



Generations Indigenous Ways  
7904 Lakota Prairie Dr. Suite 103  
Kyle, SD 57752  
www.giways.org  
(605) 455-5002



**Job title:** Lakota Summer Science Field Institute Camp Mentor

**Description:**

The purpose of the Lakota Summer Science Field Institute (LSSFI) is to keep youth, incoming 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders or ages 11-18, interested in STEM fields of study through out the summer months. The LSSFI will introduce the youth to the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math fields of study; Atmospheric Science, Astronomy, Water Ecology, Geology, and Hydrogeology. Along with the STEM fields, the participants will learn the connection to the Lakota culture and way of life; traditional plants, sacred sites, and the relationship between the land and the Lakota people.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

The LSSFI Camp Mentor will be responsible for assisting and organizing activities, supervising camp participants, and supporting the work of the Camp Coordinator, other instructors, and elders to make every aspect of the camp successful. Every Camp Mentor will be expected to uphold the rules and tenets of the ethics contract as it applies to all participants. Every Camp Mentor will be expected to perform their duties no matter how short or long the day may be.

**Specific duties and responsibilities include:**

- The Camp Mentor will work directly with and be responsible for a group of 3-4 young leaders. The Counselor will help them get oriented to camp, lead small group activities that build teamwork and encourage leadership, and oversee their participation in larger group activities at all times.
- The Camp Mentor will help campers understand the Lakota culture to the best of his or her ability and understanding (interpreting language, if possible, when appropriate, teaching Lakota protocols when appropriate, etc.)
- The Camp Mentor will help lead a mini scientific research project with a group of 3-4 youth. Carrying out an oral presentation and poster of research when completed.
- Each Camp Mentor will be required to bunk with their group of Young Leaders and enforce the **lights-out rule at 10 p.m.**, and ensure campers remain in their quarters from 10 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Each Camp Mentor will participate in all pre-camp training session that will take place on May 26, 27, and 28, 2026.
- Each Camp Mentor will participate in all camp activities beginning [June 1, 2026 @ 9am] through [July 9, 2026 @ 9pm].
- The Camp Mentor will facilitate small group discussions with his or her team each day and lead any team chores as required.
- The Camp Mentor will attend all group training sessions with young leaders, including evening programs, and ensure that each member of the team is respectful at all times.
- The Camp Mentor will assist in evaluation of camp.



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**It is expected that each Camp Mentor will:**

- Be a respectable member of the community.
- Maintain confidentiality when appropriate.
- Not display profanity, negative language, or a negative attitude.
- Display an interest or understanding in current environmental issues on the reservation, general science, and the preservation of the Lakota language and culture.
- Keep track of their team of young leaders at all times. A young leader will only be released early to a parent or legal guardian with the permission of the Camp Coordinator.
- Know basic CPR/first aid and respond as a team player in any emergency.
- Report any stranger seen in or near camp to the Camp Coordinator.
- Discuss all camp rules with his or her team and note any suggestions the young leaders may have regarding the rules.
- Make sure that camp is fun for everyone. If a young leader is having social difficulties, the Camp Mentor assists in working out the situation. The Camp Mentor will not gossip about staff, other counselors, or young leaders.
- Help to ensure that young leaders dress appropriately for the weather and/or a specific activity, and are on time for each activity.
- Help to ensure campers practice good hygiene.

**Required Qualifications**

- Camp mentor candidates must be aged 18 or older and have a Highschool diploma/GED.
- Friendly and outgoing personality, highly structured and organized.
- Work as well independently as does in team environment.
- Previous experience in outdoor camp programming or public relations.
- American Red Cross First Aid / CPR / AED certified preferred.

**Preferred Qualifications**

- Have previously worked with children, or with children in camp environment preferred
- Pursuing a college degree in Lakota Studies or Environmental Sciences.
- Previous experience in Generations Indigenous Ways camp programming.

There will be a brief staff meeting at the beginning of every day to review the schedule and discuss any problems. However if a Camp Mentor has a problem, it is not necessary to wait for a staff meeting. The Mentor should talk directly with the Camp Coordinator in order to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.



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**Camp Mentor Application (PLEASE ATTACH AN UPDATED RESUME OR CV)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender (circle one) female male other

Tribal affiliation(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to be a mentor at the GIW Lakota Science Summer Field Institute?



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## **Mentor Orientation**

**Opening Prayer**

**Mentor job description overview**

**Duties working with youth**

**Updated Resumes & W9**

**Participants**

**Mentor Schedule**

**What to do if a participant issue comes about**

**Shower Schedule**

**Cooking schedule**

**Transport of participants**



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Camp Mentor  
Camp Cook  
Camp Crier  
Camp Support Staff – Fireman  
Camp Support Staff – Akicita



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## Summer Program Action Plan

April 2, 2024 Launch camp application, mentor and camp job descriptions

April 15, 2024 Tentative Summer Schedule for camp. April 2-15<sup>th</sup> : Jamie and Dylan will drop off applications at the schools in the Pine Ridge Reservation.

- Camp lists of supplies
- Budget
- Menu
- Camper supplies
- Tipis

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Pick up paper applications across the rez, and close online application link.

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Reading applications and camper selection.

May 20<sup>th</sup>, We send out acceptance letters and email.

May 25<sup>th</sup> is Camp Staff, Support Staff, and Mentors Orientation

May 27-31<sup>st</sup>, Fix Camp hides and repair camp supplies

June 3-7<sup>th</sup> Prepare Ghost Canyon Camp Site and get firewood ready, and haul tipi poles to the camp.