



EL RANCHITO AT SHIELD RANCH

Job Title: Nature Discovery Camp Counselor
Supervisor: Nature Discovery Camp Director
Classification: Seasonal Employment

Employment Dates:

Date Hired – May 31: Hours worked prior to camp, between 5-10 hours per month remote and scheduled planning and preparing for camp; flexible schedule.

June 1 – July 13: Residential, overnight camp at The Campsite at Shield Ranch. This position will be required to live on-site during residential camp dates.

Residential Camp Dates at Shield Ranch:

Saturday, June 1 – Thursday, June 6	Staff Training
Sunday, June 9 – Friday, June 14	Session 1
Sunday, June 16 – Thursday, June 20	Session 2
Sunday, June 24 – Friday, June 28	Session 3
Saturday, June 29-Friday, July 5	Staff off
Saturday, July 6	Staff Prep Day
Sunday, July 7 – Saturday, July 12	Session 4
Sunday, July 13	Staff Wrap-Up

Compensation

Residential salary: \$3,600 from June 1 – July 13 with housing, meals and board provided during the camp sessions

Hourly Rate: \$17-\$18 per hour for time working outside of June 1- July 13 (depending on experience)

Additional Compensation Opportunities

Lifeguard Certification: \$300 if serving as a certified lifeguard; \$450 for Waterfront Lifeguard certification

Early Commitment: \$150 bonus for committing to work with El Ranchito and completing paperwork by March 1st, 2024

Referral: \$100 for a referral of another staff member who completes the summer season

Description

El Ranchito’s mission is to connect children with the natural world by providing an extraordinarily fun and inspiring nature-immersion camping experience. 90% of our campers qualify for free or reduced lunch at school and may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a residential camp. We partner with El Buen Samaritano, Title I Schools, Dell Children’s Hospital and People’s Community Clinic, as well



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as other organizations, to recruit campers. Nature Discovery Camp is an overnight camp for 4th-9th graders with 24 campers per session. Program activities include nature hikes, swimming, field trips, a service project, healthy food, and nights under a starry sky. Camp is located at the Campsite at Shield Ranch, which is on a protected 6,400-acre historic family ranch just 20 miles southwest of central Austin. Our facility uses fans, shade, and breezes to stay cool. We do not have air conditioning.

The Campsite at Shield Ranch

El Ranchito has operated for 16 years and the artfully designed and off-grid permanent camp facilities is home the El Ranchito during the summer. The Campsite is designed to stay cool during hot days and increase comfort and safety. The Campsite offers screened sleeping shelters, a screened open-air pavilion with gathering/dining space, industrial kitchen, innovative sustainable systems for showers and evaporative composting toilets, and a safe place during inclement weather. All solar and rainwater facilities, the Campsite models our conservation values. Our facility uses fans, shade, and breezes to stay cool. We do not have air conditioning.

Nature Discovery Camp (NDC) Counselor responsibilities include:

- Responsible for health and safety of campers with support from a team of qualified and trained staff.
- Help campers participate fully in the daily schedule including transitions, meals, bedtime, and activities.
- Engage campers in community circles, nature activities, games, field trips, and journaling.
- Respond to camper needs and seek support when needed from co-staff and leaders.
- Create a supportive, kind, and inclusive camp community for campers to grow and thrive.
- Encourage campers to make friends, try new things and participate fully in camp.
- Participate in a daily staff meeting.
- Contribute to the weekly camp evaluation and final evaluation after camp sessions end.
- Participate in camp duty rotation with assigned crew.

Qualifications

- At least 18 years of ages
- Experience working with youth 9-14 years old
- Ability to work in outdoor setting for extended periods
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to communicate effectively with children, parents, and other staff members
- Ability to pass a background check
- Ability to obtain First Aid and CPR certification
- Ability to be on-site during duration of employment while session is running