

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD) Template

Title: HomeFront Summer Camp Recreation VISTA

Sponsoring Organization: HomeFront

Project Name:

Project Number: 21VS245869

Project Period: 06/13/2022 – 08/19/2022

Site Name (if applicable):

Focus Area(s)

Primary:

Secondary:

Note:

If your VAD is not accepted, the State Office will note the reason(s) why here.

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

Goal of the Project: For many years, HomeFront has run Camp Mercer, a day camp that serves children and youth from low opportunity families. We create a safe, welcoming environment, while giving them a summer of social, intellectual, and personal enrichment. We anticipate running a 2022 summer program with as much in-person interaction as the pandemic will permit. The Summer Camp Counselors will be a critical part of bringing the Summer Camp to life by working alongside children and youth from low opportunity families.

Camp Mercer's Recreational Coordinator utilizes a trauma informed care approach to walk alongside campers. They have an understanding of barriers 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 Recreational Coordinator plans, promotes and coordinates activities for campers. This position is also responsible for participant safety. The Recreational Coordinator partners with camp staff in creating a safe, fun and educational experience and active devotion to the well being and happiness of each camper. They create strong relationships with corporate partners, donors and local businesses to provide high level activities within our restricted budget. Uses common sense and good judgment to significantly impact camper experience.

Objective of the Assignment (06/13/2022 – 06/24/2022)

Collaborate with fellow team members to prepare for an eight week day camp

Member Activities:

1. Collaborate with a team to plan activities, trips, and special events
 - a. Research best practices to develop meaningful and fun activities
 - b. Partner with HomeFront staff, volunteers, and community partners to ensure that programs are well-rounded and include educational enrichment, fun, good nutrition, physical activity, and emotional support
 - c. Bond with other camp staff in order to form a strong, close team
 - d. Learn and utilize best practices for walking alongside children utilizing a trauma informed care approach
 - e. Familiarize themselves with and adhere to HomeFront and Camp Mercer policies and procedures

Objective of the Assignment (06/27/2022 – 08/19/2022)

Provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive summer enrichment experience for children who are currently experiencing homelessness.

Member Activities:

1. Plan and conduct recreational activities for campers ages 5-15 including crafts, sports, the arts, outdoor recreation, team building activities, games, corporate/foundation sponsored camp events
 - a. Strive to handle all conflicts with patience, compassion and consistency
 - b. Active and enthusiastic participation in leading all camp program activities
 - c. Delegate tasks to volunteers/interns/counselors in regard to recreational activities.
 - d. Prepare facility (field, rooms, etc.) for planned events
 - e. Ensure facility is maintained and safety procedures are followed
 - f. Monitor recreational events
 - g. Order and maintain sporting equipment (balls, bats, equipment, etc.)