



Camp Mercer – Summer Camp Counselor

Location:

Ewing, NJ

Position Type/Classification:

Full-time/Seasonal

Reporting To:

Assistant Director of Camp

Compensation/Salary Range:

\$22/hour

Organizational Overview

HomeFront’s mission is to end homelessness in Central New Jersey by harnessing the caring resources and expertise of the community. We lessen the immediate pain of homelessness and help families become self-sufficient. We give people skills and opportunities to ensure adequate incomes and to increase the availability of adequate affordable housing. We help homeless families advocate for themselves individually and collectively.

Camp Mercer, an eight-week day camp, fills the gap for families, providing children ages 5-15 with educational and enrichment opportunities that help uncover talents and build self-confidence. Mornings are devoted to academics to help with “summer learning lag” and afternoons to fun and adventure.

Job Summary/Objective

A Camp Mercer counselor utilizes a trauma informed care approach to walk alongside campers. They understand challenges faced by children experiencing homelessness and want to dedicate their summer to help campers work through them. They serve as a role model, an advisor, a confidant, and a supervisor to the campers. The counselor is directly responsible for all campers in the assigned group, and indirectly responsible for all campers within the camp. The Counselor assists in creating a safe, nurturing, fun and educational experience for each camper as they accompany and actively participate in all activities their group does. The Counselor uses common sense and good judgment to significantly impact camper experience.

Essential Job Functions/Responsibilities

- Utilize trauma informed care approach while working with campers.
- Attend and be an active participant in pre-camp orientation and all staff meetings.
- Identify and meet campers physical and emotional needs.
- Strive to handle all conflicts with patience, compassion, and consistency.
- Coach and rectify inappropriate behavior in a respectful and sensitive manner.
- Active and enthusiastic participation in leading all camp program activities within their group, including, crafts, outdoor recreation, games, the arts, and team building activities, etc.
- Communicate with parents/guardians about campers’ day, activities, needs or concerns when appropriate
- Monitor time and maintain schedule for assigned group.

- Ensure campers are appropriately prepared for activities; clothing, accessories, sunscreen, towels, footwear.
- Be observant of camper's health and behavior and notify camp supervisors or director of concerns
- Awareness of surroundings to anticipate and prevent dangers.
- Set up, break down and clean-up of activities.
- Assist enrichment specialist with delivery of curriculum.
- Enforce and follow all health and safety guidelines
- Understand and follow emergency summer camp procedures.

Required Experience and Education

- At least 18 years of age
- High School graduate or GED/HSE
- Previous camp or teaching experience preferred
- Compassion for marginalized families
- Must be or become certified in First Aid and CPR upon hire (training provided by the employer).
- Experience working with children.
- Ability to react calmly and effectively in emergency situations
- Maintains skills and trainings necessary to meet the job requirements.
- Ability to relate to one's peer group and work as a team.

Preferred Experience and Education

- Pursuing or completed post-secondary education program (vocational, college, etc.)
- Desire and the ability to work with children outdoors.
- Commitment to the implementation of managing diversity and can work with people or persons of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

Schedule

- Eight (8) hour shifts, Monday – Friday 8:30am – 5:30pm

Physical Demands

- Walking, standing, or sitting for long periods of time.
- Bending, lifting, pushing, kneeling, crouching, crawling, stooping.
- Must be able to lift to 50 pounds.
- Must be able to reach at and above shoulder height to access higher areas of equipment, etc.
- Must be capable of adapting to frequent changes in position throughout the workday.
- Hearing and speaking to exchange information in person or on the telephone.
- Use of hands and fingers for manipulation, and using computer keyboard, educational tools, play equipment, and perform first aid and CPR, if needed.
- Specific vision abilities required include close vision, distance vision, color vision, and depth perception.
- Exposed to weather conditions prevalent at the time.

- Exposed to outdoors, trees, grass, dust, and dirt.

Travel

- There is no expected outside travel. All travel happens on the days of programming and transportation is provided.

Remote Work Eligibility

- This role is considered on-site essential based on the nature of the responsibilities.

Disclaimer

This position description neither constitutes a contract of employment nor is designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties, or responsibilities that are required of the employee. Other duties, responsibilities, and activities may change or be assigned at any time with or without notice. Company may exercise its employment-at-will rights at any time.

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