



Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis Adventure Camp Specialist

Are you looking for a meaningful and fun summer experience that will have a profound impact on children and teens with special needs in the St. Louis community? Do you love teaching and developing activities that engage, excite and broaden a child's skills and experiences? Are you energized developing creative and personalized learning strategies and supporting each child's development? Do you excel at commanding a room and creating an atmosphere of fun and learning?

If this resonates with you, Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis (Variety) is seeking talented Adventure Camp Specialists to play a pivotal role in delivering impactful programs that drive our mission.

Variety is a catalyst for transformative change in the lives of local children with disabilities, providing access to critical medical equipment, therapies and innovative recreation and performing arts programs. Adventure Camp is a specially designed camp for children and teens ages 4-20 with disabilities. Specialists design, plan and execute daily educational and engaging activities for campers focused on key areas fostering personal growth as well as fun! You will be part of a mission to redefine children's abilities and reimagine their possibilities.

Variety is seeking Specialists with expertise and interest in the following areas:

1. Arts and Crafts
2. Behavior Management
3. Music
4. STEM
5. Sports
6. Generalist – support all specialized camp activities including executing movement and games programming one to two days per week. The Specialist – Generalist will also, as needed, provide back-up for the other camp specialists as well as fill in for other camp roles (for example, counselors) and assist with special activities like swimming.

As a Variety Adventure Camp Specialist you will:

- Assist the camp management team, as directed, in developing curriculum for the summer, planning daily activities and coordinating supplies and logistics.
- Implement and lead activities for all groups of campers according to the daily camp schedule.
- Provide individual and/or small group instruction to campers ensuring camper engagement, achievement of desired camper goals and efficient and effective use of time.
- Adapt instructional techniques to ensure comprehension and appropriateness for the ages and skill level of campers.
 - Identify campers' needs and modify activities accordingly to create an atmosphere of success.
 - Encourage engagement and participation in the activity by all campers and redirect campers when needed.
- Promote, with the camp team, the development of each camper's social skills and abilities.

- Cultivate a positive environment, respect, and collaboration within each group during activities.
- Implement safety guidelines and promote a safe environment and compliance by campers and staff with camp policies and procedures.
- Assist with daily camp setup and cleanup.
- Support camp management team as needed with additional tasks and responsibilities.

A successful Variety Adventure Camp Specialist will have/be:

- Education and/or knowledge and experience in the area of interest. Ideally, an educational background (major, degree or coursework) and/or one to two years of experience working or participating in relevant fields or types of activities.
- Experience working with children and/or individuals with special needs and in camp or recreational programs is a plus!
- Strong communication skills and the ability to effectively express information and engage with different campers, families and team members.
- Excellent organization and planning skills, and the ability to effectively manage projects and activities.
- Comfortable leading a group and energizing and motivating others.
- Hard-working with a good attitude, high energy, and ability to demonstrate sound judgment, patience, and understanding at all times.
- A solution-focused problem solver who is flexible and able to respond calmly, quickly, and appropriately in changing or stressful situations.
- Able to lift camp supplies up to 25 lbs. and assist in loading and unloading the supply van daily.
- Able to participate in all activities with camper(s) in all types of weather including extreme heat and rain.

Variety Adventure Camp Specialists are expected and required to:

- Attend mandatory Specialists preparation meeting and staff training (assigned session and participate on a Q&A panel during at least one of the new staff training sessions), and work on the dates agreed upon.
- Ideally, be able to work at least 3 weeks or more at summer camp.
- Be punctual and check in and out daily with camp management.
- Communicate appropriately with other staff in the group, campers, and families.
- Follow all camp rules and regulations.
- Be at least 14 years of age.