



## EL RANCHITO AT SHIELD RANCH

**Job Title:** Camp Mental Health Specialist  
**Supervisor:** Campsite Education Director  
**Employment Dates:** Camp Training and Sessions: June 1 – July 13, 2024 (Specific schedule attached) Camp Registration Review: April 1- June 31, 2024  
**Salary:** \$5500 for Summer; \$25/hr. prior to summer  
**Classification:** Seasonal Employment, health benefits not provided  
**Location:** Campsite at Shield Ranch, 10417 Crumley Ranch Road, Austin, TX 78738

**Must be available by phone 24/7 during camp sessions to assist as needed**

### El Ranchito

Founded in 2007, El Ranchito's mission is to connect children with the natural world by providing an extraordinarily fun and inspiring nature-immersion camping experience on Shield Ranch. 85% of our campers qualify for free or reduced lunch at school or Dell Children's Health Plan, and otherwise may not have the opportunity to attend a residential camp. We partner with El Buen Samaritano, Dell Children's Health Plan, Austin Independent School District (AISD) parent support specialists, as well as other organizations, to recruit campers. **Nature Discovery Camp** is an overnight camp for 4th-9th graders with 26 campers per session, serving four week-long sessions. **Conservation Corps** is an overnight camp for 10th-12th graders with 20 campers focusing on nature immersion, community building, leadership development, and job training, offering a two-week and one-week-long session. Program activities include nature hikes, swimming, outdoor field trips, a conservation service project, and campfires. In summer 2024, we estimate serving 148 youth and hiring 20 seasonal staff.

### The Campsite at Shield Ranch

Camp is at the Campsite at Shield Ranch, a protected 6,400-acre historic family ranch 22 miles southwest of Austin's Capitol. The new artfully designed, sustainable facilities (all solar and rainwater) model our conservation values. Our facility uses fans, shade, and breezes to stay cool. We do not have air conditioning, and youth spend their camp experience almost entirely outdoors.

### Position Description

The Camp Mental Health Specialist will work closely with the Campsite Education Director and the Camp Nurse to assess and provide support to campers and staff for mental well-being throughout camp. Each session during check-in day, the Camp Mental Health Specialist will verify health information alongside the Camp Nurse to ensure that campers' health and mental health needs are being met. Select days throughout camp sessions, the Camp Mental Health Specialist will be present at camp, joining campers on or off site for activities, to assess and assist with mental health concerns. The Camp Mental Health Specialist will assist with crisis response as necessary.

### Duties Include:

- Review each participant's registration profile prior to camp and help staff to plan for participants' needs (can be done remotely within own schedule)
- Observe all camp participants and follow up on any potential issues
- Assist with camp adjustment issues and separation anxiety
- Be alert to issues that may arise from pre-existing situations or trauma



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- Support staff as they deal with participant behavior such as aggression, homesickness, teasing, or bullying, and develop strategies for success for campers in need
- Consult with staff as they work with children with diagnosed disorders
- Work closely with the Camp Nurse to monitor the overlap of the physical and emotional wellbeing of participants
- Be available to support staff regarding any issue surrounding youth in a cabin group. Examples: bullying, ostracization, dissociation, cliques, and other group social dynamics
- Meet with individual teens or cabin groups for restorative practices when necessary
- Contact parents to discuss participants when necessary
- Be available to respond to crisis situations
- Assist with staff training on mental health awareness and concerns
- Support staff mental health and facilitate restorative practices

### **Camp Mental Health Specialist Qualifications**

- Currently working toward or holding a master's degree in social work (MSW), Counseling (LPC), or related field
- Licensed practitioners preferred
- Experience working with and/or attending to children ages 9-18 such as in a school, camp, or other childcare setting
- Capable of working solo with other health providers on site
- Ability to commute to Campsite location and participate in camp outdoor activities
- Completion of a sexual misconduct prevention course (as part of training)
- Successful completion of a background check is required
- No tobacco, drugs, alcohol or weapons are permitted at El Ranchito

### *General Schedule:*

*Staff Training: June 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> (date TBD) to run 1 training on Mental Health First Aid for Staff and what the role of Camp Mental Health Specialist is and participate in mandatory staff trainings*

*Camp Drop Off Sundays: 1- 4 pm on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and July 7<sup>th</sup> for camper drop off at El Buen Samaritano (7000 Woodhue Drive, Austin, TX 78745) and to meet the campers at the Campsite during orientation (10417 Crumley Ranch Road, Austin, TX 78738)*

*Camp Sessions: June 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, June 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> and July 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>  
2 times per week Campsite/on trips with campers and staff from 8:30am- 2 pm  
June 13<sup>th</sup>, June 19<sup>th</sup>, June 27<sup>th</sup>, and July 12<sup>th</sup> (the last night of camp, 4 –8 pm)*

*On-call throughout the rest of the camp session for phone calls to assist as needed*