



2022 New Counselor Applicant Information

Welcome! Thank you so much for your interest in a position on the AstroCamp Summer Counselor Team. If you are to work at AstroCamp, this will likely be one of the most unique work experiences you will have; therefore, the information below will give you a good background on what AstroCamp and the counselor position entails.

WHAT IS ASTROCAMP?

AstroCamp is a non-profit, non-denominational resident summer camp with a desire to make a difference in the lives of children through unique opportunities of discovery. We host a 1-week program for campers 8-13 and a 2-week program for campers 12-17. Our average session consists of ~120-150 campers. The facility (formally a boarding school) is set on 100 acres complete with covered pool, rock wall, classrooms, labs, zipline, high ropes elements, dormitory style housing, and much more. A typical cabin is grouped by age and will have anywhere from 6-10 campers per 1-2 counselors. Counselors live in dorms connected to campers and will guide their cabin group through their activities each day. Some activities they will have the opportunity to lead and some they will assist the assigned instructor with camper management. In the evenings, the counselor will work together to plan and lead the large group activities.

AstroCamp is located in Idyllwild, CA. Idyllwild is ~2 hours from Los Angeles and 45 minutes from Palm Springs. There is a small town center about 5 minutes away.

WHAT ARE THE CAMP DATES?

Counseling staff, unless advised otherwise, are to arrive at camp Wednesday, June 1st, 2022. For those out of state staff, we can provide airport pick-up and drop-off.

2022 full season of employment is June 1st - August 7th. We are only able to consider applicants who can commit to the full nine and half weeks of camp.

If you are unable to work for the full employment period, we encourage you to refrain from applying. However, you are welcome to email diana@astrocamp.org if there is only a minor scheduling conflict to see if there are possible options to discuss.

Summer 2022 Dates:

Staff Training will be June 1-10

Camp Sessions start June 11th

1.1	June 11-17
1.2	June 18-24
1.3	June 25-July 1
2.1	July 3-15
2.2	July 17-29
Geek Week	July 31-August 6

Staff Departure August 7

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A COUNSELOR?

Though an immensely rewarding job, this is a **HARD JOB TO DO!** The job of a camp counselor is physically and psychologically demanding. **Counselors must be physically and mentally fit** to adapt to the long days, lack of privacy, and constant needs from campers. Not only must counselors be able to work under these conditions, but they also must retain the essential counselor qualities of patience, kindness, honesty, integrity, emotional stability, maturity of judgment and a desire to work hard. Previous experience with school age children is helpful and desirable, but AstroCamp believes that it is more important for counselors to have a sincere and unselfish desire to learn about the children entrusted to their care.

The health and safety of our campers is the top priority. Cabin counselors will be in a lot of shared spaces with their campers. Counselors will live and sleep in the dorms near their campers, spend cabin time with the campers, supervise camper living habits, and guide the campers in their selection of activities. At meal times, counselors will sit at each table with 5-10 children. Counselors are involved in those activities where their teaching skills can be best utilized. On occasion, though, counselors may be asked to “assist” in activities in which they are not particularly experienced. However, they are not expected to be the lead, but rather they assist and help with supervision.

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Must have completed one full year of college or one full year of work experience after high school graduation.
2. Must be at least two years older than the oldest camper age group (oldest camper=17 years old).
3. Experience working with youth (camp counselor, recreation leader, tutoring, babysitting, or other similar experience.)
4. Must have strong communication and human relation skills.
5. Certification in lifeguard training, first aid and CPR **preferred (not required)**.
6. Able to accept supervision and guidance and assist in activities where needed.
7. Desire to live and work in remote camp community.
8. Desire to work with children and ability to supervise them in related activities.
9. Good character, integrity, flexibility and adaptability.
10. Enthusiasm, sense of humor, patience and self-control.
11. Must be able to successfully perform the essential functions of this position.
12. **NEW FOR 2022:** Be FULLY vaccinated (including booster) for COVID-19 before arrival at camp.

General Responsibility:

The counselor is responsible for the needs of the campers and to assist in the supervision and facilitating of programs, camp rules and regulations.

Specific Responsibilities (Examples of Duties):

1. Learn the names and likes/dislikes of your campers. Be knowledgeable about the needs of campers including special diets, eating habits, etc.
2. Assure the cleanliness of dorms and areas daily.
3. Counsel campers when necessary.
4. Create a cohesive bond within camper group.
5. Supervise and participate in recreation programs, keeping control of the group.
6. Adhere to safety rules and company policies and procedures for the well-being of the campers and staff.
7. Assist groups with programs. This may include conducting hikes or other recreational activities during all recreational periods.
8. Assist with meal supervision of food services, including set up and clean up. Sit with the campers during meals.
9. Assist with group arrival and departure procedures as assigned.
10. Be able to respond to emergency situations when necessary.
11. Assist with other departments when required, potentially for an extended period. This includes additional cleaning duties as required (wiping surfaces, extra cleaning of living spaces, etc)
12. Other duties as assigned by Camp Director, Assistant Camp Director or Head Counselor.

Essential Functions:

1. Must be able to effectively work with the campers, counselors, supervisors, and other staff.
2. Ability to communicate any problems with staff or campers to Camp Director, Assistant Camp Director, or Head Counselor.
3. Ability to assist campers and staff in the transition of camp life.
4. Good physical condition with mobility, visual and auditory skills to maintain control of 8-10 campers in a variety of environments (in the dorms, on hikes, in learning sessions, in the water, etc.).

5. Ability to lift, carry and move heavy objects when necessary.
6. Good communication and organization skills are necessary to ensure a good experience for the staff and campers.
7. Ability to properly respond to emergency situations and enforce appropriate safety rules.

Benefits:

1. Housing
2. Full meals at the camp dining hall when the kitchen is in operation including during time off.
3. Workers compensation insurance and State disability insurance.
4. Ability to participate in camp programs.
5. Opportunity to live and work in a beautiful outdoor environment.

Salary:

First year counselors will receive \$365.00 per week, along with opportunities to make extra money with extra responsibilities. (i.e. Airport Duty).

HOW DOES TIME OFF WORK?

All staff will have time off between sessions; departure day at 12:30pm to arrival day morning meeting at 11:00 am. Staff are welcome to stay on-site (full meals are provided) or leave camp with notification to the camp director.

During the sessions, we make an effort to provide counselors in-camp free-time most, but not all days. During the two-week programs, you will receive one 24-hour day off (midnight-midnight). Due to the nature of the schedule and program, the 24-days off are set ahead of time; counselors are able to make requests and we will accommodate if possible. With the number of staff and various requests, we are not able to accommodate all requests. Please talk with the camp director about any specific dates.

IN CLOSING

WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT CAMP COUNSELING IS NOT FOR EVERYONE . . . but for the right type of dedicated person, it is a rewarding and exhilarating experience. It means long hours while maintaining a cheerful attitude, concern for others above self, hard work, and 100% integrity. It often asks us to perform on a standard far beyond our own self-expectations which can be a truly transformative experience. Camp counseling is also an adventure in enjoyable group living, a chance to commit oneself to the highest possible standards, and an opportunity to know and love some great little kids and colleagues. As a passionate fan of the summer camp industry with 10+ years of experience, I can attest to the tremendous value of this rewarding, though sometimes challenging, job; however, trust us when we say that in the end it's all worth it, and the memories & life skills gained will last a lifetime. If you find the challenge appealing, THEN ASTROCAMP WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Thanks,



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