



Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis Adventure Camp: 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 find satisfaction in building lasting relationships and helping others realize their full potential? Do you enjoy variety and learning and experiencing something new every day? Are you energized by being a part of a team and working together to organize and execute creative, impactful, and most importantly, fun activities and supporting a group of amazing children and teens in having the best camp experience ever?

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

About Variety

Variety is dedicated to empowering children and teens with disabilities by providing access to vital medical equipment, therapy services, and innovative recreation and performing arts programs. Our Adventure Camp is specially designed for children and teens ages 4-20 with disabilities, offering opportunities to build friendships, explore new activities, and experience joy in a supportive environment.

Position Overview

Variety is seeking Camp Counselors for our Adventure Camp program. Counselors play a vital role in ensuring that campers are safe, supported, and fully engaged in daily camp activities. This position is ideal for individuals who enjoy working with children, thrive in a team environment, and are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of children and teens with special needs.

Key Responsibilities

- Support assigned camper(s) in participating in and completing daily camp activities.
- Encourage social interaction and foster friendships among campers.
- Monitor and attend to the physical, social, and emotional needs of campers at all times.
- Ensure camper safety and maintain proper supervision throughout the day.
- Observe camper behavior and implement appropriate behavior-management strategies.
- Assist campers with daily needs and activities, including but not limited to:
 - Swimming activities, including dressing/undressing and participation.
 - Eating meals and snacks.
 - Diapering and toileting needs, if needed.
- Complete daily written communication forms for camper families.
- Collaborate with Lead Counselors, Specialists, the Management Assistant, and the Camp Management team to support program delivery and additional responsibilities.

Qualifications & Skills

- Minimum age: 14 years old.
- High energy, positive attitude, and the ability to demonstrate patience, sound judgment, and understanding.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills; ability to build relationships with campers, families, staff, and volunteers.
- Commitment to being a positive role model and contributing to a supportive camp culture.
- Flexible, solution-focused, and able to respond calmly and appropriately in changing or challenging situations.
- Previous experience working with children and/or individuals with disabilities is preferred.
- Ability to lift and transfer campers up to 49 lbs. and assist in two-person lifts for campers over 50 lbs.
- Ability to lift up to 25 lbs. of camp supplies and assist with van loading/unloading.
- Ability to participate in all camp activities in all types of weather, including but not limited to extreme heat and rain.

Requirements

- Attend mandatory staff training.
- Ideally, be able to work at least 3 weeks or more.
- Arrive on time and check in/out daily with assigned lead counselor and camp management or the management assistant.
- Communicate appropriately with all staff, volunteers, campers, and families.

- Follow all camp rules, policies, procedures, and safety guidelines.