

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

Junior Farmers Counselor

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

Overview

Junior Farmers Counselors provide leadership, instruction, and supervision for children ages 3-8 participating in the Junior Farmers program during each of the six summer sessions. This role focuses on introducing campers to farm life, animal care, hands-on activities, and nature exploration, while ensuring a safe and engaging environment for all participants. Residential positions are required to attend all of pre-camp training, postcamp clean-up and staff meetings and will have overnight supervision duties of a residential bunkhouse including assisting with nighttime activities, overseeing bedtime routines and foster a strong cabin community with their residential campers. Daytime positions would only need to be available for portions of staff training.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead and facilitate the Junior Farmers program, including animal care, farm experiences, crafts, and nature exploration.
- Supervise all Junior Farmers campers and work with assigned Counselor-in-Trainings to provide a substantial, hands-on, fun learning experience for all participants
- Promote and maintain a safe and healthy environment for campers, staff, and visitors.
- Participate in pre-camp staff training and program preparation.
- Collaborate with other 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 17 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, and emotional maturity.
- Good physical health to actively participate in outdoor and farm-based activities.
- Desire to assist with the camp program as part of the overall mission of The Center.

Benefits

- Competitive residential 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

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- 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.