



## EL RANCHITO AT SHIELD RANCH

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

### Employment Dates

June 6– July 18: Residential, overnight camp at the Campsite at Shield Ranch. This position will require living on site during residential camp dates.

### Residential Camp Dates at Shield Ranch:

Saturday, June 6- Thursday, June 11	Staff Training
Sunday, June 14– Friday, June 19	Session 1
Sunday, June 21 – Thursday, June 25	Session 2
Friday, June 26	Mid-Camp Clean up
Saturday, June 27 – Saturday, July 4	Staff off
Sunday, July 5- Friday July 10	Session 3
Sunday, July 12 – Thursday, July 16	Session 4
Friday, July 17- Saturday, July 18	Staff Wrap-Up

### Compensation

**Residential salary:** \$3,800 from June 6 – July 18 with housing, meals and board provided during the camp sessions

### Additional Compensation Opportunities

**Early Commitment:** \$150 bonus for committing to work with El Ranchito and completion of paperwork by March 31, 2026

**Referral:** \$200 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. Ninety percent 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 Health Plan, People’s Community Clinic, as well as other organizations to recruit campers. Nature Discovery Camp is an overnight camp for 4th-8th graders with 26 campers per session. Program activities include nature hikes, swimming, field trips, a service project, healthy food, and nights under a starry sky.

### The Campsite at Shield Ranch



## EL RANCHITO AT SHIELD RANCH

Camp is located at the Campsite at Shield Ranch, on a protected 6,600-acre wildland just 20 miles southwest of central Austin. El Ranchito has operated since 2007, and the artfully designed and off-grid permanent camp facilities are home to 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, an industrial kitchen, innovative sustainable systems for showers and evaporative composting toilets, and a safe place during inclement weather. With 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.
- Other duties as assigned

### **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