RIVER CAMP

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WELCOME

We are so glad that you have taken an interest in River Camp with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (SJRPCT)! The following is an overview of the River Camp programs, staff responsibilities, and what to expect as camp staff.

WHAT IS RIVER CAMP?

River Camp consists of four summer day-camps held along the San Joaquin River:

River Camp at Scout Island (RCSI) is our flagship program, which has been running in Fresno for over 25 years. Approximately 120 1st-8th grade campers attend camp each week. There are 8 weeks of camp each summer. The RCSI Camp Director, AM/PM Assistants, Head Counselor, Junior Leader Director, 11 full-time counselors, and 2 Lifeguards staff this program.

Young Explorers (YE) is our Pre-K and Kindergarten program. It takes place at the River Center (SJRPCT’s headquarters in Fresno) and serves 20 campers each week. Young Explorers runs Tuesday-Thursday, from 9 am-12 pm. There are also 8 weeks of this camp each summer. The YE Director and 2 part-time counselors staff this program.

River Camp at Firebaugh (RCFB), founded in 2012, takes place in the rural community of Firebaugh. Approximately 60 1st-8th grade campers attend camp each week. There are 6 weeks of camp each summer (depending on available funding). The RCFB/OH Director, Head Counselor, 4 full-time counselors, and 1 Lifeguard staff this program.

River Camp at Owl Hollow (RCOH), new in 2020, takes place at the River Parkway Trust’s riverfront site, Owl Hollow (located near the River Center). Approximately 30 6th-8th grade campers attend camp each week. There are 2 weeks of camp each summer, which take place prior to the start of River Camp Firebaugh. The RCFB/OH Director, 3 full-time counselors, and 1 Lifeguard staff this program.

JUNIOR LEADERS

Junior Leaders are high-school student volunteers that assist with all of our River Camp programs. While counselors may rely on Junior Leaders to assist with many of their daily activities, they are expected to act as role models and counselors to Junior Leaders as well.

There is a designated Junior Leader Director who coordinates the Junior Leader program and works with program participants each day at camp.
STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Each counselor is in charge of a group of 9-11 campers each week. Campers range in age from 5-13 (1st-8th grade) at Scout Island and Firebaugh, 10-13 (6th-8th grade) at Owl Hollow, and 3.5-6 at Young Explorers. Counselors are assigned a new group each week, and are in charge of their group throughout the day. Typical responsibilities include leading daily teambuilding and educational activities, nature hikes, small group games, and arts and crafts. Additionally, counselors will have 1-2 Junior Leaders assigned to their group every week. All counselors are expected to treat their position seriously and attend camp with enthusiasm and respect each day.

A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP

While every day is different, most camp staff will work approximately 8:30 am—4:30 pm each day. YE staff typically work 8:00 am—1:00 pm each day.

A typical day at RCSI, RCFB, or RCOH includes:

- Individual Group Time
- Big Group Time (all-camp)
- Snack Time
- Games/Environmental Education Activities/Nature Walks/Exploration
- Lunch
- Big Group Time (all-camp)
- Arts & Crafts/Swim/Canoe
- Snack Time
- Big Group Time (all-camp wrap-up for the day)

A typical day at YE includes:

- Big Group Time
- Educational Activity/Nature Walk
- Snack Time
- Craft Time/Story Time/Exploration Activity
- Water Play
- Wrap-up
TIME OFF

All RCSI and YE staff receive the week of July 4th off. RCFB staff work June 29th-July 2nd. Staff may request a maximum of one week personal time off (vacations, etc.) during the camp season; requests must be made prior to the start of camp. Emergency time off may be granted as necessary. As our first priority is to ensure the safety and adequate supervision of our campers, time off may not be granted even if requested.

STAFF POSITIONS

Lifeguard (RCSI, RCFB, and RCOH) - The Lifeguards at RCSI, RCFB, and RCOH act as assistants to the Camp Directors. In addition to performing swim area set up and regular water safety activities, they assist with set-up and clean-up each day, as well as other activities as requested by the Camp Directors. This is a full-time position.

Counselor (RCSI, RCFB, and RCOH) - Counselors are the backbone of our River Camp programs. They lead their groups through various activities each day, assist with general camp set-up and clean-up, and act as role models for Junior Leaders. This is a full-time position.

Counselor (YE) - YE counselors work cooperatively together to lead the 20 Pre-k campers through their activities each day. They assist with set-up and clean-up, and act as role models for Junior Leaders. Additionally, YE staff may assist with camp administration and office tasks. This is a part-time position; 10-20 hours/week, typically Tu-Th AM only.

AM/PM Assistant (RCSI) - The AM assistant oversees early drop-off and morning registration at the River Center, while the PM assistant oversees afternoon pick-up at the River Center. Both positions have additional camp duties at Scout Island including setting up activities, assisting counselors with groups, and managing social media/photography. These are part-time positions 27 hours/week.

Alternate Counselor (All programs) - Alternate counselors are part-time staff that fill in for full-time counselors as needed. Alternates typically work several full weeks during the camp season, and get experience at all four of our River Camp programs. This is a part time position.

Intern (All programs) - Interns assist at camp or with administrative duties as necessary. Interns have highly flexible scheduling, and gain leadership experience by shadowing counselors. This is a part-time, unpaid position; 5-15 hours/week.

Daily start and end times vary by program site and staff position. Full-time staff are strongly encouraged not to maintain any other employment over the course of the summer.
NEW APPLICANT GROUP INTERVIEW

Applicants new to River Camp programs (including former campers/Junior Leaders who have not served on staff previously) are required to attend a two hour group interview after the initial round of one-on-one interviews has ended. If a new applicant is unable to attend the group interview date, alternate arrangements must be made in advance. The new applicant group interview will take place on April 4th, 2020.

HIRING TIMELINE

January—Applications open
March—Applications close, interviews conducted
April— New applicant group interview, positions are offered
May—First aid training
June—Staff training
June - August—Camp!

TO APPLY

To apply to work at River Camp 2020 complete our application packet and submit it to mschnur-salimbene@riverparkway.org by March 6th, 2020. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Full information on the application process can be found on our website.