



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

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 want to advance your leadership skills and lead a group of campers and counselors in creating an engaging, fun and safe summer experience? Do you thrive in changing situations and being a creative problem solver? Do you excel at creating and maintaining order and organization, all with a positive attitude and can-do spirit?

If this resonates with you, Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis (Variety) is seeking talented Adventure Camp Lead Counselors 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. Lead counselors oversee camper groups to facilitate a productive and fun camp experience. You will be part of a mission to redefine children's abilities and reimagine their possibilities.

As a Lead Counselor at Variety Adventure Camp, you will:

- Supervise, monitor, & provide support to campers within assigned group.
- Manage counselors and volunteers in assigned group.
- Monitor campers, staff and volunteer attendance and report to camp management.
- Implement safety guidelines and promote a safe environment and compliance for campers and staff with camp policies and procedures.
- Encourage and foster social interaction with assigned campers, camp staff, and volunteers.
- Facilitate, within group, camper arrivals and dismissals maintaining accountability for assigned campers at all times and appropriate release to guardians.
- Understand individual campers' unique needs and support counselors in most effectively engaging with and managing campers and behaviors.
- Update camp management and families on daily activities and experiences of each camper in your group.
- Implement creative strategies to facilitate each camper fully engaging in the camp experience.
- Support camp counselors in your group, as needed, with daily tasks and activities including:
 - Assisting with dressing/undressing for swim time and participating in swimming with campers.
 - Assisting campers in restroom and assisting changing diapers/pull-ups if needed.

- Assist with daily camp setup and cleanup.
- Support camp management team as needed with additional tasks and responsibilities.

A successful Lead Counselor will have/be:

- At least one to two years of experience working in recreational programming (i.e. camp, after school programs)
- Outstanding written and oral communication skills, and the ability to interact, engage and build relationships with campers, families, and the camp team.
- Comfortable leading a group and energizing and motivating others.
- Strong organizational skills, attention to detail and ability to multi-task.
- A solution-focused problem solver who is flexible and able to respond calmly, quickly and appropriately in changing or stressful situations.
- Hard-working with a good attitude, high energy, and ability to demonstrate sound judgment, patience, and understanding at all times.
- Able to lift campers up to 49lbs to assist with transfers and changing.
- 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 Lead Counselors are expected and required to:

- Attend mandatory Lead Counselor 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.