

# Lead Camp Counselor (Ages 6-9)

## About the New Canaan Nature Center and Summer 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 Summer Camp program aims to get children “unplugged” from electronics and other indoor activities by creating and strengthening the connection of children to nature through sustainable, exciting, hands-on interactions in the out-of-doors. It is our goal to “Leave No Child Inside” over the summer as there exists an entire world of adventure just waiting outside the door. Our Summer Camp serves approximately 850 children, ages 2-15, through half-day, full-day, and overnight adventure programs. The goal of camp is to provide quality environmental education experiences, which meet the mission and sustainability policy of the NCNC, within a fun and exciting camp atmosphere.

Visit [www.NewCanaanNature.org](http://www.NewCanaanNature.org) for more information.

## Position

Lead Camp Counselor - full-time, seasonal position. Based on this classification, you are a temporary, part-time and non-exempt employee.

Lead Camp Counselors are the primary facilitators and group managers for our various groups of campers (ages 6-10). Working with and mentoring our Assistant Camp Counselors, these positions are responsible for implementing and developing education curricula and camp activities that support our yearly camp themes and meet the NCNC’s mission and sustainability policy. Lead Camp Counselors will assist in managing Teacher-Naturalists-in-Training (TNT) high-school volunteers during camp sessions.

## Working Hours

Monday through Friday, although some weekend work may be required. Typical operation hours of NCNC are from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Summer Camp schedule may require additional time beyond typical operation hours. Summer Camp 2010 season runs from approximately June 21-August 27, 2010, including staff training the week of June 21-25.

## Qualifications/Requirements

*The Lead Camp Counselor must:*

- A. Possess (or have at least two years working towards) a B.S./B.A. in Environmental Education, Biological Sciences, Education, Outdoor Recreation or other related field.
- B. Have at least two years prior experience in environmental/outdoor education, formal and/or informal teaching, camps or similar experience working with children in a responsible and professional setting (*summer camp experience a plus*).
- C. Be able to work well as part of a team and interact well with camper parents.

- D. Possess the physical ability to work actively throughout the property in a variety of weather conditions.
- E. Hold or be willing to obtain certification in the following: First Aid/CPR and Epi-pen/Medical Administration
- F. Possess a valid driver's license and a clean driving record (*Copy of driving record(s) required*)
- G. Possess a valid health/vaccination record (*required*).
- H. Possess enthusiasm for working with children and a sense of humor
- I. Be 21 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 and curriculum standards, as well as the nature center mission and sustainability policy.
  - iii. Working with other Camp Counselors, Instructors, Resident EE Staff, Camp Director, and other NCNC staff to provide high quality education experiences to all NCNC Summer Camp participants and TNT volunteers.
- B. Camp Curricula & Activities
  - i. Plan/teach interactive and interdisciplinary nature camp programming for K-4<sup>th</sup> grade that maximizes use of our outdoor classroom space.
  - 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. Support education lessons provided by Resident EE specialists.
  - iv. Safely lead groups of up to 18 children in an outdoor setting while enacting solid group/behavior management protocols (handle camper adjustments in a caring and age-appropriate manner)
  - v. Oversee accurate check-in/check-out of campers, greet parents.
  - vi. Assist during snack and lunch breaks, preparing food as necessary
  - vii. Lead the entire camp in games, songs and activities as assigned by the Camp Director or Assistant Camp Director.
  - viii. Handle/teach with captive wildlife as your training allows
- C. Teacher-Naturalist in Training (TNT) Program
  - i. Supervise all Teacher/Naturalist in Training (TNT) volunteers assigned to your camp group
- D. Coordination & Logistics
  - i. Coordinating with the Camp Director and Assistant Director for the implementation of logistical plans, curriculum development and transportation schedules.
  - ii. Help to increase sustainable and eco-friendly components of camp programs.

## **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.
- B. Protect the confidentiality of the participant's records.
- C. Ensuring proper records and storage for any camper medications

### IV. Supervision and Support

*Lead Camp Counselors report to the Assistant Camp Director or Camp Director.*

- A. Work with and mentor Assistant Camp Counselors and TNT's.
- B. Supervise high-school interns assigned to your group through our Teacher-Naturalists-in-Training (TNT) program

### V. Attendance

*The Lead Camp Counselor must:*

- A. Attend staff training for Ages 6+ staff (June 21-25, 2010).
- B. Attend all morning staff check-ins & afternoon staff debriefs
- C. Attend all staff meetings (Monday mornings) and any other scheduled meetings.
- D. Complete the entire length of the summer as agreed upon in his/her contract.
- E. Realize this position is exempt from overtime and he/she will typically work over the standard 40 hrs per week

### VI. Miscellaneous

*The Lead Camp Counselor must be willing and prepared to assume other appropriate duties as assigned by the Camp Director or Assistant Camp Director.*

#### Lead Camp Counselor Essential Functions

*It is essential that the staff member be able to:*

- Work the hours needed to fulfill duties (can go beyond typical 40 hr work week).
- Assist campers in an emergency (fire, evacuation, illness, injury).
- Communicate effectively and positively with campers, parents, camp staff, NCNC staff and Camp Director.
- Work with a diverse clientele and establish positive relations.
- Provide supervision and support to staff.
- Possess strength and endurance required to maintain constant supervision of staff & campers.
- Appropriately respond to environmental, wildlife and other environmental hazards.
- Actively lead and participate in group activities (large and small).
- Be energized, enthusiastic and positive with good humor.
- Assist with everyday camp duties (i.e. Song circle, opening/closing ceremonies, all group games, snack/lunch)
- Be prepared to substitute for any other camp staff on short notice as needed.

**Compensation:** \$400-\$475/week commiserate with experience

**Closing Date:** April 15, 2010 or until filled.

**To apply, go to [www.newcanaannature.org](http://www.newcanaannature.org) and fill out online application. When completed, either submit via e-mail or print out and mail to:**

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