**CAMP JABIRU 2022**

**OT STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

Camp is a massive effort and the expectations for your camp day run beyond just the hours that the children are attending camp. In signing up for camp, you should recognize that the rewards will be many, the experience both uplifting and exhausting, and that you may sometimes feel as if there are not enough hours in the day to complete the designated tasks. However, if you are considering paediatrics as your field or already know that you want to work with children, this experience is definitely for you. You will gain so much professional and personal knowledge from camp, and it will stay with you for years.

Just to give you a brief idea of what your day includes:

* Set up and clean up are expected responsibilities each day. Your group leader will assign you specific duties that help facilitate ease for the campers.
* Additionally, taking photos and preparing them for printing is a time-consuming task and most typically has to be done in the evening following campfire.
* You will also have responsibilities for sleeping overnight with campers,
* sharing meals with campers,
* and helping out with overnight groups during campfire.
* Clean up at the end of your camp day is also expected. This means your area should be litter-free. Monitor this throughout the day with your campers.
* Your equipment should all be put back in its designated spot.
* You will also need to debrief with your group each day in order to plan for the coming day. This includes use of a specific clinical reasoning tool to help make interventions precise for each child.

This is all on top of managing the campers each day!

You are expected to live at camp for the week. Orientation this year occurs at camp on April 9, so you will actually be spending 5 nights at camp. Full meal service begins the morning camp begins. Lunch and dinner will be provided on orientation day. On April 9, we will hold student orientation in the morning, full staff orientation at mid-day, and the remainder of the day will be spent with your camp group, setting up your area and planning for the week. You will begin at approximately 7:00 am on April 10 and finish at approximately 5 pm on April 14. Students will need to be at camp 24 hours per day during the interim and will be expected to remain at camp until clean up and debriefing have occurred on April 14.

Also, while we do our best to plan our staffing needs in advance based on the children that are coming, sometimes the groups don’t meld as we’ve anticipated. Please know that we will need you to be flexible in your assignment. You may be moved to a different group that has different staffing needs, you may be requested to help support a different group for just a few hours, or you made be requested to be more 1:1 with a child. Flexibility is critical to being able to function well at camp.

Additionally, we know that camp is a very long and intense week. It is easy to work with the kids and sometimes more challenging to work with the big team of adults that is there. However, we need you to be a responsible adult and communicate clearly and consistently with your team leader. This means informing your team leader of when you are taking a quick break (i.e., going to the toilet), communicating about challenges you are having with a child, communicating your own needs clearly, and being pro-active rather than reactive in your communication. Camp is staffed in such a way that adults can certainly take breaks for self-care or to connect with loved ones who aren’t part of camp. These breaks just need to be worked out with your group leaders in a way that doesn’t detract from the group’s success in the moment. Again, flexibility and clear communication skills are critical for your optimal experience at camp.

**DRESS CODE:** Camp is obviously quite casual and we suggest that you wear clothes that you aren’t fussed about as some things may get stained or torn. However, we also request that you dress modestly. This means no cleavage (front or back) should be showing. No spaghetti straps, please. No bikinis either unless you intend to wear board shorts and a rash vest or singlet over the bikini at all times. Please no super short shorts either. Your bum cheeks should be covered well, with shorts being at least 12-15 cm below your bum cheek. Modest athletic wear is fine. Shoes must have closed toes.

**ORIENTATION:** There is a mandatory camp orientation day on April 9. Camp itself runs from April 10-14 at Camp Yarramundi (in Yarramundi). Please note that orientation is on a Saturday, and camp runs from Sunday – Thursday. More specific details regarding schedule and topics will be provided at a later date. Orientation will also be held at Camp Yarramundi.

**COST:** While we would love to be able to provide this experience for no cost to students, it does cost The Sensory Gym® about $550 per staff person for the week. This covers your meals and lodging. We ask that each student pay $200 of these expenses and The Sensory Gym® will cover the remainder of the cost. In addition to meals and lodging, you will be provided with an intensive training week in paediatric occupational therapy that is yet to be duplicated in Australia.

**EXTRA OVERNIGHT OPTIO**N**:** Some of you may be travelling interstate to get to camp, so the YMCA has offered lodging (no meals) for the evening of April 8, prior to orientation. There is an additional $55 cost for this. Please indicate on your application whether or not you are interested in staying overnight on April 8. It is not an obligation at this point (I will need full commitment about two-weeks in advance of camp.), just an idea of how many people are interested in staying.

**COVID-19:** Obviously, at this date, we have no way of knowing what covid restrictions may still be in place by April 2022. In 2021, we were able to run camp with just a few changes to our usual procedures, and we are hopeful that this will again be the case. Covid-19 has created the ultimate need for flexibility, so we will keep all camp staff posted on information and restrictions as they evolve. Everyone’s safety at camp is our top priority, so be assured that we will not take any unnecessary risks. Ideally, we would prefer that all adults who attend camp have been fully vaccinated, as vaccination also greatly mitigates risk.