

Everything You Need to Know About IMPterns

IMPterns are an essential part of running IMP Camp, and without their help, IMP Camp would probably cease to exist. IMPterning should be an enjoyable experience, but there is also responsibility involved. Below are the details explaining anything you ever wanted to know about who an IMPtern is and exactly what it is they do.

What is an IMPtern?

An IMPtern is an intern at IMP Camp. They are often company members, and have a basic knowledge of improv and theatre from both IMP Camp and outside classes. Technically, an IMPtern is still registered as a camper and so they are not considered staff.

What does an IMPtern do, basically?

The IMPtern's main function is to assist with the running of IMP Camp. They do not teach classes, but instead they either aid in the teaching of class or serve as model students. Often times they lead warm-ups and skills, helping to ensure that the children are having fun and being safe. Already having acquired the basic knowledge in their craft, IMPterns are now learning advanced acting skills as well as being taught how to teach from the Senior and Junior staff members.

What are the requirements of becoming an IMPtern?

An IMPtern must be at least thirteen years old and be familiar with the camp, the company, and have a basic knowledge of theatre. IMPterns are asked to join at the discretion of the director and company manager. To apply IMPterns must send an e-mail to the director in January or February which contains their experience, summer availability and why they would be an asset to the IMP Camp team.

What do IMPterns gain from their experience?

IMPterning is part of the learning process. Being an IMPtern at camp is the next step in becoming a better actor and a better teacher. Working with both the staff and the actors at camp, IMPterns are going through a learning process to see what works and what doesn't work with both acting and teaching. The best way to improve at something once you have learned the basics is to teach it to someone else. When teaching kids during class, the staff serves as the melody while IMPterns serve as the harmony. (Meaning a staff member would give instructions on an exercise, and an IMPtern would ask questions about anything confusing or demonstrate for the group.) As the summer progresses, the IMPterns are sometimes given opportunities to be the melody, while a staff member watches. This way, staff members are able to give feedback to IMPterns and help them further in the learning process. When they serve as model students or assist with teaching, IMPterns are acquiring the skills it takes to become a staff member in the future.

What are other roles and responsibilities of being an IMPtern?

The IMPterns main role is to work for the benefit of the camp. When actors agree to take on the responsibility of being an IMPtern, they are taking on just that: responsibilities. IMPterns assist with teaching classes, but they also make sure that all the kids are learning and having fun in a safe, supportive, and hands-on manner. They help lead games, exercises, and skills when the actors break off into groups. They make sure the space is clean and tidy, hand out paperwork to parents, act and run tech for the shows, and also just have fun with the kids at camp.

What the hours of an IMPtern?

- An IMPtern must work be at camp at least three consecutive weeks of camp.
- Arrive at 8:30 AM and stay until 3:15 or 3:30 each day of camp
- Arrive at 8:45 am to beach day and leave after the last camper is picked up.
- Attend the load in, stikes and orientation.. Orientation, typically held on the Sunday prior to the opening of camp, is a vital part of IMPtern training, it is here the basic training happens and they are made aware of the legal rules of camp. We cannot accept an IMPtern without orientation.

So if IMPterns do all this work, why don't they get paid?

IMP Camp has always been a place for growth and choices. IMPterns are still technically considered campers, but instead of re-learning the basics, IMPterns are given the opportunity to grow as teachers, directors, and actors through their work with the children and staff. Being an IMPtern is a privilege (not a job) and something that many young actors at camp aspire to be when they are older. IMPterns should not feel like they are giving up their time, but instead spending it on something they love doing. Also IMPterns are still considered campers, which would require them to actually *pay* tuition. However, for the work and assistance the IMPterns provide, their tuition is bartered at either half or full price.

Who qualifies for half and full barterers?

Half barterers are for IMPterns who have not turned fourteen or are IMPterning for their first time. First year IMPterns are required to pay half tuition because they are still learning how camp works. Their primary function is to serve as model students instead of assisting in the direction of exercises. Full barterers are for IMPterns fourteen years and older who have IMPterned before. These IMPterns have already learned how the camp works and in their second year, IMPterns are given more responsibilities. Instead of just serving as model students, second year IMPterns are also given the opportunity to lead exercises like warm-up with guidance from the staff.