



RIVER CAMP

PRE-APPLICATION GUIDE

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WELCOME!

We are so glad that you are interested in River Camp with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (Trust)! This guide is an overview of the River Camp programs, staff responsibilities, and what you can expect as camp staff.



WHY WORK AT RIVER CAMP?

"River Camp is rewarding and fun! The campers and getting to be funny with your team is so enjoyable, you're always supported."

"I plan to work with kids in the future, so working at River Camp has allowed me to build my communication skills with children. This job has also allowed me to observe the different types of behavior that kids have."

RIVER CAMP ISN'T JUST A SUMMER JOB IT'S AN ADVENTURE THAT SETS YOU UP FOR LIFE

For so many local youth, the magic of River Camp comes to life through an amazing team of leaders who create positive, inclusive, and unforgettable experiences. As a staff member, you'll help shape moments of self-expression, education, and leadership, while building lifelong connections with your team.

Why River Camp?

- **Make an impact:** Your work will influence and inspire campers, helping them discover new strengths and talents.
- **Develop real skills:** Whether you're leading activities, managing a group, or teaching about the environment, you'll walk away with concrete skills like leadership, communication, problem-solving, and teamwork.
- **Career growth:** Many River Camp staff members go on to excel in education, outdoor careers, and community roles. Plus, you'll benefit from references and mentorship opportunities to support your professional growth.
- **Build confidence:** You'll get out of your comfort zone, and trust us, you'll be amazed at how much you grow by the end of summer.
- **Have fun:** This isn't just work – it's the best way to spend a summer! Enjoy the outdoors, make friends, and be part of something truly special along the San Joaquin River.
- **Stand out:** Employers seek the skills you'll develop at River Camp, and it looks fantastic on your resume.

So, if you're ready to make a difference, develop real skills, and have the time of your life – River Camp is calling. Join us for an unforgettable summer of creativity, leadership, and pure fun!

RIVER CAMP PROGRAMS

River Camp 2025 consists of six summer day-camps held along the San Joaquin River Parkway:



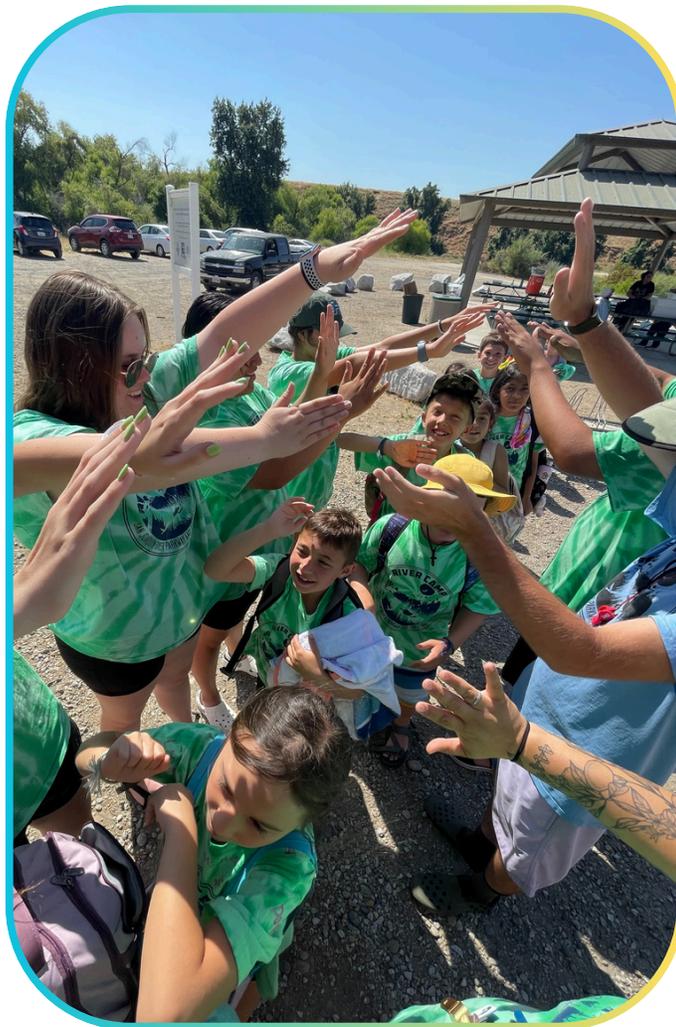
[Young Explorers](#) serves Pre-K and Kindergarten aged children. It takes place at the River Center (the Trust's headquarters in Fresno) and serves up to 18 campers each week. Young Explorers will run Monday-Friday, from 9 am-12 pm for 7 weeks of camp this summer. The Young Explorers Director and 1 - 2 part-time Counselor staff this program.

