



TOM SAWYER CAMPS

INFORMATION GUIDE: JUNIOR COUNSELORS

ABOUT TOM SAWYER CAMPS

Tom Sawyer Camps was founded in 1926!

Each summer we offer 9 weeks of outdoor, unplugged programming, Monday- Friday for campers 3 years old through 8th grade.

- We have 3 programs at camp:
 - Pre Camp:** 3 year olds - Kindergarten
 - Day Camp:** Kindergarten - 4th grade
 - Outpost:** : 5th grade - 8th grade
- **Directors and Assistant Directors** oversee each program and activity at camp and supervise all Counselors.
- We have 3 categories of Counselors who work at camp:
 - ★ **Junior Counselors:** Current 9th and 10th graders **(unpaid)**
 - Assistant Counselors:** Current 11th and 12th grader (paid)
 - Senior Counselors:** Current college freshman/equivalent or older (paid)
- **SERVICE HOURS:** Junior Counselor positions are UNPAID, but counselors can receive service hours for their time at TSC as long as their school will accept it.
- Junior Counselors are placed in different programs at camp and must commit to 1 full session as well as the mandatory training dates, see following pages for details.

JUNIOR COUNSELOR REQUIREMENTS

**BEFORE APPLYING PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU
MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA**

- Currently a high school Freshman (9th) or Sophomore (10th) at the time of application submission.
- Able to secure a ride to and from camp daily. Pick-Up Point Buses are available in select areas, which Junior Counselors can opt into as long as there is space (transportation not guaranteed).
- Being fully vaccinated and updated on available/suggested boosters for COVID-19 is strongly recommended.
- Able to attend both Mandatory Trainings (June 1st and 8th) and commit to at least 1 Full Junior Counselor Session (3 or 4 weeks), Monday-Friday.

CAMP DATES JUNE 10 - AUGUST 9

- Junior Counselors commit to working the at least 1 full session:

JC Session 1: June 10th- July 5th (4 weeks)

JC Session 2: July 8th- August 2nd (4 weeks)

JC Session 3: July 22nd -August 9th (3 weeks)

- Counselors work Mon-Fri and daily start and end times are determined by position (see Positions page)

TRAINING MAY 30- JUNE 8

- ALL Counselors are required to attend training before camp starts. Below is a tentative schedule. Different positions have additional required trainings.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				MAY 30 	May 31	JUNE 1 
JUNE 2 	JUNE 3 	JUNE 4	JUNE 5	JUNE 6	JUNE 7 	JUNE 8 
JUNE 9	JUNE 10 					

 2 MANDATORY Full Day Trainings for ALL counselors

 Position specific Training that is strongly recommended.

- Junior Counselors **MUST** attend **BOTH** Saturday Trainings. Those training days typically run 8AM-4PM.

JUNIOR COUNSELOR: POSITION DETAILS

SPECIALIST COUNSELORS

- Most Junior Counselors are placed with our Specialist Programs: Horses, Pool, Archery, or Activities.
- Assigned to a specific activity at camp, has extra specialized training in that activity, sees multiple groups and possibly multiple aged campers at their assigned activity everyday.
- Responsible for assisting Senior and Assistant Counselors to teach and facilitate the assigned activities. Specialist Counselors positions are available at the following areas and the approximate hours are listed.

Pool: 9:00AM-3:00PM

Activities: 9:15AM-3:45PM

Horses: 9:00AM-3:45PM

Archery: 9:15AM-3:45PM

GROUP COUNSELORS

- Assigned to a specific age group of (12-14) campers in Pre Camp only. Campers aged 3- 5/6 years old. They spend every day with this group, work Senior and Assistant Counselors to lead the group through the daily schedule.
- Approximate daily hours are: **8:30AM-3:30PM.**

NOTE: Junior Counselors placed at Pool or with a Pre Camp Group are expected to be in the water daily.

JC APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1 READ THIS GUIDE

- Make sure you have read through this guide, discussed with your parent/guardian, and can fulfill the requirements (mandatory training and sessions) BEFORE you fill out an application.
- We cannot always accommodate everyone's first choice so more flexibility on session and placement choice is helpful.
- If you or your parent/guardian has any questions, Applicants can email Kate at kate@tomsawycercamps.com. We always encourage the Junior Counselor applicant to reach out vs. the parent/guardian.

STEP 2 LOG IN AND COMPLETE AN APPLICATION

- Have a parent/guardian create a username and password or log in to their existing account [here](#).
Yes: you are supposed to be on the camper side of the system.
- Click 'Start a New Application' and enter your age and grade, which will generate the Junior Counselor Application.
- Fill out the application completely and thoughtfully (Junior Counselor applicants please fill this out yourself). Remember this application is our first impression of you. Submit your application and wait for a TSC Director to email you.

