



2026 Summer Critter Camp Junior Counselor Application

Application Deadline is April 17th, 2026

****Please fill out paper application and online information **IN FULL** to be considered****

<https://www.volgistics.com/appform/1604012774>

Having helpful Junior Counselors makes Rescue Ranch Critter Camp possible. Without the support of these dedicated individuals our program could not exist. We depend on a close ratio of campers to teachers and Junior Counselors in order to ensure a safe and fun environment for everyone.

The Junior Counselor program is both fun and hard work. Junior Counselors should enjoy working with children, be able to demonstrate a respect for animals, serve as a positive role model for campers, and provide dependable, responsible support for staff and campers. Space in the program is limited, unfortunately, and we regret that we are unable to accept every applicant. Please note that camp Junior Counselors must be entering at least 7th grade in the fall of 2026 and be 12-17 years old.

Junior Counselor Responsibilities:

- Junior Counselors act as teacher assistants during our Critter Camp.
- They perform a variety of duties including set-up and clean-up, participation during crafts and games, helping with animal presentations, assisting with managing children's behavior, and supervising snack, lunch times, recess, and transitions.
- ***It is important to understand that the Junior Counselor's main responsibility is working with children and not the animals.***

Time Requirements:

- Junior Counselors are required to work for an entire week. No partial weeks accepted.
- Junior Counselors can work for more than one week if desired, provided there is room.
- **The exceptional children's and PreK camp Junior Counselor shift is Monday through Friday, 8:15am to 12:45pm. The elementary and middle school camp Junior Counselor shifts are Monday through Friday, 8:15am to 3:45pm**

Interview and Training Sessions:

- Junior Counselors will be contacted to participate in a group interview.
- Successful applicants will then be required to attend a training session.
- To be consistent in providing a safe and quality camp experience and to be fair to all Junior Counselors, we will not make exceptions.

1) Complete and return the 2026 Critter Camp Junior Counselor Application. We can only accommodate a limited number of Junior Counselors each week. **Week preferences are granted on a first come, first served basis.** The application deadline is April 17th, 2026.

2) **Scheduling:** Please give us **at least three** options of Junior Counselor workweek choices. Due to the challenges of scheduling so many Junior Counselors if you have only one week available your chance of getting a spot is significantly diminished. Transportation is your responsibility. We consider schedule requests for carpool reasons, but there are no guarantees. If you would only like to work one week, please make sure to check the box below workweek selection. Also please indicate if you are interested in working Extended Care Hours which may involve an earlier drop off of 8:00 AM.

EC Camp assignments are limited to returning counselors and exceptional applicants; spots are limited so make sure to make multiple selections of camp preferences.

3) **Essay:** Applicants must complete these questions on a separate sheet of paper (One paragraph each):

Question 1. What do you hope to get out of this experience?

Question 2. What do you think are the most important roles of a Junior Counselor?

Question 3. Why should we select you?

4) **Letter of Recommendation:** Applicants must have one letter of recommendation from an unrelated adult. This could be a teacher, coach, scout leader, etc.

5) **Application Fee:** The application fee is **\$25**. This fee covers your t-shirt and training. This fee can be mailed in with your application or turned in on your interview day, or paid over the phone via credit card.

6) **New Applicant Interviews:** You will be emailed your group interview date and time. It is your responsibility to contact the Lead Education Instructor if you have not received your interview time by **April 22nd**. All applicants must attend an interview.

Returning applicants will fill out a new application with fee, interview, and attend one of the training dates. Letter of recommendation and essay not required for returning applicants.

7) **Training Sessions:** Training is required for all Junior Counselors. If you are selected to be a Junior Counselor for summer 2026 Critter Camps, you will receive an email with your training session time by **April 30th**. If you are not selected, you will receive an email and will not need to attend training. If you don't receive an email please contact the Lead Education Instructor at jennifer@rescueranch.com to inquire.

8) **Week Assignments:** Workweek assignments will be emailed once you have been accepted. If you do not receive an email please contact the Lead Education Instructor at jennifer@rescueranch.com to inquire. Your Junior Counselor assignment will be canceled if you do not attend a training session.

Checklist for All Applicants: All items on checklist must be completed in order to process your application.

