

South Dakota 4-H Camps

Camp Counselor Volunteer Position Description



Job Title: Camp Counselor

Classification: Volunteer

Reports to: Program Director

Position Purpose: Counselors are the primary caregivers for each camper. The Counselor is responsible for guiding campers in their personal growth and daily living skills, while they are in attendance of any camps offered through the South Dakota 4-H Youth Development Program.

Qualifications: *(Minimum Education and Experience)*

- Must attend yearly South Dakota 4-H Camp Counselor Training – date TBD
- Ability to interact with all age levels, this includes youth and adults.
- Must be 16 years old by June 1
- Must be enrolled in SD 4-H by the start of camp.

Essential Job Functions:

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.
 - Apply basic youth development principles in working with campers through communication, relationship development, respect for diversity, involvement and empowerment of youth.
 - 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 assisting with the teaching of activities.
 - Actively participate in all program areas as assigned.
 - 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 program director when appropriate.
 - Be alert to equipment and facilities to ensure utilization, proper care, and maintenance is adhered to; report repairs needed promptly to program director.



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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:

- Contribute to verbal and written evaluations and communication as requested.
- 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.
- Assist in the planning of any special events on or near the waterfront.

Relationships:

- Ability to uphold a professional, working relationship with program director, chaperones, and staff in order to maintain a safe, healthy, fun and educational environment for all youth campers.

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 program areas 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.
- Maintain endurance for prolonged standing, some bending, stopping, walking long distances, hiking, climbing and stretching.
- Willingness to live in a camp setting and work irregular hours with limited or simple equipment and facilities; and with daily exposures to the sun, heat, and animals such as bugs, snakes, bats, etc.

Dates of Commitment: Vary year to year. Generally first half of June. Applications must designate the sessions for which they are available on the application.

