



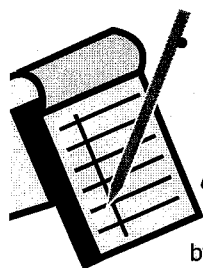
THE

IN-BETWEEN NEWS

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Know

Before
You Go

by Workamper Holly S. Cooper

We have a sheet of questions to ask each Workamper employer either before or during the interview process. These questions not only aid us in our decision, but also alert us to what we will encounter during our new Workamping position.

Type or neatly write a list that pertains to you and have copies made. Keep the copies on file with your resumes so that they are always handy.

If a phone interview has been arranged, take out your questionnaire and fill in the information you have already learned (from the advertisement or perhaps emails or calls already from the employer). This way when you are on the phone you can say, "As stated in your ad, you have laundry privileges. Does that include free laundry or a laundry allowance?" This way there are no questions left unanswered.

Here is our questionnaire for a sample. Remember to keep enough space between each question for you to write the answers provided.

EMPLOYER NAME:
CONTACT NAME:
CONTACT'S POSITION:
PHONE NUMBER:
INTERVIEW DATE / TIME:

Arrival / Start / Departure Dates?

Full-Hookups?

– Electric (30 or 50 AMP; metered; allowance)?

– Adequate Site Size?

Position(s)?

– Duties(s)?

– Work Schedule / Hours?

– Wage / Salary?

– Hours for Site (If applicable)?

– Uniforms / Dress Code?

Benefits / Perks?

– Laundry (free; allowance)?

– Propane (allowance; discount)?

– Cable TV or SATV (free; discounted)?

– WiFi (free; discounted; park-coverage; speed)?

– Store / Cafe (discounted)?

– Seasonal Bonus?

– Travel Allowance?

– Others?

Contract?

If we applied to an employer through an advertisement (or if they contacted us and we are aware of their ad), I tape the ad to the bottom of the questionnaire for exact wording.

Another thing to remember is key words used in the employer's ads and on their web site. You may learn you receive free laundry as a benefit, but the ad may read "limited"

laundry. Yet "limited" could be anything. It could mean there are only one washer and one dryer for several Workampers. Or it could possibly be something you may not even think of. Our experience with a "limited" laundry was that washer had no hot water - it was a cold-wash only.

Most employers will discuss these things prior to the phone interview, so you should be able to fill in most of your questions without asking. Yet it is always a good idea to confirm the facts.

If you do have a concern about something, it is best to bring that up before you get too deep into the interview. There is no sense wasting your time or the employer's if you feel this isn't the right position for you.

If you have limited skills, disabilities or prefer not to do certain tasks - make sure you add those to your questionnaire. If the job calls for working in the camp store and the ad states it involves some "cleaning" and you can't lift over 10 lbs. or refuse to clean toilets, then you need to find out what the employer means. There is nothing worse for an employer to have an employee say, "I won't or can't do that." And it is equally frustrating for the Workamper finding themselves in a situation they can't or don't want to do - especially if they drove a couple thousand miles for the job.

Another factor that can be a major problem to Workampers is location. If you need to be within five miles of a Wal-Mart or would rather be hundred miles from a major city, find this out before you apply to the location. If the employer contacted you first and you are not familiar with that particular region, come right out and ask them about it. They understand some people prefer to be closer to banks, stores and hospitals; while others prefer remote locations. The employer wants people who are comfortable at their location and will stay the duration of the job and many employers are happy to discuss the surrounding area.

If there is something the employer should know about you that has not been listed on your resume or discussed (either via phone or email), you should mention it. There is nothing worse than arriving at a job and finding out that the employer is not happy with your pet parrot's five foot outdoor cage or didn't know you needed every weekend and holiday off.

Take a few minutes and create your own Workamper employer questionnaire. These questions will not only help your decision, but will also let you know what you're getting into. Our motto is "know before you go!"

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