

Assistant Adventure Camp Counselor (Ages 11-13)

About the New Canaan Nature Center and Adventure Camp

The New Canaan Nature Center (NCNC) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit environmental education center and sanctuary dedicated to helping people of all ages better understand, appreciate and care for the world of nature. Located a short distance north of New York City, NCNC encompasses a 40-acre preserve in the heart of New Canaan, CT that features diverse habitats including wet and dry meadows and woodlands, two ponds, dense thickets, an old orchard, and a cattail marsh. Two miles of trails meander across the site. Through a diverse range of programs for schools, youth, adults, and families, the NCNC strives to create a deeper understanding and concern for the natural world through programs and exhibits that stress enjoyable and active, hands-on learning. It is our belief that personal awareness and involvement will enable citizens to make intelligent decisions relating to the future of our environment.

Our Adventure Camp programs provide campers, Ages 11-13, with an amazing opportunity to gain a greater appreciation for the natural world through guided exploration, high adventure outdoor activities, and overnight camping experiences. Each day campers are challenged as they journey through a world of self-discovery and personal growth. Through shared experiences and knowledge gained, Adventurers will create memories and strong, lasting bonds with other campers that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Much like the traditional craft and trade guilds of yore, Adventure Camp is structured with a design that allows each camper to develop their outdoor nature craft and hone their adventure skill set from year to year. Adventurers begin with daytime excursions into the wilds of the Nature Center and how-to practice sessions regarding camping and outdoor equipment. As they work their way up, campers learn valuable wilderness and adventure skills and get to put their knowledge to practice with offsite field trips and a weekly campfire. Over time, the Apprentice Adventurer becomes the Master as the fundamentals needed for safe adventures in the outdoors are put to the test in the wild.

Visit www.NewCanaanNature.org for more information.

Position

Assistant Adventure Camp Counselor - seasonal position with full time hours. Based on this classification, you are a temporary, non-exempt employee.

The Assistant Adventure Camp Counselor is the secondary facilitator and group manager for our Adventure Campers (ages 11-13) campers who participate in various on and off-site adventures during camp. This position assists the Lead Adventure Camp Counselor in implementing and developing education curricula and camp activities that support our summer camp themes and meet the NCNC's mission and sustainability policy. The Assistant Adventure Camp Counselor might also assist in managing Teacher-Naturalists-in-Training (TNT) high-school volunteers, during camp sessions. This position requires someone with strong leadership skills, good judgment with regards to safety and logistics, and a high level of responsibility. Must be willing to assume other responsibilities as assigned by Camp Director, if needed.



Working Hours

Monday through Friday, although some weekend work may be required. Typical operation hours of NCNC are from 8:30am to 4:30pm, except Thursdays which go to 7:30pm. Summer Camp schedule may require additional time beyond typical operation hours. Summer Camp season runs from approximately late June to mid-August, including as available All Camp Staff training (Summer Camp & Adventure Camp staff) the last week of May. Please check the website for details on camp session schedule for this year.

Qualifications/Requirements

The Assistant Adventure Camp Instructor must:

- A. Possess or be working towards a B.S./B.A. in Environmental Education, Biological Sciences, Education, Outdoor Recreation or other related field.
- B. Have at least one year prior experience in environmental/outdoor/adventure recreation education, formal and/or informal teaching, camps or similar experience working with children in a responsible and professional setting.
- C. Have at least one season of assistant experience in adventure trips, and team building activities (*experience facilitating canoeing/kayaking, hiking, rafting preferred*)
- D. Be able to work well as part of a team and interact well with campers and their parents.
- E. Possess the physical ability to work actively in the outdoors in all weather conditions.
- F. Hold *or* be willing to obtain certification in the following: Wilderness First Responder (WFR) *preferred* or Wilderness First Aid, CPR/AED, Epi-pen/Medical Administration, Lifeguarding (with waterfront module), Small Water Craft (canoe or kayak). **If not current, must be willing to obtain valid certification prior to the start of the camp season.**
- G. Possess a valid driver's license and a clean driving record (*Copy of driving record(s) required*)
- H. Possess a valid health/vaccination record (*required*).
- I. Possess enthusiasm for working with children and a sense of humor.
- J. Possess a passion for adventure in the outdoors.
- K. Be 25 years of age or older.

I. Program

Duties Include:

- A. Quality Programming
 - i. Maintaining CT state standards for summer camp operation, assisting with camper forms and other paperwork as needed.
 - ii. Ensuring that programs and activities meet camp goals, as well as the nature center mission and sustainability policy.
 - iii. Working with the other Instructors, Lead Adventure Camp Counselor, Camp Counselors, Resident EE Staff, Camp Director, and other NCNC staff to provide high quality adventure education experiences to all NCNC Summer Camp participants and TNT volunteers.
- B. Camp Curricula & Activities
 - i. Helping to plan and lead interactive and interdisciplinary camp programs for campers Ages 11-13 that focus on ecology and natural history, team building and adventure education while maximizing use of our outdoor classroom space and including field trip components.



- ii. Provide enthusiastic and innovative instruction - teaching through hands-on and inquiry-based methods that encourage exploration, awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of the natural environment.
- iii. Safely lead groups of up to 12 children in an outdoor setting and on offsite day field trips and expeditions while enacting solid group/behavior management protocols (handle camper adjustments in a caring and age-appropriate manner)
- iv. Helping with NCNC camping equipment maintenance, preparation, storage, and inventory.
- v. Assist in the accurate check-in/check-out of campers and greeting parents.
- vi. Help to supervise all Teacher/Naturalist in Training (TNT) assigned to your group.
- vii. Assist in safely transporting participants and equipment to areas of activity.

II. Camper Health and Safety

Duties Include:

- A. Recognizing and appropriately responding to hazards and emergencies.
- B. Maintaining CT state youth camp standards for instructor to camper ratios.
- C. Encouraging the personal and social development of children.
- D. Observing children and reporting all accidents, significant illnesses, and/or signs of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse to the Camp Director.
- E. Supervising participants and ensuring the safety of all staff and campers.

III. Records

Maintain accurate records:

- A. Update health and attendance records on a daily basis, with confidentiality for participants.
- B. Ensure proper records and storage for any camper medications within the Medication protocol of camp.

IV. Attendance

The Assistant Adventure Camp Instructor must:

- A. Attend staff training & orientation prior to the start of camp.
- B. Attend all morning staff check-ins & afternoon staff debriefs when on-site, as well as any other scheduled meeting.
- C. Participate in and supervise day trips and evening cookouts.

Compensation: \$20-22/hr

Closing Date: April 15 of each year or until filled.

Apply through Indeed