

# KNOWLEDGE BASE

## THE J-1 VISA

### KEY FACTS

- CIEE Camp Exchange USA participants are required to validate their arrival at camp with CIEE within 24 hours of arrival. Participants who do not do so may be sent home for breaking their program and visa requirements.
- All participants must register with SEVIS when they arrive in the U.S. and keep in contact with CIEE, their program sponsor, to make sure information on their physical location and camp placement is current.
- The J-1 Camp Counselor visa is valid for the dates of the camp contract. Any adjustments or changes to the contract dates must be accurately provided to CIEE and the participant.
- Participants who complete their camp counselor program successfully are eligible to travel in the U.S. for an additional 30 days after camp. They are not allowed to work during this period.
- Participants are not allowed to participate in any other job while in the U.S., including ancillary or support work at camp. They are required to act as a bona fide camp counselor and activity program staff during their placement at camp. Positions such as nurses and nannies for non-camper children are prohibited.

### VALIDATING THE VISA UPON ARRIVAL

- Upon arrival in the U.S., Camp Exchange USA participants are required to validate their arrival and register with SEVIS at the CIEE Meet and Greet site in Boston.
- In the event that the participant is not able to attend the Meet and Greet, they must call CIEE at 1-888-268-6245 within 24 hours of arrival at camp to confirm their camp name and arrival date.

### THE DS-2019 FORM

This document verifies that your counselor's J-1 visa is sponsored by CIEE.

- As a J-1 visa sponsor, CIEE is authorized directly by the U.S. Department of State to issue this form to participants who have been selected to participate in CIEE's Camp Exchange USA program.
- Participants must keep the original form for the duration of their stay in the U.S. Participants must have this form at the following times:
  - For their visa interview at the U.S. Embassy in their home country
  - Upon entry to the United States with Customs & Border Patrol
  - To apply for a Social Security card once the participant arrives at camp
  - Upon departure of or re-entry to the United States.

### TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Generally, we advise participants not to leave the U.S. during their program if they intend to return. However, if they must leave the U.S. for a family emergency or on a camp-sponsored excursion, they must send their original DS-2019 form to CIEE to be signed at least 10 days prior to their intended departure.



In this case, the form should be sent to CIEE by a reputable courier such as FedEx, UPS, or DHL, with a pre-paid return envelope. If the form is not signed by CIEE, Customs & Border Patrol may deny your counselor's re-entry to the U.S.

#### **YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Allow your CIEE participants to keep their passport, DS-2019 form, I-94 card, and other important documents in a camp safe or a locked file cabinet--not in their lodgings where they could be lost or damaged.
- Remind your participants that they must contact CIEE, their visa sponsor, before making any changes to their program dates or placement.
- Notify CIEE immediately if a participant does not arrive as scheduled.
- Give your participants telephone access to contact CIEE for assistance during their program.
- Contact CIEE if any a participant will end their camp contract early.
- Contact CIEE if you wish to extend a participant's contract within the camp season (this may not extend beyond four months).

#### **24-HOUR SUPPORT FOR YOU AND YOUR PARTICIPANT**

You can reach our knowledgeable team anytime – just call the CIEE Customer Service Helpline at 1-888-268-6245. Camp Exchange USA participants can also contact us around the clock for emergency support and questions about their visa while they are in the U.S.