



Position Title: Summer Camp Forest Workshop Program Counselor

Reports To: Camp Director

Work Location: In person, Scarborough, Maine

Job Type: Full Time, Seasonal, 37-40 hours per week

Work Schedule: Monday-Friday, day shift

Job Summary

Do you love working with kids? Are you passionate about making a difference in the lives of youth? Do you want to work outdoors all summer long? Do you want to develop your leadership skills and gain valuable training and experience in the field of outdoor education? This may be the perfect job for you! At Camp Ketcha we hire over 100 Summer Camp staff to lead our students and our programs in our dynamic day camp set on 107 acres of fields, woods, marsh and wetlands in Scarborough, Maine. Program Counselors are responsible for developing curriculum (with assistance from the Camp Director), and teaching and supervising campers in a specific program area. Program counselors must set and follow through with staff and camper expectations as it pertains to the program curriculum. Program Counselors must be 18 years of age or older and be able to complete First Aid, CPR, AED training and certification before starting work.

The Forest Workshop Program Counselor is responsible for planning and implementing programming for Camp Ketcha's new Forest Workshop program area. This role brings Scandinavian-style forest school principles to life, engaging campers ages 4–14 in hands-on building, creativity, and outdoor exploration. Campers will use a mix of natural and provided materials, along with simple tools such as hand saws, hammers, screwdrivers, drills, rope, clamps, and more, to create forts, bridges, nature-based STEM projects, and other child-led structures.

The Forest Workshop Program Counselor should design programming that aligns with their strengths while ensuring campers experience a safe, diverse, and age-appropriate progression of woodworking, building, and creative problem-solving activities.

Responsibilities

- Create and lead program area activities with campers ages 4-14
- Demonstrate sound judgement and establish a nurturing atmosphere in which campers feel safe, engaged, and included
- Communicate with all campers and staff in a positive and respectful manner
- Give clear and instructions for activities, considering various learning styles and listening abilities of each age group
- Maintain a clear, organized and safe program area including the inventory and maintenance of all program equipment
- Develop and submit weekly activity plans to the Camp Director prior to the start of each camp week
- Ensure campers and staff adhere to camp expectations
- Address behavior issues as trained in a timely manner
- Other duties as assigned
 - Summer camp is a collaborative and fast paced environment that requires flexibility and the ability to lend a hand wherever needed. Other duties as assigned may include, but is not limited to, daily cleaning tasks or working with various age groups, positions, camps, or programs including our childcare programming. All summer staff will be expected to demonstrate flexibility to ensure our summer programming runs as smoothly as possible.

Required Job Qualifications

- ☞ Experience working with children and youth
- ☞ Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- ☞ Ability to prepare and lead lesson plans and adapt them to various age groups
- ☞ Commitment to Ketcha Outdoors' mission, vision, and values
- ☞ Knowledge and appreciation for program area
- ☞ Basic computer literacy skills including word processing and emailing
- ☞ Detail oriented, ability to work independently, multi-task, and enjoys interfacing with other staff at all levels
- ☞ Ability to ensure safety for yourself and all program participants

- € High degree of personal integrity and professional conduct
- € High degree of flexibility and dependability
- € Mandated Reporter Training (to be updated every 3 years)
- € CPR/First Aid Certificate (to be updated every 2 years)
- € Comfortable in front of large groups of campers
- € Comfort using basic woodworking and hand tools including saws, hammers, screwdrivers, drills, clamps, and other simple tools
- € Knowledge and appreciation for safe woodworking and tool-use practices
- € Understanding of Leave No Trace principles in an outdoor setting
- € Ability to create and lead activities with campers ages 4-14

Preferred Job Qualifications

- € Certification related to program area
- € High School Diploma or GED Certificate

Essential Job Functions

- This position belongs to a class of employees referred to as Essential Personnel. Essential personnel are those needed on site to meet the needs of our camper and general camp operations. Essential personnel must report to work during their regularly scheduled hours, unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.

General Work Environment and Physical Demands

The physical demands and work environment characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

This position requires the employee to be able to pass a Complete Background Check including the National Sex Offender Registry and work outdoors for long periods of time and in light rain, heat or cold. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally required to stand; walk; sit; run; use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools or controls; reach with hands and arms; climb stairs; balance, stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl; talk or hear; taste or smell. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 50 pounds. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is exposed to weather conditions prevalent at the time. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate. This position is subject to a number of inherent risks associated with the use of woodworking tools. There is a potential exposure to danger of animals.

Compensation Starting At \$17.50/hr

To Apply

Please complete the online application found on ketchaoutdoors.org/summer-camp-positions or by emailing your resume to Mike Vincent, Camp Director, at mvincent@ketchaoutdoors.org.

At Ketcha Outdoors, not only do we embrace and celebrate the diversity of our families and participants, but we also strive for the same in our employees. At Ketcha Outdoors, we are committed to equal employment opportunity regardless of race, color, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, national origin, gender, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, citizenship, marital or parental status, disability, veteran status, or other class protected by applicable law. We are proud to be an equal opportunity workplace.

If you're excited about this role but your past experience doesn't align perfectly with every qualification in the job description, we encourage you to apply anyway. There is no such thing as a "perfect" candidate, Ketcha is a place where everyone has opportunity.