



# CAMP CANADENSIS

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Greg Ricken. I have known Greg as both a camper and staff member at Camp Canadensis for the past fourteen years, although he has been at camp for even longer than that. Canadensis is a 7-week co-ed residential summer camp in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. We offer a multitude of activities to over 500 children and hire close to 270 staff members.

To start, Greg was a camper for eight summers, from 2002-2009. His passion and energy for camp was apparent in all events and activities. He was good bunkmate to friends and always abided by camp rules. In the summer of 2009, his final summer as a camper, Greg was invited to take part in our CIT (Counselor In Training) Program, where our oldest campers begin the transition from camper to counselor by working with camp's younger campers.

In the Summers of 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014, Greg joined us in the summer of as a member of our staff in the role of General Bunk Counselor. Greg lived in a cabin with 10-12 boys and shared responsibility for them with two to three other staff members. This included waking them in the morning, supervising their hygiene and cabin cleanliness, teaching them activities, eating all three meals with them and then putting them to bed at night. He was also responsible for making sure the boys were happy and getting along with each other...a huge task. Greg worked very hard as he took on the role of parent, big brother, role model and best friend. Greg always gave 100% and positively interacted with the campers. He knows when to have a good time and when to set limits, especially as it pertains to campers' safety.

In Summer 2015, Greg was promoted to the position of Group Leader at camp for our 11-year old boys division. In this capacity, he was responsible for approximately 36 campers and 10-12 staff. As the first tier of our administrative hierarchy, Group Leaders need to be mature and dependable employees. Most importantly, as the title states, they need to be "leaders" as they have a great deal of responsibility and autonomy in running their division. A successful Group Leader at Camp Canadensis needs great organizational and inter-personal skills. Plus, anyone that has been around this age group is aware of the unique problems that can arise, especially in a communal living setting. Greg dealt with extensive conflict resolution, programming and planning of special activities and assisted his staff throughout the summer.

In Summers 2016 and 2017, Greg continued on as a Group Leader, in 2016 for our 12-year old group and in 2017 for our 14-year old group, ultimately showing his flexibility to work with different aged campers as their needs and expectations of our camp program change as our campers get older.

Greg knows what being a leader is all about. His natural rapport with the campers translated into extremely wonderful group dynamics displayed by his campers. Simultaneously, Greg was always there for the needs of each individual camper, showing an intimate level of care and concern for campers that had very specific challenges in their adjustment to camp. Finally, Greg's leadership guided many staff members during the summer. He is an excellent role model for our staff and will do anything to make sure they are performing at a high level. His staff knew that he was always available if they needed assistance or just someone to talk to. Greg excelled in all of his responsibilities at camp.

As a camp director, I know that the success of our program each summer is directly correlated to the performance of our staff. Greg excels in all his responsibilities and consistently exceeds our expectations each summer. We are thrilled that Greg will once again be joining us in Summer 2018 as a Group Leader. Without hesitation, I recommend Greg Ricken for your program. If you have any further questions, please call me at 973.842.0650.

All the best,

Brian D. Krug  
Director

