Program Overview

A. Program Description

The Camp Belknap Fellowship Program is a unique 15-month stipend program designed to provide students and young professionals with opportunities to develop their leadership skills through an enhanced Belknap experience. Any person 18 years or older can attend. Fellowship Program curriculum focuses on environmental stewardship, leadership development, youth development, and cultural immersion with fellows receiving personal Spanish language instruction and the opportunity to travel to Chile. Fellows will work onsite at Camp Belknap in Tuftonboro, NH for two summers, a spring, and a fall season, with housing and food provided. From December through March, during the traditional Belknap offseason, fellows will travel to Chile to participate in a cultural exchange structured around several volunteer experiences.

During the fall and spring at Belknap, fellows will support the takedown and setup of camp while leading a variety of auxiliary programs. In the summer, fellows will manage key programs, leading our efforts to compost, garden, monitor water quality, and reduce our carbon footprint, in addition to leading traditional programs like sailing and archery.

In Chile, fellows will hone their leadership skills by working in youth development and environmental stewardship roles in a Spanish-speaking setting. Fellows will work on an organic farm serving an ecotourism destination, at a bilingual day camp, and in a classroom environment at a local private school. Throughout the trip there are countless opportunities to explore the natural beauty of the Chilean outdoors.

B. Program Pillars and Goals

Pillar: **Environmental Stewardship**
Goals:

- Participate in scientific efforts related to water as a natural resource.
    - Collect lake water samples for ongoing statewide research.
    - Execute Belknap's Water Monitoring Protocol.
- Lead the Garden Program.
    - Manage the maintenance of Belknap's garden.
    - Lead instructive and interactive program periods.
    - Develop and implement new program activities.
- Develop and execute a forest management plan.
    - Read topographical and property maps.
    - Learn how to grow and maintain healthy forests through strategically planting and removing trees.
- Lead the Compost Program.
    - Teach campers and leaders how to compost.

    - Learn how to operate a tractor.
    - Monitor compost production.
- Consider new ways to reduce Belknap's carbon footprint.
    - Conduct onsite research about Belknap's energy consumption.
    - Facilitate camp-wide programming aimed at reducing power use and waste.

Pillar: **Leadership Development**
Goals:

- Develop and implement programming at Belknap and for Belknap's partners.
- Lead in new capacities different from the traditional Belknap experience by serving local partner communities while representing Belknap and Belknap's values.

Pillar: **Youth Development**
Goals:

- Lead and teach in a youth developmental role by facilitating structured activities focused on individual and group development.
    - Facilitate large group activities for overnight school groups.
    - Lead programs and manage staff at a bilingual day camp.
    - Teach English to Spanish-speaking children in a classroom setting.

Pillar: **Cultural Immersion**
Goals:

- Develop Spanish proficiency through tailored lessons and real-world practice.
- Live with Chilean families to experience local language, traditions, and daily life firsthand.
- Discover Chile's diverse landscapes through structured and open travel.
- Foster adaptability to navigate in a new culture and linguistic setting.

C. Partner Organizations

Rincón Bonito

Rincón Bonito is a remote mountain tourism destination on the Ventisquero River in Northern Patagonia, Chile. Offering various guided outdoor experiences from rafting to horseback riding, Rincón Bonito is committed to sustainable tourism and runs a volunteer program focused on both maintaining the onsite organic garden, mountain house, refuges, and shelters, as well as interacting with guests to provide an excellent stay. Fellows will participate in this volunteer program for one month.

Check out the Rincón Bonito volunteer program here: https://rinconbonito.cl/en/join/

Mantoverde Summer Camp

Mantoverde Summer Camp is a day camp for children ages 4-14, located on a farm property in Frutillar, Chile with access to the beach on beautiful Lake Llanquihue. Paula Lopez and Brian Budgeon run Mantoverde, live in Chile, and both worked at Belknap the summer of 2023. Program activities at Mantoverde include swimming, gardening, beekeeping, crafts, as well as various games and sports. Fellows will lead and manage the daily program for Mantoverde.

Check out the Mantoverde Summer Camp website here:
https://www.mantoverdefrutillar.com/products/summercamp

Colegio Kopernikus

Colegio Kopernikus is private school in Frutillar, Chile focused on creativity, autonomy, and collaboration, with an emphasis on arts and outdoor learning. Fellows will provide language support for Kopernikus' English program and receive Spanish language instruction.

Check out the Colegio Kopernikus website here: https://www.kopernikus.cl/?lang=en

D. Stipend and Financial Support

The Fellowship Program is designed to provide fellows with professional development opportunities and the travel experience of a lifetime. During their time at Belknap, fellows will be housed onsite with three meals a day or a food stipend provided. While traveling in Chile, fellows will be provided housing and some meals through partner organizations and homestays. Camp Belknap will cover the cost of roundtrip airfare to Chile, travel insurance, and travel expenses to and from our partner organization locations. In addition, fellows will receive a stipend every two weeks for the duration of the program. The stipend is for personal use and intended to supplement the cost of food, fuel, tolls, and other personal travel expenses and experiences.

In addition to the stipend, fellows may be able to apply for a Leadership Educational Assistance Fund (LEAF) Grant through Camp Belknap to provide additional financial support to offset costs of tuition debt or future tuition payments. Please call or email us directly to discuss these options.

E. Frequently Asked Questions

When does the application open?

The application for 2026 will open on December 15th, 2025.

When is the application deadline?

We will review applications on a rolling system, admitting qualified applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until the limited positions are filled.

Can I work as a cabin leader during the summer and then join the fellowship program in the fall?

Yes. If you are already on staff for the summer and are interested in the Fellowship Program, please complete an application and indicate your connection to Belknap on the form.

Can women apply?

Yes. The program is open to any person 18 years or older.

What is the typical age range for a fellow?

Any person who turns 18 years old by December 1 of the first program year can apply, and there is no specified age range for the role. The program is designed for any student or young professional interested in leadership development.

Does Camp Belknap staff travel with fellows?

No. Camp Belknap's Program Director will travel to and from Chile to support various sections of the program, but for most of the travel experience, fellows will travel alone or with their fellow cohort.

Who do fellows report to?

Fellows report to Camp Belknap's Program Director. Fellows will have regular check-in meetings to review goals and feedback with the Program Director throughout the program.

How much vacation time do I have and when?

Throughout the 15-month program, there are a few vacation periods. While in the U.S., fellows will have the last two weeks of November and the first two weeks of April off. Fellows will work 6-day weeks during the summer months like all summer staff and then go down to five days a week thereafter. In addition, there will be three other four to five-day breaks coordinated based on spring and fall programming. Fellows will also have most of the month of February off when traveling in Chile.

Will I have time to travel outside the program in Chile?

Yes. There are several weeks in February when fellows will have time to travel.

Can I travel back to the U.S. during this time?

No. Camp Belknap only supplements the cost of one round-trip plane ticket per fellow.

Do I need to buy insurance for being abroad?

No. Camp Belknap will cover the cost of travel insurance. Here is our travel insurance provider: https://dan.org/membership-insurance/travel-insurance/annual-travel-insurance/.

What happens if I get injured?

If a fellow gets sick or injured, they will be treated by local medical professionals. Camp Belknap will cover the cost of travel insurance with medical protection. Fellows are responsible for the claims process associated with medical care while traveling.