

Nature Discovery Camp Counselor

El Ranchito

Virtual Summer Camp 2020

Austin, Texas – www.elranchito.org

Title: Camp Counselor
Supervisor: Nature Discovery Camp Director
Virtual Camp Dates: June 5 – July 3, 2020
Salary: \$14/hr, 40 hours per week max
Classification: Hourly Employment, health benefits not provided

Note: *El Ranchito 2020 will be held as a virtual camp due to social distancing guidelines in effect because of the coronavirus pandemic. Due to the current COVID-19 situation and the decision to conduct El Ranchito virtually, any reference to the set-up and take down of residential camp; in person contact or interactions; on site activities or in person activities with campers in the attached description is considered null and void. Modifications and additions to duties and responsibilities may occur in continuing to place staff and camper safety as our highest priority.*

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 campsite is located on 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 and journaling. During the camp sessions, each paired counselor team will be responsible for assigned campers during their daily online activities. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Facilitate nature-immersion and recreation activities with campers.
- Model 100% involvement with the program and commitment to creating a fun experience for campers.
- Promote conservation values with children and staff.
- Participate in camp duty rotation with assigned crew.
- Serve as a healthy role model and guide; provide insight, direction, nurture and support for campers.
- Cultivate effective working relationships with staff, volunteers, and camp participants.
- Support other staff as needed.
- Contribute to the weekly camp evaluation and final evaluation after camp sessions end.

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: proficiency in Spanish; lifeguard certification (\$300 supplement).
- 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 tents without running water, air conditioning, use of electronics while sharing quarters with one or more staff members.
- Willing to follow a camp dress code.
- Completion of a child protection course (part of our staff training).
- Background check required. Any candidate with a felony conviction will be disqualified.
- Tobacco, drugs, alcohol and weapons are not permitted at El Ranchito.