___	Completed Application	___	Must be at least a rising 7th grader and be 12 - 17 years old.
___	Junior Counselor Essay	___	Mail to:
___	Letter of Recommendation		Humane Education Manager
___	Application Fee (\$25)		1424 Turnersburg Hwy
___	<u>Email to: jennifer@rescueranch.com</u>		Statesville, NC 28625

Please print clearly:

Name: _____ Junior Counselor’s DOB: _____

Junior Counselor’s Email: _____

Junior Counselor’s Grade level and School for 2026-2027: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Parent/Guardian’s Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone:(_____) _____ T-shirt (adult sizing): S M L XL

Interview Sessions (Please mark 1st and 2nd choice)

If these dates and times do not work please reach out to Jennifer jennifer@rescueranch.com

_____	May 5th 4pm - 4:30pm	_____	May 5th 4:30pm - 5pm
_____	May 6th 4pm - 4:30pm	_____	May 6th 4:30pm - 5pm
_____	May 11th 4pm - 4:30pm	_____	May 11th 4:30pm - 5pm

Summer Session Junior Counselor Workweeks 2026

All Applicants Please select your available weeks in order of preference (1, 2, 3, 4, etc)

You must be available the entire week.

<u>Elementary Camps</u>			<u>Exceptional Children Camp/Pre-K Camps</u>		
_____	May 25 - 29	8:15a - 3:45p	_____	May 18 - 22	8:15a - 12:15p
_____	June 1 - 5	8:15a - 3:45p	_____	June 29 - July 3	8:15a - 12:15p
_____	June 8 - 12	8:15a - 3:45p			
_____	June 15 - 19	8:15a - 3:45p	<u>Middle School Camp</u>		
_____	July 6 - 10	8:15a - 3:45p	_____	June 22 - 26	8:15a - 3:45p
_____	July 13 - 17	8:15a - 3:45p			
_____	July 20 - 24	8:15a - 3:45p			
_____	July 27 - 31	8:15a - 3:45p			

****Please check if you would like to work more than one week** _____yes _____no

Mandatory Training Sessions (Please mark the sessions you're available for)

Applicants will be notified of acceptance by email on **May 12th**.

For safety reasons, this training is mandatory. Your assignment will be canceled if you do not attend.

_____	May 19th	4:00 - 5:00p
_____	May 21st	4:00 - 5:00p

Waivers and Liability

- I understand that submitting this application does not guarantee my child placement in the Rescue Ranch Junior Counselor Program
- Tetanus Information: I understand that because my child may handle animals, it is important to discuss the tetanus vaccine with my physician. I release Rescue Ranch from all responsibility that may occur because of my not pursuing this matter further and I understand whatever decision I make is at my own risk. I have read, understand and agree with the above tetanus information.
- In the event of an emergency, I hereby give the Rescue Ranch permission to seek medical attention for my child.
- I give permission for Rescue Ranch to photograph my child for use in any Center publication, educational, or advertising purposes the Ranch may designate.
- I acknowledge and understand that as a Junior Counselor of Rescue Ranch, my child is not covered by the Rescue Ranch's workers compensation or any other insurance policy for any damages or injuries my child may sustain during Junior Counselor activities.
- **On behalf of myself, my children, my heirs, assignees, guardians, personal and legal representatives and executors, I hereby release, discharge, indemnify and hold harmless Rescue Ranch, its officers, directors, and employees for any and all claims, demands, losses, costs, liabilities, damages, personal injuries and property damage, connected with my or my child's Junior Counselor services to Rescue Ranch whether caused directly or indirectly by any negligence (active or passive) attributable to Rescue Ranch, its officers, directors or employees.**

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Please list any medical considerations (allergies, medical conditions, physical limitations, medications, etc.) or any special accommodations we can make to insure a safe and enjoyable Junior Counselor experience.

I have read, understand, and agree to the above information. I certify that the information provided here is accurate and complete. In the event of my selection, I will comply with all rules and regulations as set forth by Rescue Ranch.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Junior Counselor Signature _____ Date _____

Email to: jennifer@rescueranch.com

Mail to: Jennifer Bhagirat, Humane Education Manager

1424 Turnersburg Hwy

Statesville, NC 28627

For Internal Use Only

Rec'd:		Interview:		Training/Assignment:		Confirmation:	
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