 **Project SEARCH Kalahari Resorts & Conventions – Poconos**

**FACT SHEET**

**What is Project SEARCH?**

* One year transition program which provides training and education leading to competitive employment for individuals with disabilities.
* The program occurs on-site at a business which has the commitment to support people with disabilities in the workplace.
* Assists young adults with disabilities in making a successful transition from school to working and living a productive adult life.

**Program Description:**

* One-year program
* Up to 12 student interns per school year
* Students with a variety of disabilities, who are in their last year of high school eligibility
* Rotation through unpaid internships at Kalahari with continual feedback
* Employment in an integrated environment
* Graduation with a formal ceremony
* Outcome of competitive employment

| **Key Ingredients of Internships:** | **Sample Project SEARCH Day:** |
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| * Internships are the cornerstone of the Project SEARCH program
 | * 8:30 Arrival, Plan for Day, review Daily Gazetti (Kalahari Newspaper)
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| * Interns learn competitive, marketable, and transferable employment skills
 | * 9:30 Report to departments and participate in internships
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| * Interns participate in training approximately 5 hours per day
 | * 12:00 Lunch Break
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| * Interns have the opportunity to develop work and social skills in a natural environment
 | * 12:30 Return to departments and continue internships
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| * Each internship lasts approximately 10 weeks
 | * 2:00 Review day’s activities, Group instructional time to focus on curriculum and employability skills, and communication among all team members
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| * Evaluation is ongoing
 | * 3:15 Depart Kalahari
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| **Potential Internship Areas at Kalahari** |
| Administration: Filing  Mail DistributionInventory | Water Park/ Theme Park: Slide & Ride Attendants Cabana Stocking Towel Distribution Moving Trash |
| Rooms Division: Concierge Door/ Bell Person Common Area Cleaning Room Cleaning/ Housemen Sorting/ Stocking Carts Laundry Linen Sorting | Food & Beverage: Busing Tables Food Runner Hosting Buffet Decorating Banquet Set-up Audio/Visual Set-up |
| Spa: Spa Attendant | Information Technology (IT): IT Assistant |
| Retail: Retail Cashier Inventory Management | Receiving: Receiving  Distribution |
| Internships are based upon:* Intern’s interests and skill sets; team input
* Kalahari understands and can accommodate various personalized needs
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**Eligibility Guidelines and Requirements:**

* Applicant must be 18–21 year old students with disabilities enrolled in school-age programming.
* Applicant must be entering his/her last year of high school and/or all high school credits completed.
* Applicant must exhibit appropriate hygiene, social, and communication skills.
* Applicant must have the ability to take direction and change behavior.
* Applicant must have access to reliable transportation and willingness to use independent transportation options.
* Applicant must establish OVR Eligibility.
* Applicant must secure a current PA State ID and possess an original Social Security Card.
* Applicant must be willing to complete and pass background checks.
* Applicant must enroll with County Mental Health/Developmental Services, if eligible.
* Applicant must have the desire to work and become competitively employed!

**Student Application Highlights:**

* **February 11, 2023: Applications are due.** **Applications received after the due date will also be considered until the Intern Class of 2024 is full.**
* **March/April:**
	+ Interview team reviews applications
	+ Selected applicants are scheduled for in-person interviews
	+ Project SEARCH interns are selected and notified of acceptance
	+ OVR eligibility is confirmed
* **May/June:** Introductory meeting for new interns & complete program entrance requirements
* **August:** Informational meeting/ orientation for new interns and families
* **Early October:** IEP Meetings held for each intern



|  **Project SEARCH Kalahari – Partners’s Contact List** |
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|  | **Contact Person(s):** | **Phone Number:** | **Email:** |
| **Colonial Intermediate Unit 20** | Brooke Tesche, Supervisor of Special Education | (610) 515-6539 | btesche@ciu20.org |
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| Cassandra LaVenture, Transition Counselor | (570) 234-1001 | claventure@pa.gov |
|  | Dawn Daignault, Director of Community Integrated Employment  | (570) 872-9956,Ext. 304 | Dawn.Daignault@hrcinc.org |
| Jessica Tierney, HRC Job Developer/ Skills Trainer  | (570) 229-5730 | Jessica.Tierney@hrcinc.org |
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