

# *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*

## Program Aide

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

#### **Overview**

The Camp Program Aide supports the Farm Camp program by assisting counselors and camp leadership with daily activities, camper supervision, and program logistics. This role is hands-on and highly interactive, helping create a fun, safe, and engaging experience for campers through farm experiences, outdoor activities, crafts, recreation, and other camp programming. The Program Aide works closely with the Camp Program Director and counseling team to ensure activities run smoothly and campers are actively engaged throughout the day. The Program Aide also provides additional support to counselors throughout the session and serves as a flexible resource for the camp team, stepping into any counselor responsibilities when needed due to illness, absence, or other staffing needs.

#### **Key Responsibilities**

- Assist counselors and camp leadership with planning, setting up, leading, and cleaning up after daily camp activities.
- Support a variety of activities including farm experiences, horseback riding, outdoor adventure, nature crafts, environmental education, games, and recreation.
- Assist with all-camp activities such as campfires, evening announcements, singing, skits, and group recreation.
- Help prepare and organize materials, equipment, and supplies needed for activities.
- Engage directly with campers and encourage participation, teamwork, creativity, and positive behavior.
- Support counselors with camper supervision and help maintain a safe, welcoming, and inclusive camp environment.
- Assist with transitions between activities, meals, cabin time, and other parts of the daily schedule.
- Provide additional support to counselors and step in as needed when staffing needs arise.
- Help maintain cleanliness and organization of program areas, activity spaces, and equipment.
- Collaborate with other Center staff to support the broader mission, programs, and initiatives of The Center.
- Demonstrate flexibility and a willingness to assist wherever needed to ensure the camp program runs smoothly.
- Participate in staff meetings, training, and other camp-related responsibilities as assigned.

#### **Qualifications**

- Strong interest in working with children and creating positive, engaging experiences.
- Commitment to helping campers develop self-confidence, sensitivity, teamwork, and respect for others and the natural world.
- Ideally **18 years of age or older**.

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- Previous experience working with children, summer camp, recreation, education, or similar programs preferred.
- Enthusiasm, energy, creativity, patience, emotional maturity, and strong physical stamina.
- Ability to work as part of a team and take direction from camp leadership.
- Strong communication, organization, and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to actively participate in outdoor and physically demanding activities in a variety of weather conditions.
- Comfortable working around farm animals and participating in farm-based activities.
- Current Red Cross First Aid & CPR certification preferred.
- Valid Driver's License preferred.
- Ability to be flexible and adapt to changing schedules, camper needs, and program activities.
- Commitment to integrating the Farm Camp program into the overall mission of The Center.

## Benefits

- Competitive seasonal compensation starting at **\$4,158**
  - Additional compensation may be available for candidates with specialized skills and experience, including teaching riding lessons or advanced horsemanship, outdoor adventure skills, or previous summer camp experience.
- 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, outdoor education, and youth programming.
- Opportunity to develop skills in activity leadership, child development, teamwork, and recreation programming.
- Be part of a close-knit, supportive community, build lasting friendships, and share meaningful experiences while making a positive impact.