

PLAYING 20 QUESTIONS:

What to Ask a Prospective Employer

The beauty of Workamping is that you, the prospective employee or volunteer, can determine where and when you work. Every RVer has his/her own agenda as far as traveling and financing those explorations.

Workamping jobs are a dime a dozen and can be found through a number of Workamping-related websites, by word of mouth, and even within these pages of your latest *Workamper News* issue. Jobs demand all kinds of skill sets, are located all over, and often include a set timeframe of employment. With all of these options available to RVers, knowing your expectations is key when it comes to selecting your next Workamping gig.

We have been full-time RVing and Workamping for five years and within that period, we have developed a set of guidelines regarding what we look for in Workamping jobs. These are based on our needs both personally and financially. We prefer jobs that are in locations of our nation that we have not explored.

We are always open to learning new skills so we often seek jobs that offer training for special services. In more practical matters, we look for jobs that offer all hours paid and include a free site with utilities. We are far from retirement and rely on Workamping

jobs to meet our budget.

Our guidelines help sort through the many job ads we come across and once we have a small collection of three to five job descriptions, we'll begin contacting those businesses or organizations, making sure to send our resumes.

The final and most vital piece of the puzzle that helps in this selection process is the interview

questions portion. This is a series of questions to ask during your initial, and in some cases, subsequent interviews. They include specifics about your role as an employee or volunteer, benefits package, and overall work experience.

Being full-time RVers and perpetual travelers, most if not all of your interviews will take place over the phone. The main purpose of this job selection process is to obtain as much information and build an impression that will allow you to make an informed decision about the opportunity.

For us, since we are nowhere near the place of employment, we rely heavily on these interviews to give us a clearer picture of what to expect and what is expected. After all, it's not in



Natalie pulling a pumpkin out of a box. Inquiring about the physical aspects of a job can be important to learn about before hand. Some days we were lifting 200 or more pumpkins of various weights as pumpkin lot managers.

anyone's favor to travel hundreds of miles from one location to another only to discover that the Workamping experience was not all it was cracked up to be for either party.

The following are questions that we have developed over our several years of Workamping.

Whether you are seeking a seasonal job, volunteer position at a wildlife refuge, or thinking about work-from-home possibilities, consider these questions when researching and determining your next Workamping adventure. Some may not apply to your situation or expectations, but may help to develop your own set of questions to use when interviewing with your next prospective employer.

Workamping Tales with Henley's Happy Trails

Levi and Natalie Henley Workamp around the country in their 26-foot motorhome with two cats. They have been on the road and making a living Workamping since 2014 with no plans to stop soon. They are always browsing *Workamper News* for fun, unique jobs that take them places they would like to see. Along with writing for RV magazines, they also share their experiences and RV-related tips on their own blog henleyshappytrails.com as well as videos on their Youtube Channel, also called Henley's Happy Trails.



1. What positions are available to Workampers?
2. What are your expectations for an employee in that (specify) position?
3. What would a typical work day look like for me?
4. What type of challenges are possible or have other Workampers come across in this position? (Physical, environmental, weather.)
5. Is there any special training or certification I need for this position? If so, will instruction be offered at the job site or will I need to take a training/certification course before arriving? (If outside training is required, get instructions on how.)
6. Is it possible to branch out in the company, working in a variety of capacities or supervisory positions?
7. For tax purposes, will we be identified as independent contractors or company employees?
8. When can Workampers begin arriving to their RV site/campground?
9. What is the designated timeframe (beginning and ending dates) of employment?
10. Would it be possible to adjust our beginning/ending dates of employment as we will be Workamping at another location during that time?
11. In regards to scheduling, how many hours/days would we each work a day/week? Will I be off on the same days as my partner/spouse?
12. Is this a salary or hourly based position? What is the salary/hourly rate? Is overtime offered and at what rate?



Levi giving wine samples at Prairie Berry Winery. It was definitely important to ask what a typical day was like at the winery because it wasn't unheard of to have 2,000 people come and sample wine in a single day. It's hard to describe how exhausting that can be, but we at least had a heads up.

13. Are there opportunities to work more hours per week?
14. What is included (sewer, electric, water hookups, cable, WiFi) with the RV site? Is this a separate charge or included as part of our compensation?
15. Are employee discounts offered for goods and services like propane, campground store supplies/groceries, and use of laundry facilities?
16. Some employers advertise an end of season bonus. What are the specifics to meeting this bonus?
17. What is the dress code? If certain uniform clothing like shirts are required, will they be supplied or do we purchase these items?
18. What are your policies on pets (limit on number, any restrictions with walking pet around property, designated potty areas)? Are Workampers allowed to have pets?
19. Since this is a region of the country we have not traveled to, what suggestions would you offer in the way of clothing, footwear, wildlife awareness, insect repellant/protection, and RV preparation?
20. What are the next steps after this interview process?



Levi sipping hot chocolate and bundled up at the Christmas tree lot we managed. We always remember to ask about the location's climate so we know how cold or hot it's going to be while we are working.

In many cases the employer will answer some of the questions without you having the need to ask them. We like to have these questions in front of us while doing the phone interview so that we can check them off and write down the answer to each one.

It's impossible to know what exactly a job will be like until you are actually working. There may be aspects of your next Workamping job that are easier, harder, or just different than what you expected. We have found in our experience that these questions are a good start in preventing any unwanted surprises about a job.

Whether your next Workamping gig is a volunteer position that allows you to explore an area or a 40-hour-a-week campground job, we wish you good luck and happy trails.