



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

Outdoor Adventure for Teens (OATS) Camp Counselor

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

Overview

OATS Camp Counselors provide leadership, instruction, and supervision for teen campers throughout each summer session. This role combines outdoor adventure, farm experiences, group living, and nature education. Counselors live on-site and supervise a teen bunkhouse, creating a safe, engaging, and supportive environment for campers.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead and facilitate the OATS camp program, including outdoor adventure, farm activities, group living, nature crafts, and environmental awareness.
- Teach and support campers in outdoor adventure skills such as fire building, shelter construction, hiking, and general wilderness awareness.
- Provide daily and overnight supervision of teen campers, ensuring their safety and well-being.
- Support camper growth and program evaluation throughout each session.
- Participate in pre-camp and post-camp staff training, preparation, and camp close-out.
- Collaborate with other Center staff to support the overall mission and programs of The Center.

Qualifications

- Strong interest in working with children and helping teens grow in self-confidence, sensitivity, and respect for others and the natural world.
- Must be **18 years 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 physical stamina.
- Current Red Cross Basic First Aid certification (to be provided during staff training).
- Additional valued experience includes:
 - Organized camping
 - Farm work or horsemanship
 - Outdoor skills and camping leadership
 - Arts or dramatics leadership
 - Lifesaving certification

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 and outdoor adventure
- Be part of a close-knit, supportive community, build lasting friendships, and share meaningful experiences while making a positive impact.