



River Camp Head Counselor

General Description

River Camp is a summer day camp program held along the San Joaquin River. There are currently six River Camp programs: River Camp Young Explorers at the River Center, River Camp Adventurers at Scout Island, River Camp Academy at Sumner Peck Ranch and Sycamore Island (two programs serving local school districts), River Camp Rangers at Owl Hollow, and River Camp Firebaugh at Dunkle Park. For full descriptions of all the River Camp programs, please visit our [Pre-Application Information Guide, linked on our website.](#)

Head Counselor applicants apply to River Camp programs in general and may be offered a position at any of the six programs or asked to work at multiple programs during the camp season. While Parkway staff will ask about site preferences during the interview process, placement at the indicated preferred program site is not guaranteed.

River Camp programs typically include environmental education activities, wildlife habitat exploration, swimming and canoeing, games, arts and crafts, songs, and free time. Specific activities and Head Counselor duties vary by program. River Camp programs are conducted entirely outdoors. Applicants should be physically capable of comfortably working outside in high heat for up to 8 hours each day. Training on safety, working with youth, and specific camp activities will be provided during the training session, spread over four weeks in May and June. River Camp staff report directly to the respective River Camp Site Director and are responsible for conducting the daily activities at camp.

Head Counselor Responsibilities and Duties

- Assist River Camp Site Director in providing ongoing training on group management techniques, leadership development, and environmental education activities with Counselors.
- Assist River Camp Site Director in bi-weekly evaluations of staff and brief weekly check-ins.
- Provide AM & PM breaks for staff.
- In the event a Counselor is unexpectedly out, act as interim Counselor for said group.
- Lead environmental education camp games and activities for groups of up to 40 campers.
- Assist the River Camp Site Director with daily tasks, activities and miscellaneous tasks as assigned.

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- Assist with daily site set-up and clean-up.
- All positions assist with materials management and maintenance, site organization and cleanliness, and may be asked to perform other duties related to the daily implementation of camp programs by the respective River Camp Site Director.
- Adventurers Only:
 - Head Counselors are responsible for morning check-in, and afternoon check-out at the River Center. The two Head Counselors will split the morning and afternoon shifts throughout the summer.
 - Head Counselors are responsible for early camper drop off and late camper pick up at the River Center.
 - Early drop off begins at 7:30am in the River Center barn. Head Counselors will take role, ensuring the present campers are enrolled in early drop off, and will oversee the group of campers until 8:30am. The Head Counselor will then take the group to the check-in area.
 - Late pick up runs until 5:15pm at the River Center check-in/out area. Head Counselors are responsible for overseeing the group of campers and making any necessary phone calls to camp families.

Essential Functions and Qualifications

- Must have completed 1 year of college or equivalent time/experience working with children or working in environmental education.
 - Prior River Camp Staff experience strongly preferred.
- Ability to maintain a positive learning environment.
- Ability to work well with parents, other adults, peers, and children.
- Ability to stand, stoop, kneel, crouch, walk, swim, use hands/fingers (dexterity) and lift up to 40 lbs.
- Ability to work entirely outdoors in heat (sometimes exceeding 110°F).
- Previous successful experience working with children.
- Interest in the outdoors and water activities; experience with watercraft/canoes preferred.
- High energy and a positive attitude.
- Knowledge and/or appreciation of conservation and the natural world.
- Spanish and/or Hmong language ability preferred.
- *All individuals working with children must submit to a DOJ background check through LiveScan service upon receiving a conditional offer of employment if over 18.*
 - *If hired for the River Camp Academy program with the Fresno Unified School District, additional fingerprinting through the school district will be required.*

Time Commitment

- All River Camp staff **are required to attend at least 75% of staff training.**
- Staff may request a **maximum** of five days personal time off (vacation, etc.) during the camp season, though requested time off may not be granted.

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- Time commitments will vary at each individual program; information listed below may be subject to change.
 - River Camp Young Explorers – 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, M-F, June 22nd-August 14th
 - River Camp Adventurers – 9:00 am – 4:30 pm, M-F, June 22nd-August 14th
 - River Camp Academy - 8:15 am – 4:15 pm, dates TBD
 - River Camp Rangers– 8:15 am – 4:15 pm, M-F, June 22nd-August 14th
 - River Camp at Firebaugh – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, M-F, June 22nd-July 31st

Starting Rate: \$17.75/hour

To Apply

- **New staff:**
 - Complete the brief Google Form ([click here to access](#)) to indicate interest.
 - After Parkway staff review each response, selected staff will be invited to submit a cover letter, resume, and completed job application (please be sure to provide both a phone number and e-mail address for the references listed in the application), and attend a group interview in April.
 - Select participants will then be invited to participate in a formal interview with the River Camp Leadership Team.
 - Please be sure to provide both a phone number and e-mail address for the references listed in the application.
 - Interest form responses are due March 23rd, 2026.
- **Return staff:**
 - Complete a job application, cover letter, and submit a resume to the email kkincaid@riverparkway.org with the subject line “River Camp Head Counselor Application.”
 - Returners do not need to fill out the Google Form or attend the group interview.
 - Applications due by March 30th, 2026.

**Please note: River Camp positions are extremely competitive. Please take a moment to review one of the many online guides [detailing how to write a cover letter](#) and [how to write a resume](#) before submitting your completed application packet.*

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