

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

Ranch Camp Counselor

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

Overview

Ranch Camp Counselors provide leadership, instruction, and supervision for teen campers throughout each camp session. This position plays an essential role in fostering growth, independence, environmental awareness, and horsemanship skills in a supportive and community-centered camp environment. Counselors live on-site and supervise a teen bunkhouse as part of their daily responsibilities.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead, instruct, and supervise all aspects of the Ranch Camp program, including outdoor adventure, horsemanship (grooming, tacking, horseback riding lessons, trail rides), farm activities, crafts, and other hands-on camper activities.
- Live at camp and provide both daytime and overnight supervision to ensure camper safety and well-being.
- Promote and maintain a safe and healthy environment for all campers and visitors.
- Evaluate camper progress and provide input on program effectiveness each session.
- Participate in all required pre-camp training, post-camp wrap-up, and seasonal preparation.
- Collaborate with Center staff, residents, and volunteers, supporting broader organizational needs when appropriate.

Qualifications

- Strong interest in working with teens 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 recreation, human services, or a related field.
- Good physical health and stamina, with the ability to work outdoors in a farm and camp environment.
- Emotional maturity, stability, patience, and creativity in working with young people.
- Enthusiasm for contributing to the overall mission and programs of The Center.
- Current Red Cross Basic First Aid certification (or willingness to complete during staff training).
- Experience or skills in one or more of the following areas are highly valued:
 - Outdoor adventure or camping leadership
 - Familiarity with Palos-area trail systems
 - Farm or livestock experience
 - Prior experience in organized camping

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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.