



Job Title: Camp Mental Health Specialist
Supervisor: Campsite Education Director
Employment Dates: Summer: Camp Training and Sessions: June 6 – July 18, 2026 (Specific schedule attached) Summer Mental Health Specialists can be hired for 1 week at a time
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. Ninety percent 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, AISD parent support specialists, as well as other organizations, to recruit campers. **Nature Discovery Camp** is an overnight camp for 4th-8th graders with 26 campers per session, serving four week-long sessions. **Conservation Corps** is an overnight camp for 9th-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, outdoors field trips, a conservation service project, and campfires. Summer 2026 we estimate serving 148 youth and hiring 20 seasonal staff.

The Campsite at Shield Ranch

Camp is at the Campsite at Shield Ranch, on a protected 6,600-acre wildland 20 miles southwest of central Austin. 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 monitor all campers and staff for mental well-being throughout camp. Each session check-in day, the Camp Mental Health Specialist will verify health information alongside the Camp Nurse. On select days throughout camp sessions, the Camp Mental Health Specialist will be present at camp and will join campers on or off site for activities to assess and assist with mental health concerns.

Duties Include:

- Review each participant's registration profile prior to camp and help staff to plan for participants' needs (can be done remotely within their 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
- 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
- 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
- Other duties as assigned

Camp Mental Health Officer Qualifications

- Currently working toward or holding a master's degree in social work (LMSW, LBC, LPCA), mental health counseling (LMHC, LPC), or a related field.
- 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 no other health providers on site.
- Ability to commute to Campsite location and participate in camp outdoor activities in summer.
- 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.

General Schedule:

Staff Training June 6-11 date to run 1 training on Mental Health First Aid for Staff and what your role is and participate in mandatory staff trainings.

Camp Drop-off Sundays, June 14, June 21, July 5, and July 12 at 1- 5:30 pm. Camper drop-off at El Buen Samaritano (7000 Woodhue Drive, Austin, TX 78745) and meet the campers at the Campsite during orientation (10417 Crumley Ranch Road, Austin, TX 78738).

Camp Sessions:

Assist throughout the week of each camp session, being on site or on field trips to give campers and staff support with mental health concerns as they arise.

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