

Job Posting: **Camp Counselor**

El Ranchito

Summer Camp 2015

Austin, Texas – www.elranchito.org

Title: Camp Counselor (6 positions: 3 male; 3 female)
Supervisor: Nature Discovery Camp Director
Employment Dates: 8:00am June 6 until 3:00pm July 6, 2015 (overnight full time). New staff expected to train a weekend in May (TBD).
Camp Sessions: June 14 – July 3, 2015 (three week-long sessions)
Base Salary: \$2,250 (lifeguards and returning staff receive additional pay); \$14/hour for work outside contract period
Classification: Seasonal Employment, health benefits not provided
Closing Date: February 28, 2015, or until filled
To Apply: Please submit application and resume 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 and inspiring 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 Outdoor Discovery Center.

Position Description

Six camp counselors will work with 4th-9th graders in three week-long sessions, each for two grades only (4th-5th, 6th-7th, 8th-9th). Counselors will be responsible for engaging campers in group circle times, a variety of nature-focused activities, recreation, field trips, and journaling. During the camp sessions, each paired counselor team will be responsible for 8 campers 24-hours a day (including all meal times) with designated refresh time on rotation. Duties include but are not limited to:

- Work with the staff to help prepare camp site and take part in staff training week.
- 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.
- Support other staff as needed.
- Contribute to the weekly camp evaluation and final evaluation after camp sessions end.
- Assist in taking down camp.

Qualification Requirements

- Two or more years of college or at least two years of related work experience required; experience in natural sciences or outdoor studies preferred
- Preferred qualifications: Spanish fluency; lifeguard certification (\$300 supplement for each of 2 counselors); 15-passenger van driver (must be at least 21 years old)
- 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 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
- Willing to follow a camp dress code
- Proof of required CPR and Basic First Aid Certification (or better) before camp employment begins.
- Completion of a sexual misconduct prevention course (part of our staff training)
- Background check required. Any candidate with a felony conviction will be disqualified.
- No tobacco, drugs, alcohol or weapons are permitted at El Ranchito.