

applicant number	applying for	preference
5	Discovery Counselor, Adventure Counselor	Discovery

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO REAPPLY?

Having the honor of working with the DC17 staff had a tremendous impact on me. My inspiration for reapplying to staff comes from both the first years and my fellow staff. From my experience as a first year camper while upperclassmen poured into me, to how I hope I have had the chance to guide my campers through their first year, every interaction with each other has the ability to shape that particular UGA experience. Being a Dawg Camp counselor to me is the physical representation of the Bulldog family, ensuring that no one ever has to be alone and to be a resource to all. There aren't many opportunities we get to help the future, and while there aren't much physical distinctions, ushering in the new generation of bulldogs is the most important thing to me. Also I'm not the best at writing so I have a bunch sources of inspiration and tried tying them together the best I can!

THREE WAYS YOU PLAN TO STEP UP AS A RETURNER

As a first year counselor I made a conscious effort to listen and heed the advice of returning staff members, not because I was nervous or unsure of the training, but because I know that experience is one of the best teachers. Having gone through the experiences of a first time counselor, I am ready to help the team get ready for each camp this year. I feel that I bring a lot of valuable qualities to the team in the aspects of my friendly nature, my focus on teamwork, and that I can relate to people easily. One of the three ways I would like to step up as a returning counselor is by building the group dynamic, not letting small differences overshadow the fact that we are here to collectively serve the first years, and by realizing that giving up some of our personal time to get to know other staff members goes a long way in making the experience better for the campers. The second way I would like to step up as a returner is to be more organized for myself and my small group, ensuring that we have adequate time and touch on all the topics for each section so that none of the importance is lost. In reflection I also found that I want to set aside more time at camp during dinner to not only get to know the campers better but also continue those discussions that might have stopped early for sake of time. The third way I hope to step up as a returner is being the constant positive support for first time counselors that get the predawg camp fears and worry they won't get a long with their campers. Anything that can make the experience better for the campers should be prepared for and worked on in the spring so that we can make it happen. Outreach is huge! I would love to work on better modes of advertisement besides the normal facebook blasting.

EXAMPLES OF JUSTIFICATION

One of the greatest moments for me at Dawg Camp has been during the identity walk. Opening up and sharing those deep personal stories with your small group was a huge way to bond everyone together. The feeling I had after when my campers came up to me to thank me for treating them like people and not kids was indescribable. I hope that everyone can feel that way at Dawg Camp, in the sense that we are all there for them as people and individuals in a way that doesn't seem demeaning or like we look down at them for being young. The second aspect of myself that would justify me returning is that I love every single person on staff with my whole heart. There is never a person that I dislike, and while sometimes I get caught up worrying about if people like me, I can be a dynamic team player that will shift my energy how it is needed in that moment. If a someone silly making jokes is needed I can be that guy, or I can be the one having a serious conversation about academics. Regardless, I know that DC18 will be amazing, and the program grows leaps and bounds every year. It would be an honor to serve as a returning counselor, and to see others be affected by this Dawg Camp in the similar fashion that Dawg Camp had an impact on me.

ADVENTURE SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION

Life is full of metaphors. Using nature to relate to the college experience is a great way to get conversations started about tough topics. As a focused program, applicants will have a similar interest to build their friendships upon. Personally as an out of classroom type student, the best way I learn is through experience and I think that this style camp would be a good fit for me in relating to the campers.