[River Camp Adventurers](#) serves approximately 120 1st-5th grade campers each week. It takes place at the Fresno County Office of Education's Scout Island property in Northwest Fresno. There are 7 weeks of camp this summer. 1 Director, 9 full-time Counselors, 2 Head Counselors, and 2 Lifeguards staff this program.

[River Camp Academy at Sumner Peck Ranch](#) serves approximately 72 1st-6th grade campers from local Unified School Districts each week. It takes place at the River Parkway Trust's Sumner Peck Ranch property in Friant, about a 5 minute drive from the River Center. The number of sessions in 2025 is TBD. The River Camp Academy Director, 1 Assistant Director, 2 Head Counselors, 6 full-time Counselors, and 1-2 Lifeguard(s) staff this program.

River Camp Academy at Sycamore Island

serves approximately 40 1st-6th grade campers from local Unified School Districts each week. It takes place at Sycamore Island, a State Conservancy property located near Valley Children's Hospital in Madera. The number of sessions in 2025 is TBD. The River Camp Academy Director, 1 Assistant Director, 1 Head Counselor/Lifeguard, and 3 full-time Counselors staff this program.



River Camp Rangers serves approximately

36 6th-8th grade campers each week. It takes place at Owl Hollow, a property owned by the River Parkway Trust, located just north of the River Center in Northeast Fresno. There are 7 weeks of camp this summer. The Rangers Camp Director, 1 Head Counselor/Lifeguard, and 3 full-time Counselors staff this program.



River Camp Firebaugh serves approximately 60 1st-8th grade campers each week. It takes place at Dunkle Park in the community of Firebaugh. There are 6 weeks of camp this summer (depending on available funding). The Camp Director, 1 Head Counselor, 5 full-time Counselors, and 1 Lifeguard staff this program.



A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP

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

A typical day at Adventurers, Academy, Rangers, or Firebaugh camps 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 Young Explorers includes:

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

TIME OFF

All staff must be able to attend at least 75% of the staff training dates. All staff receive the date of July 4th off. For full information on River Camp 2025 dates, [visit our website](#). 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

Head Counselor - Head Counselors provide leadership and on-going training to camp counselors while assisting the site director as necessary. They are expected to lead/teach environmental education activities weekly. Head Counselors at Adventurers are also responsible for daily check in/check out and the early drop off/late pick up program. Head Counselors must have been part of the River Camp program for a minimum of one season or completed one year of college. [Click here for the full position description.](#)

Counselor - Counselors lead camper groups through various activities each day. Counselor positions at Adventurers, Academy, Rangers, and Firebaugh camps are full time seasonal positions. Counselor positions at Young Explorers camp are part time seasonal positions, approximately 30 hours/week M-F AM only. [Click here for the full position description.](#)

Lifeguard - In addition to supervising swim time, the Lifeguards at Adventurers, Academy, Rangers, and Firebaugh camps act as assistants to the Camp Directors. This is a full time seasonal position. [Click here for the full position description.](#)

Alternate Counselor (All programs) - Alternate Counselors are part-time staff that fill in for full-time staff as needed.

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.



HIRING TIMELINE

February—Interest form/
applications open

April —Applications close. New
applicant group interview conducted,
select individual interviews, positions
offered

Late May/June—Staff training

June - August—Camp!



TO APPLY

To apply to work at River Camp 2025, new staff are to complete the interest form ([linked here](#)) and will then potentially be invited to complete the application packet and submit it to kkincaid@riverparkway.org. Full information on the application process can be found [on our website](#).



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