

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Counselor (Wilderness Programs)

Revised: February 2005

Reports To: Wilderness Programs Coordinator

General Function: The wilderness programs counselor is the primary caregiver to the teenage campers in her/his cabin group. As such, the counselor leads activities (including wilderness hiking and canoeing trips) and accompanies campers to them, prays with campers, leads discussions, and serves as a Christian role model.

Requirements: The wilderness programs counselor must be at least 20 years of age. While experience or training in working with children is quite helpful, what is most important is that the counselor be a person of integrity who is able to serve as a positive role model to youth. To properly support the mission and values of the camp, the counselor must be a person of strong personal faith, with a positive relationship with the Catholic Church.

Because each staff member lives and works closely with the members of the staff community, it is important that the counselor is able to collaborate with others, communicate clearly and honestly, and be willing to contribute as community needs change. The counselor must have a valid driver's license, must be certified in CPR and First Aid (training in these is provided by Camp Gray), and must have an awareness of the need to care for the environment.

Principal Activities:

- Accompany campers in his/her group (8 – 17 campers) to activities and meals in Explorer Village and on Wilderness Trips.
- Monitor the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of campers in the group
- Lead evening devotion/prayer time with the cabin group
- Monitor the behavior of the group and provide logical consequences for inappropriate behavior
- Plan, facilitate, and evaluate activities for campers
- Instruct and monitor campers in skills necessary for outdoor living, including fire-building, use of camp stoves, backpacking, canoeing, outdoor sanitation, low-impact camping, first aid, and safety
- Be available to listen to campers who need to talk
- Serve as a “lookout” at the pool during swim time
- Greet parents during Sunday registration and Friday check-out
- As needed (on a rotating basis), serve for a week as a Program Assistant, or as a Life Line.
- After Friday camper departure, participate in the cleaning of program equipment and common areas

- Attend required staff meetings
- Play with campers!!

Essential Functions:

- ◆ Ability to communicate procedures and regulations to staff and campers
- ◆ Ability, both visual and auditory, to identify safety hazards and monitor camper and staff behavior
- ◆ Ability to understand and implement behavior-management techniques
- ◆ Physical mobility and endurance to maintain constant supervision of campers
- ◆ Ability to communicate with and collaborate with staff peers and campers in providing program leadership and instruction
- ◆ Ability to understand and communicate the camp's spiritual vision
- ◆ Physical strength and endurance to lift up to 40 pounds, paddle a canoe for up to 60 minutes at a time, carry a backpack weighing up to 30 pounds, and hike safely in uneven terrain