

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 Director

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

Overview

The Camp Program Director oversees the Farm Camp program, providing leadership, guidance, and supervision for campers, Counselors in Training (CITs), and camp staff. This role is responsible for coordinating all camp activities, ensuring camper safety and well-being, and maintaining the high-quality educational and recreational experience that defines The Center's camp programs.

Key Responsibilities

- Coordinate and lead a comprehensive camp program including outdoor adventure, farm experiences, horseback riding, nature crafts, and environmental education.
- Supervise a team of counselors and camp aides, providing mentorship, guidance, and support.
- Lead or coordinate all-camp activities such as campfires, evening announcements, singing, and recreation programs.
- Ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all campers and staff.
- Live on-site and assume primary responsibility for overnight supervision.
- Plan, coordinate, and lead pre-camp staff training, as well as post-camp session evaluations.
- Collaborate with other Center staff to support the broader mission and programs of The Center.
- Provide coverage and step in for camp counselors as needed in the event of illness, absence, or other staffing needs.

Qualifications

- Strong interest in working with children and fostering their personal growth.
- Commitment to helping campers develop self-confidence, sensitivity, and respect for others and the natural world.
- Ideally **21 years of age or older**. Candidates over 18 years of age will be considered.
- Preferred: enrollment in or completion of a degree in education, outdoor programming, human services, or related field.
- Enthusiasm, energy, creativity, patience, emotional maturity, and excellent physical stamina.
- Previous experience in organized camping and program leadership.
- Demonstrated leadership, organizational, and problem-solving abilities.
- Current Red Cross First Aid & CPR certification.
- Valid Driver's License.
- Ability to plan and coordinate activities in farm experiences, horseback riding, outdoor adventure, nature crafts, and environmental education.
- Comfort and skill leading singing, dramatics, and recreation programs.
- Commitment to integrating the Farm Camp program into the overall mission of The Center.

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