

The Center

**The Chicago Southwest Suburban Community
Parish and Community Center Foundation**
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The Wayside Chapel

DAVID F. SANDERS, *Executive Director*

REV. NANCY M. NEMETH, *Pastoral Director*

Farm Camp Counselor

The Children's Farm at The Center – Palos Park, IL
Seasonal, Residential Position

Overview

Summer Camp Counselors provide leadership, instruction, and supervision for campers throughout each summer session for campers ages 9-14. This role combines outdoor adventure, farm experiences, group living, nature education, and creative activities. Residential counselors live on-site and supervise a bunkhouse, ensuring a safe, fun, and engaging experience for all campers.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead, instruct, and supervise all aspects of the summer camp program, including outdoor adventure, farm activities, group living, nature crafts, and environmental awareness.
- Live at camp and provide daytime supervision for day camp and overnight supervision for a cabin group.
- Promote and maintain a safe and healthy environment for campers, staff, and guests.
- Evaluate camper progress and provide input on program effectiveness each session.
- Participate in pre-camp and post-camp training, preparation, and camp close-up.
- Collaborate with other Center staff to support the broader mission and needs of The Center.

Qualifications

- Strong interest in working with children and supporting their personal growth.
- Commitment to fostering respect, sensitivity, and appreciation for others and the natural world.
- Applicants 18 years or older are preferred; candidates who are 17 will also be considered.
- Preferred: enrollment in or completion of a degree in education, outdoor programming, human services, or related field.
- Enthusiasm, energy, patience, creativity, and emotional maturity.
- Excellent physical health and stamina for working outdoors.
- Current Red Cross Basic First Aid certification (or willingness to complete during staff training).
- Additional valued experience includes:
 - Previous organized camping experience
 - Outdoor camping and adventure skills
 - Arts or dramatics leadership
 - Lifesaving certification

Benefits

- Competitive residential seasonal compensation starting at \$4,300
 - We offer additional compensation for candidates who bring specialized skills and experience, including: Teaching riding lessons or advanced horsemanship skills, Outdoor adventure skills (e.g., shelter building, canoeing, camping, or navigation), or previous experience working in a summer camp setting
- Room and board provided in bunkhouse-style cabins with meals included
- Daily time off and at least one night off per week
- Hands-on experience with farm life, outdoors and nature
- Be part of a close-knit, supportive community, build lasting friendships, and share meaningful experiences while making a positive impact.