

The Center

The Chicago Southwest Suburban Community
Parish and Community Center Foundation
12700 Southwest Highway • Palos Park, Illinois 60464
Telephone: (708) 361-3650 • Fax: (708) 361-2811
www.thecenterpalos.org
email: admin@thecenterpalos.org



The Wayside Chapel

Equine Specialist/Wrangler

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

Seasonal Position, Daytime or Residential Position; Residential applicants will be given preferred consideration.

Overview

The Farm Camp Wrangler coordinates the horseback riding program for Farm Camp, Farm Explorers, Teen Leaders, and OATS campers. This role provides leadership, instruction, and supervision for all horseback activities, while ensuring the safety, care, and well-being of both campers and horses. The Wrangler works closely with the Program Director, Farm Manager and other Center staff to deliver a high-quality equestrian experience as part of the overall camp program. Residential positions will assist with evening activities and horsecare.

Key Responsibilities

- Coordinate and lead the horseback riding program for campers of all ages, including Farm Camp, Farm Explorers, Teen Leaders, and OATS.
- Maintain and organize tack and equestrian equipment for all riding activities.
- Ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all campers and staff during horseback activities.
- Responsible for the health and well-being of all camp horses, including daily care, grooming, and monitoring overall condition.
- Identify any concerns such as lameness, injuries, or behavioral issues, and promptly relay them to the Camp Director.
- Provide minor veterinary care for cuts, scrapes, and other minor injuries as needed.
- Ensure all horses remain healthy, safe, and well-cared for throughout the camp session.
- Coordinate and lead pre-camp staff training focused on horseback riding and horse care.
- Collaborate with other Center staff to support the broader mission and programs 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.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Preferred: enrollment in or completion of a degree in education, outdoor programming, human services, or related field.
- Enthusiasm, energy, patience, creativity, emotional maturity, and excellent health (current physical exam required).
- Proficient horsemanship skills and experience, including riding instruction, horseback riding, horse care, and equestrian program management.
- Strong leadership and organizational abilities.
- Current Standard Red Cross First Aid Certification.
- Ability to coordinate a comprehensive horseback riding program and horse care routine.
- Desire to contribute to the overall mission of The Center and the success of the Farm Camp program.

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Benefits

- Competitive seasonal compensation starting at \$4,158
 - 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 rustic bunkhouse-style cabins with meals included
- Daily time off and at least one night off per week
- Hands-on experience with farm life, horsemanship, instruction and horseback riding
- Be part of a close-knit, supportive community, build lasting friendships, and share meaningful experiences while making a positive impact.