



# NATURE

## Job Description



### Program Area Counselor

Of the three basic types of counseling staff at Hawkeye the Program Area Counselor is the one with the most contact with the widest range of campers. This counselor remains at their assigned Program Area most periods of every day and conceives of, plans, organizes, leads, and follows up on activities within that Area. These activities are non-gender specific and need to be directed at the entire range of age groups within camp, 8-16 year olds, because each cabin spends approximately two periods each week at each Program Area. These individuals do not split their time between a Cabin Group, with which they may live, and the Program Area. However, most Program Area counselors do live in cabins with the campers and must assist in getting the campers started in the morning and settled at night as necessary. Some time each week may be spent outside of their Program Area; this may include covering a cabin or accompanying a cabin group to various activities, on an out-of-camp trip, or organizing a special activity.

Each Program Area has a staff member who is primarily responsible for its oversight and a number of other staff members who assist them; these are the Program Area Counselor and General Counselors respectively. As the Program Area Counselor you will meet with the Assistant Program Director, your immediate supervisor, each week. Each Program Area Counselor has weekly paperwork responsibilities that include a self-evaluation as well as cabin and activity reports assessing the success of each at the Area each week. These are presented to the Assistant Program Director before weekly supervision and used during the session. S/he, in turn, evaluates and reports on the workings of the Program Area and your progress and success, on a weekly basis, to the Program Director and Camp Director. S/he also provides guidance, feedback, and support to you as a Program Area Counselor.

Each Area has one or two General Counselors and/or Counselors in Training, CiT's, assigned to it that provide additional leadership, organizational assistance, oversight, and group management. These individuals may help to plan, organize and carry out activities but do this on an as needed basis. These individuals are primarily available to assist the Program Area Counselor and take direction from this Counselor on a daily and weekly basis as pertains to the Program Area.

In addition to daily activity planning Program Area Counselors are responsible for creating larger projects, including inter-area ventures, that last weeks or even the entire summer. These plans may take in to account weekly out-of-camp trips, Tribal Considerations, Special Activities, Evening Activities, or other events throughout the session.

Program Area Counselors must also take part in planning, setting-up, organizing, and carrying out Special Activities with special attention paid to elements of these events which are related to activities or skills primarily applicable to their specific Area. For example, songs written for Tribal Games by each Tribe must be assisted by the Drama Counselor regardless of tribe affiliation.

Program Area Counselors need to be the most organized group of staff members within the camp structure. These individuals must plan and organize activities prior to each period in a way that can be recreated at a later date. They must contribute to the construction of a foundation of ideas and information that will endure year after year (Program Area Binders).



## **Nature Outline**

The Nature area proves to be a very important part of programming. The primary thrust of this area is to learn to understand, appreciate, and experience the natural world around camp and on the wilderness trips. This active segment of camp life intermingles with other activity areas to offer many varied programs that include journal writing, identification and classification exercises, drawing, tracing and artistic representations of natural phenomena and processes, as well as collection and cataloguing of various plant, animal and insect species. This program combines elements of investigation and children's natural curiosity with scientific background and knowledge from ecology, biology, chemistry, physics and ecosystem level processes. Most daily programs are conducted with the Nature activity area as merely a base of operations as naturalists will be found wandering all around camp nosing in the trees, under leaves and across the fields. Major projects that will remain as ongoing operations within the Nature activity area include a large-scale identification, classification, and representation project of indigenous species in and around camp in the Colossal Classification Compendium. This book will include a list, short description and camper representation of each species identified as well as notation of the date, location, and identity of the discoverers. The CCC will be maintained in conjunction with the Arts & Crafts activity area. Long-term bug, flower and paw-print collections will also be maintained.

## **Responsibilities**

- Coordinate the nature area projects, with a focus on the Colossal classification Compendium.
- Begin to fill the nature binder with activity plans before the campers arrive.
- Continually evaluate and provide feedback in the nature binder for upcoming years. This feedback would include the success of the projects/activities, camper enthusiasm, and thoughts/suggestions that would assist with future improvement.
- Work in coordination with the woodworking, arts & crafts, drama, and woodsmanship program areas on shared projects throughout the session.
- Maintain the nature area and ensure that it is kept in order and clean.
- Provide rules and regulations for your program area.

## **Required Certification**

- None.

## **Recommended Skills/Abilities**

- Experience with environmental education.
- Flexible, adaptable and have ideas on projects to make with children.
- Ability to make the activity area FUN for all campers.