SC’s Sample Daily Schedule

Sarah Tsang, Senior Counselor
Class: Beginning Youngest (8 to 10 Years Old)

8:45-9:00: Breakfast in Cafeteria
9:00-9:15: Class gets wiggles out playing Simon Says
9:15-9:45: Student leads spelling drill on yesterday’s vocabulary words
9:45-10:00: Class sings Old MacDonald Had a Farm
10:00-10:15: Class brainstorms for different types of animals at zoo
10:15-10:45: Class plays charades to practice today’s animal vocabulary words
10:45-11:00: Class colors pictures of animals to create zoo mural
11:00-11:30: Class listens to read-aloud story about a lion in the zoo
11:30-12:00: Students work together to write their own zoo stories
12:00 - 3:30: Field Trip and picnic lunch at Franklin Park Zoo

What Students Think

“I think BRYE is like the sun and the rain, all the students are beautiful flowers. The sun gave light and heat and rain gave water for the flower to bloom.”

- Thuy Le, former BRYE student

How to Apply

Interested SCs should pick up a Summer Urban Programs application at the Phillips Brooks House or download one from BRYE’s website (www.hcs.harvard.edu/~brye) and follow the instructions. The deadline for applications is February 14th. Applicants usually go through two (or three) rounds of interviews before offers are made on March 21st. Applicants who are interested in other Summer Urban Programs can get more information about other camps from the SUP general website (www.pbha.org/pbha/sup).

BRYE Summer Info Sessions

Interested applicants usually attend one of BRYE’s info sessions in February or speak to one of BRYE’s past SCs. The info sessions are scheduled to be held on:

• Wednesday, Feb. 5th, 7-9 p.m., Phillips Brooks House

• Saturday, Feb. 8th, 3-4 p.m., Phillips Brooks House

• Monday, Feb. 10th, 7-9 p.m., Phillips Brooks House

• Tuesday, Feb. 11th, 7-8 p.m., Phillips Brooks House

Contact Information

For more information or questions, please feel free to contact Anh Bao Nguyen, Director, at 617-620-2848 or anhbaonguyen@hotmail.com, Christi Tran, Administrative Director, at 617-817-4002 or cdtran@fas, or Christy Shuman, Senior Counselor Coordinator, at 617-216-4801 or shuman@fas.
What is BRYE?

Since BRYE began in 1987, we have provided academic, social and emotional support for eight weeks each summer to ninety Vietnamese refugee and immigrant children during their challenging transition to life in the United States. More specifically, BRYE supplements the Boston Public Schools bilingual programs, allowing students to continue English as a Second Language (ESL) studies through creative curriculum during the summer months when many would otherwise have no exposure to the language. BRYE students, though only 6 to 14 years old, are highly motivated to learn and can’t wait to return to another summer of “BRYE School”. But BRYE is more than just academics. Students make friends for life in the classrooms and on the field trips and camping trips. Several correspond with their senior counselors for years after they graduate from the program or continue on in BRYE’s term-time mentoring and tutoring programs. BRYE combines remarkable children with enthusiastic teachers to produce an excellent summer program.

What We Do Each Day

BRYE SCs pick up students from their homes by van between 7:15 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. We provide breakfast at school. Each SC/JC team leads its class of ten students in three hours of morning classroom academics. After lunch, classes go on fun and educational field trips around Boston. We drive students home by van between 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Fridays are half-days (with no field trips). Each class goes on one two-night, weekend camping trip to New Hampshire.

Classroom academics focus on ESL instruction but also include other subjects. Teachers use creative curricula that include work with journalism, electronics, multicultural collaborations, arts, crafts, anatomy, drama, and more.

What does a Senior Counselor do?

BRYE SCs are responsible for working with their highschool age junior counselors, who are fluent in another language and English, to teach and manage a class of about ten students of similar age and English proficiency. SCs prepare curriculum for, teach, assess, mentor and love their children. They lead their class on field trips and camping trips, and they go on home-visits to meet the families of their students. They work extremely hard through two weeks of training and eight weeks of program to provide the best possible summer experience for the ninety children in BRYE. SCs are trained and supported by BRYE’s experienced administrative staff and the professionals of the Phillips Brooks House Association. Though it is helpful, SCs are certainly not required to be able to speak another language.

What sort of commitment is BRYE?

SCs commit to giving the best summer possible to their students and the program, remembering that BRYE is as much volunteer work as it is a paid summer job. SCs should expect not only to work full days, but also to devote time and energy on evenings and weekends to prepare for their lessons. To break this down, SCs should expect:

- To participate in all applicable program events from the start of training on June 16th, 2003 through the end of programming on August 22nd, 2003.
- To participate in six weekly trainings to be scheduled in April and May, in preparation for the summer.
- To live communally with the other senior staff members at either in Dorchester or at Harvard for the entirety of the program.
- To supervise children, drive vans if able, and be on site from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday (until 2:30 p.m. on Friday).
- To do some work at home during the weekends and evenings. This will include preparing for each day’s lessons, correcting student work and developing curriculum ideas with other staff members.
- To conduct home visits twice during the summer for each child in the SC’s class. These visits usually occur during the evenings and weekends outside of program time.
- To participate in and help with weekend events including one two-night camping trip, BRYE’s Diagnostic Test, the SC retreat and the clean up on August 23rd.

Stipend and Housing

BRYE provides senior counselors with a stipend of $3,000-3,400, paid over ten weeks. SCs will also receive free housing either in Dorchester, the community BRYE serves or at Harvard. Work-study students as well as non-work-study students are both encouraged to apply.