

Wanakee

Job Description

Job Title: **Counselor**

Reports to: *Program Director*

Position Summary:

Counselors are the primary caregivers for campers. The Counselor is responsible for planning, teaching, coordinating, and carrying out activities and guiding campers in their personal, social, and spiritual growth and daily living skills.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Assist in the direction, supervision, and organization of campers in their living unit, within activities, and throughout the camp in order to meet the intended camper outcomes.
 - ♦ Foster a Christian environment.
 - ♦ Apply basic youth development principles in working with campers.
 - ♦ Assure campers are properly supervised at all times.
 - ♦ Be aware of and implement safety guidelines.
2. Participate in the development and implementation of program activities for campers within the mission and outcomes.
 - ♦ Responsible for leading and assisting with the teaching of activities.
 - ♦ Provide for the progression of activities within the framework of individual and group interests and abilities.
 - ♦ Assist in program areas such as waterfront, nature, all camp activities, and arts and crafts as directed.
3. Maintain high standards of health and safety in all activities for campers and staff.
 - ♦ Provide the daily care of each camper within your supervision including recognition of personal health needs.
 - ♦ Ensure that campers receive their medications as directed by health care manager.
 - ♦ Be alert to campers and staff needs and assist them with personal and/or health problems, and discuss with camp health manager and/or resident camp director when appropriate.
 - ♦ Be alert to equipment and facilities to ensure utilization, proper care, and maintenance is adhered to; report repairs needed promptly to camp director.
4. Be a role model to campers and staff in your attitude and behavior.
 - ♦ Follow and uphold all safety and security rules and procedures.
 - ♦ Set a good example to campers and others in regard to general camp procedures and practices including sanitation, schedule, and sportsmanship.

Other Job Duties:

- ♦ Participate enthusiastically in all camp activities, planning, and leading those as assigned.
- ♦ Participate as a member of the camp staff team to deliver and supervise evening programs, special events, overnights, and other all-camp activities and camp functions.
- ♦ When not assigned to a campsite, work 'in service' in performing support staff duties

Relationships:

- ♦ Communicate camper needs and concerns to management, program, kitchen, health, and maintenance staff in a professional and timely manner.

Qualifications:

- ♦ Must be 18 years of age or high school graduate.
- ♦ Must be able to obtain or become certified in First Aid/CPR.
- ♦ Must submit health history record and examination form prior to first day of work.
- ♦ Ability to interact with all age levels.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- ♦ Understand the development needs of youth.
- ♦ Ability to relate to youth and adults in a positive manner.
- ♦ Demonstrate knowledge and skill in designated camp program areas.

Physical Aspects of the Job:

- ♦ Ability to communicate and work with groups participating (age and skill levels) and provide necessary instruction to campers and staff.
- ♦ Ability to observe camper behavior, assess its appropriateness, enforce appropriate safety regulations and emergency procedures, and apply appropriate behavior-management techniques.
- ♦ Ability to observe staff behavior, assess its appropriateness, enforce appropriate safety regulations and emergency procedures, and apply appropriate management techniques.
- ♦ Visual and auditory ability to identify and respond to environmental and other hazards related to the activity.
- ♦ Physical ability to respond appropriately to situations requiring first aid. Must be able to assist campers in an emergency (fire, evacuation, illness, or injury) and possess strength and endurance required to maintain constant supervision of campers.

Some physical requirements of a Counselor position could be endurance including prolonged standing, some bending, stooping, walking long distances, hiking, climbing, and stretching; requires eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity to manipulate outdoor equipment and camp activities; requires normal range of hearing and eyesight to record, prepare, and communicate appropriate camper activities/programs and the ability to lift up to 50 lbs; willing to live in a camp setting and work irregular hours with limited or simple equipment and facilities; and with daily exposure to the sun, heat, and natural environment.

About Wanakee:

Wanakee is a traditional Christian summer camp and year-round retreat center, owned and operated by the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our camp and retreat programming focuses on building loving relationships and communities of radical acceptance. Find us at www.wanakee.org or on most social media outlets @wanakeenh.