

Job Posting: **Junior Counselor**

El Ranchito

Summer Camp 2015

Austin, Texas – www.elranchito.org

Title: Junior Counselor (1-2 positions)
Supervisor: Assistant Camp Director
Employment Dates: 7:30am June 6 until 3:00pm July 6, 2015 (overnight full time); meet at El Buen June 6 for ride to camp.
Camp Sessions: June 14 – July 3, 2015 (these dates include all three Nature Discovery Camp sessions)
Salary: \$950 plus all meals and tent lodging during staff training and camp sessions
Classification: Seasonal Employment, health benefits not provided
Closing Date: March 31, 2015, or until filled
To Apply: Please submit application to employment@elranchito.org or to El Ranchito Camp, 16037 Hamilton Pool Rd. Austin, TX 78738.

Camp Description

El Ranchito's mission is to connect children with the natural world by providing an extraordinarily fun nature-immersion camping experience. Campers intimately experience the land, its plants and animals, its creeks, and the starry night sky. A primitive tent camp, where staff and campers sleep, makes experiencing the natural world fun and safe for the campers. The camp site is located on the Shield Ranch, just 20 miles southwest of Austin. El Ranchito is a project of the Shield Ranch Foundation in collaboration with El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission and Westcave Preserve.

Position Description

The Junior Counselors will work under the supervision of the Assistant Camp Director to support camp programs and activities. The Junior Counselors will have daily check-ins with supervisor and will primarily provide support to the Counselors, engaging campers in group circle times, a variety of nature-focused activities, recreation, field trips, and journaling. Secondly, Junior Counselors will help with food services and camp maintenance.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- Work with the staff to help prepare camp site and take part in staff training week as directed.
- Assist Counselors with nature and recreation programs, including the backpacking overnight trip for Session III.
- Help Camp Cook with food services, and work with Program Assistant and other staff on camp support as needed.
- Learn to facilitate nature-immersion and recreation activities with campers.
- Model 100% involvement with the program and commitment to the campers having fun in nature.
- Promote conservation values with children and staff.
- Participate in camp duty rotation with assigned crew.
- Serve as a healthy role model and guide providing insight, direction, nurture and support for campers.
- Cultivate effective working relationships with staff, volunteers, and camp participants.
- Live in a tent for camp duration – sharing quarters with one or more staff members.
- Participate in daily meetings and training with Assistant Camp Director.
- Contribute to weekly camp evaluations and end-of-camp evaluation.
- Help with camp take down.

Qualification Requirements

- One or more years of El Ranchito camp experience with Nature Discovery Camp and/or Conservation Corps
- High school graduate at the time of Employment Dates (noted above)
- Preferred qualifications: Spanish fluency; experience working with children ages 9-14
- Experience tent camping, hiking and exploring in natural areas
- Experience working with children in outdoor and organized residential camp settings preferred
- Willing to follow the camp dress code, accept supervision, work independently and as part of a team
- Willing to live in a tent camp setting without running water, air conditioning and use of electronics
- Completion of a sexual misconduct prevention course (as part of training)
- Background check required. Any candidate with a felony conviction will be disqualified.
- No tobacco, drugs, alcohol or weapons are permitted at El Ranchito.

Off-duty Time and Transportation

Junior Counselor may provide own transportation or El Ranchito will provide transportation between El Buen and camp at specified times. Junior Counselor must have own transportation to and from El Buen per the following schedule:

- First day of work (Saturday, June 6): meet camp staff at El Buen at 7:15am with personal gear to live at camp
- Last day of work (Monday, July 6): travel with camp staff to El Buen to be picked up by parents at 3:00pm
- Off-duty time in between sessions (staff leave camp; no food provided at camp during these times):
 - 7:30pm Fri, June 12 until 12:00pm Sun, June 14
 - 9:00pm Fri, June 19 until 12:00pm Sun, June 21
 - 9:00pm Thurs, June 25 until 12:00pm Sun, June 28