



River Camp 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.](#)

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 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.

Counselor Responsibilities and Duties

- Supervising groups of 10-14 campers (ages pre-K through high school, site dependent) and overseeing basic group management for that group.
- Leading basic games, songs and activities, arts and crafts and providing supervision during water activities.
- Shadowing/learning environmental education activities with the goal of leading them independently.
- Assist with site set up and site clean-up as needed throughout the camp day.
- Providing leadership for and direction of Junior Leaders (high school volunteers).

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- 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.

Essential Functions and Qualifications

- Must be age 16+ and have valid authorization to work in the US; if entering Junior or Senior year of high school in fall 2026, a work permit provided through high school is required.
- DMV report required on hiring for those with current Driver's License.
- 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 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.
- Reliable transportation is required.
 - *You may be required to submit a written transportation plan detailing how you will arrive and depart from your primary work location daily (situation dependent).*
- 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.
- 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/hour

To Apply

- **New staff:**

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- 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 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.*