JC APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 3 REFERENCES & GROUP INTERVIEW

- We ask that each applicant provide 2 references. A link will be provided in the application that applicants may email to their selected references.
- Group Interview date and details will be emailed after the application has been submitted. Once an applicant has attended a Group Interview they will be contacted by a Director regarding possible position and next steps.

IMPORTANT DATES

GROUP INTERVIEW DATES

Option 1: February 17th, 10:00-12:00PM (Saturday)

Option 2: March 16th, 10:00-12:00PM (Saturday)

Option 3: April 6th, 10:00-12:00PM (Saturday)

SESSION DATES

JC Session 1: June 10th- July 5th (4 weeks)

JC Session 2: July 8th- August 2nd (4 weeks)

JC Session 3: July 22nd -August 9th (3 weeks)

TRAINING DATES More detailed information on the last page.

MANDATORY

June 1st (Saturday): 8-4pm

June 10th (Saturday): 8-4pm

OPTIONAL

May 30 (Thursday): Optional

June 2nd (Sunday): Optional

June 3rd (Monday): Optional

June 7th(Friday): Optional

A FEW THINGS TO **EXPECT** FROM A POSITION AT TOM SAWYER CAMPS:

TO WORK HARD! This is a hard and demanding position. It's outside, it's hot, it's dirty, and it's physical. Working with our campers requires energy, patience, and engagement. There is no use of technology during the camp day as our responsibility is to be present for our campers.

TO LEARN! The learning at camp is constant! Not just the skills you learn at training, but also an incredible list of skills that our counselors take with them and use in many different areas of their lives. No matter what your future interests are, the skills you learn at camp are transferable to all majors, jobs, etc.

TO PLAY AND BE SILLY! All our counselors play WITH our campers not just supervise. That means playing the games with campers, playing in the mud and getting dirty, singing silly songs, etc. Anything we are asking our campers to do, you as a counselor should expect to do as well.

TO MAKE FRIENDS! Camp is a wonderful community of like-minded people who will all share the incredible experience of being a Camp Counselor. This community is something that continues far after the summer. The more you put in the more you will get out.

TO MAKE AN IMPACT! Counselors have a rare opportunity to make a lasting impact on young campers. They will be looking to you for guidance, support, kindness, empathy, knowledge, silliness, fun, and more. Campers WILL remember for what you have done for years to come...so be ready to make a difference!

TO HAVE FUN! This is a HARD and sometimes exhausting position. If you are open to learning, trying new things, and growing it is one of the most FUN positions you can find! We want EVERYONE, campers and staff to have FUN!

WHY YOUR TEEN SHOULD BE A JUNIOR COUNSELOR

The Junior Counselor Program is a Leadership Program for high school students in 9th or 10th grade. This no cost, unpaid summer position is a great introduction into the skills needed to become independent and responsible young adults.

The goal of the program is to give Junior Counselors the opportunity to grow in a variety of areas that will ultimately be useful tools when applying to colleges, applying to jobs, etc. They achieve this, all while having fun outdoors, unplugged, with other like-minded people. We see skill growth in areas such as independence, responsibility, public speaking, time management, communication, professionalism, teamwork, flexibility, and many more.

This skill building starts with the application process. There are parts that will require parental/guardian help, but our goal is to partner with parents/guardians to create opportunities for these 9th and 10th graders to start doing things for themselves and really be in the driver seat of this process.

TSC TRAINING INFORMATION

TSC Mandatory Trainings: 6/1 and 6/8

- Full day of training at camp location. Mandatory for all TSC staff. Typically 8am-4pm
- Staff must attend BOTH Saturday trainings

TSC Optional (but highly recommended) Trainings:

Trainings:

Thursday May 30th

- Junior Counselor Training- specific training centered around the role of a Junior Counselor. Great way to understand the position and meet others before the first Saturday training.

Sunday June 2nd

- Horses Training- position specific training really helpful for working with the Horse program
- Pool Training- position specific training really helpful for working with the Pool program

Monday June 3rd

- Activities Training- position specific training really helpful for working with the Activities program
- Archery Training- position specific training really helpful for working at and instructing Archery

Friday June 7th

- Horses Training- position specific training really helpful for working with the Horse program
- Pool Training- position specific training really helpful for working with the Pool program

Other:

Picking up TSC Gear: Pick one date below to come to the TSC Office and pick up your Gear

- 5/28, 5/29, or 6/3

First Aid/CPR Class: If there are spaces in our First Aid/CPR classes, Junior Counselors may sign up to take one. First priority of classes goes to our Senior and Assistant Counselors.

- 6/2, 6/4, 6/7, 6/9



