

Permanent Traveling Staff

What a concept. Permanent traveling staff....isn't this a contradiction in terms? For many travelers permanent and traveling don't go together. However, recently I have found more and more travelers electing to be more permanent than temporary.

Hospitals are finding themselves with ongoing needs for nurses. As a result, I have found that hospitals in general have become more lenient in extending contracts. Used to be, they would give you a strong push toward recruitment if you worked at their facility for close to a year. Now, however, some hospitals are looking the other way and allowing travelers to be on staff for several years.

Hospitals would rather keep a trained person that they know versus hiring a new person. Recently, I met a traveler, Tim, who worked in Seattle as a traveler for 10 years. A year ago, he moved to Sacramento as a traveler with his family. They bought a house and he plans to work as a traveler in Sacramento for many years. "I make great money along with a stipend each month and I don't have to deal with the politics", Tim says. "I plan on doing this as long as I can.

Another nurse, James, has been a traveler in Sacramento for 3 years. Why leave, when I can stay right here and get the benefits of being a traveler too, he questions. I didn't get into asking them how they do their taxes, but these travelers still believe the benefits of avoiding hospital politics and receiving housing stipends are enough of a benefit to stay away from an official permanent position. On the other hand, if you think about it, what position is really "permanent" anymore?