

Dear Prospective Junior Counselor,

Thank you for your interest in our unpaid Camper in Leadership Training Program at Tom Sawyer Camps. Below is information about being a Junior Counselor. Tom Sawyer Camps has been in operation since 1926 and is accredited by the American Camp Association and are active members of the Western Association of Independent Camps. We have about 450 children in camp each day during a typical summer. Last summer was not a typical summer for anyone! While we are grateful that we had a successful summer we were unable to offer the Junior Counselor program last summer and our camper numbers were significantly decreased.

We are VERY excited to be able to be able to run our Junior Counselor program this summer! While we anticipate being able to grow our camper capacity from last year, we still will not be at our pre-covid capacity. We will be offering 4 sessions that Junior Counselors can participate in. Sessions will be 2 weeks long with one 3 week session and will be able to accommodate about 10 Junior Counselors each session.

Being a Junior Counselor at camp can be the very best way to spend the summer no matter what long-term interests you may have. A camp position helps develop valuable personal skills that will be invaluable in life and for any kind of career. Our Junior Counselors develop leadership skills, learn about teamwork, gain autonomous responsibility, learn to be innovative and creative, and its FUN!

Junior Counselors have always been a very important part of TOM SAWYER CAMPS. Our carefully selected Junior Counselors spend their summer as role models for children, helping to create a memorable experience for all campers. Former JCs also find that the experience they receive at camp helps when looking for other jobs and applying to schools.

Outlined in the next few paragraphs are the specific requirements each Junior Counselor (JC) needs to meet in order to be considered for placement and the updated Covid regulations.

1. Each Junior Counselor must commit to being with us one ENTIRE camp session. Missed weeks are not allowed. Our campers and programs need consistency at camp and therefore we cannot permit our JCs to miss a week during a session. The session dates are:

- Session 1: June 14- June 25
- Session 2: June 28- July 9
- Session 3: July 12- July 23
- Session 4 July 26- Aug 13 (3 Weeks)

We no longer offer transportation for any campers or staff. This means Junior Counselors must be dropped off and picked up from camp each day. Camp times are approximately:

8:45AM - 3:45PM

2. Junior Counselors will only be placed in our specialist programs. No previous skill is required as we will have training, but if you have previous experience it is helpful. Specialist programs include:

- **Pool:** JC Swim Counselors are responsible for helping Senior counselors as they plan and teach lessons as well as helping campers in other ways during their pool block.
- **Horses:** JC Wranglers are responsible for helping teach groups of campers basic horsemanship skills. Previous experience with horses is recommended, but not required.
- **Archery:** Archery JC Counselors will help plan creative events and teach campers archery in fun and engaging ways.
- **Activities:** Activities JC Counselors help teach campers a wilderness living and arts/crafts program as well as coordinate special TSC traditions like our obstacle course and fort judging.

3. TSC will have Mandatory training dates for all Junior Counselors and other staff members, which usually takes place the week before camp starts (June 4- June 12). Specific dates and times will be posted closer to summer, but please try to keep that week free.

4. Following health guidelines and protocols is how we were able to have a successful summer last year. This means everyone is required to wear a mask while at camp, parents MUST approve and sign off on their child participating, daily symptom and temperature checks will be completed, and cleaning and sanitizing camp equipment is done regularly.

5. We ask that each applicant provide 2 references to be filled out by a teacher, an employer (i.e. family you baby-sit for), a coach, or any person that has seen you in a leadership position. We strongly recommend your references be returned prior to your interview. You can tell your references the form takes about 5-10 minutes. Let your references know that we will call them after your interview. (the reference link will be provided in the application.)

6. All interviews are being moved to online platforms and will be set up with applicants once the application is submitted.

***Please make sure that you can fulfill all of these requirements before applying to our Junior Counselor Program.**

-TSC Director Team