agathe (approx. 20 minutes from camp), so if you're stuck, we can arrange to take you in there at some point to pick up supplies, but we do prefer that you get your bedding before coming up to camp.

There is a pharmacy in St. Adolphe d'Howard, which is 3-5 minutes away from camp by car.

Q: What's the deal with bringing valuables to camp?

A: Most, if not all, staff bring their smartphones to camp, and many will have an iPod as well. Some will bring laptops, too. The camp does not have enough secure space to store valuable electronics, though we will be happy to keep passports and other important documents for you. In terms of electronics, cash, and cards, staff usually keep those items in their counsellor rooms (which are off-limits to campers). Camp is a communal living environment and, rare exceptions aside, we find that everyone is very respectful of each other's belongings. If you want to be a little more secure, you might consider either bringing a lock for your luggage, a lockbox, or a wire lock for your laptop. While the camp makes every effort to keep the grounds secure, it assumes no liability for lost or stolen items.

Q: Are there laundry facilities available for use?

A: Yes! And they're free of charge. The only catch is that they are only open to staff in the evenings (most nights) and on weekends. If you're coming from far away, we recommend you bring a week's worth of clothes. Remember, the day-to-day schedule is hectic, and you don't want to be bogged down with laundry too often!

Q: Do I have to wear a camp uniform at any point? Where do I get it?

A: Yes, there are two days during the camp season when you are required to wear your camp shirt: the first day of camp, and on Visiting Day. We provide all staff with their shirts during pre-camp, and they are paid for by the staff recreation fund, to which everyone contributes (see clause #16 in your contract).

Q: Should I bring any special clothing to camp?

A: Not necessarily, although it is helpful to bring as multi-coloured a wardrobe as you can. Our special events usually involve team colours, and it'll be more fun if you can wear them. You may also want to bring a t-shirt or two that can be painted on, but this is not necessary.

The only other item worth mentioning is to bring a nice, clean white shirt or t-shirt; it's an old camp tradition to wear white for Friday night dinner.

Q: What's the weather like?

A: Despite our reputation as a winter wonderland, summers in Canada can get fairly hot (click here for some detailed weather information for the area). The past few summers have been sunny and mostly dry, and we are of course hoping for the same. Temperatures generally range from 18°-30° C during the day. At night, we usually experience a variety of conditions, so we recommend you come prepared for some very hot nights in the bunks, as well as some pretty cold ones.

Q: Is there Internet access on site?

A: Unfortunately, high-speed Internet is not provided to you at camp. We would recommend either using the local Internet café during your off-time, or signing up for a mobile Internet plan for the summer. Check out this list of wireless providers with service in the area:

- Rogers
- Telus
- Bell
- Vidéotron
- Koodo
- Virgin
- Fido

- for those coming from other provinces or from out-of-country, please note that while Mobilicity, WIND Mobile, and other providers not listed above may have coverage in Quebec, they do not offer local service in the province. Please talk to them before signing up for one of their plans.

Q: Are there public telephones on site?

A: Yes. They are located in the front office.

Q: What are the living arrangements like?

A: Most staff sleep in a cabin with campers, although there may be a group of staff who will occupy a staff bunk. In the campers' cabins, there are staff rooms separate from the kids' sleeping areas. Most beds are bunkbeds, and all are single mattresses. All cabins are equipped with running water, electricity, and toilets/sinks. Only the older girls' cabins have showers in the bunks. Everyone else will use the shower house, which has individual stalls and curtains.

Q: How do I get to and from camp?

A: We provide transportation between Montreal and camp at the start and end of the summer. It is every staff member's responsibility to ensure they are in Montreal on the correct date and time in order to be driven up to camp. We will e-mail you the exact details closer to the summer.

If you wish to go into the city on your days off, the best way is to make friends with the local staff and hitch a ride into town. However, this is sometimes difficult depending on the number of staff with cars in camp. There is also coach bus transportation between Sainte Agathe and Montreal. The bus schedules don't always line up with our day off times, so please discuss with Head Staff in the lead-up to your day off.

Q: Do I need to know French to work at camp?

A: We draw most of our clientele from the Montreal anglophone community, so knowledge of French is not a requirement. It is definitely an asset to help integrate the handful of French-speaking campers that attend, but many of our local staff speak both languages. You may still want to brush up on your basic French, though, as it might come in handy when you are outside camp. Most French-speaking Quebecers do speak at least some English, although it's better to try starting a conversation in French. [Click here](#) for a brief primer on the language situation in Quebec/Canada. If you have a bit of time for some French courses, we recommend Duolingo, a free website for language learning.

Q: My friend is interested in working at Pripstein's, too. Can (s)he apply?

A: Of course! We love when our staff refer their friends to fill our open positions. Make sure they check out our list of available positions, as we usually are not looking for general cabin counsellors. All candidates should be experienced and/or qualified for the activity for which they are applying. And keep in mind that while a referral is a huge help, we still must go with the best candidate available for each position.

Q: What activities are planned for staff?

A: You mean, you're going to have energy after a whole day of activities? Well, of course you will. And our philosophy is that the best way to keep the kids happy is for our staff to be having a great time, too. Staff are allowed out a couple of times during the week to socialize on their own, and we plan one or two staff recreational activities each week. These can be out-of-camp, such as bowling, movies, outings to the Mont Tremblant village, or minigolf, or in-camp events like bingo, trivia nights, or organized sports. On Saturday nights, we bus the staff to the town of Saint Sauveur, so that no one has to worry about lifts, and so staff can experience the charm of the Laurentians to the fullest.

Q: What's good to do in Montreal?

A: Montreal in the summer is just fantastic. We highly recommend that staff plan at least one or two days off in the city to take advantage of all the fun stuff going on. Some of the highlights are the Montreal International Jazz Festival, the Just for Laughs Comedy Festival, the Montreal International Fireworks Competition, Osheaga Music & Arts Festival, the Fringe Fest, and POP Montreal. This is of course in addition to all the standard tourist attractions, such as Mont-Royal, the Old Port, Saint-Laurent Boulevard, and so on. Excited yet?