Piedmont Wildlife Center
Summer Backpacking Counselor

Do you love exploring the outdoors? Are you passionate about mentoring teens and connecting them with nature? Piedmont Wildlife Center is currently seeking multiple seasonal Summer Backpacking Counselors.

Overview: Piedmont Wildlife Center is a Durham-based non-profit organization inspiring people to develop a lifelong connection with nature and encourage conservation through a community-oriented approach to nature education, leadership development, and environmental science. We offer year-round outdoor education programs as well as conservation-themed outreach and citizen science programs with our resident Ambassador Animals.

Position Summary: Backpacking counselors are responsible for safely leading groups of ten teen campers on backpacking trips while helping them develop deep connections with nature and each other. This position is included in all parts of the backpacking process, including scouting trip routes, planning meals and activities, organizing and purchasing necessary gear, communicating with families, teaching wilderness living skills, and facilitating the woodland adventures! Throughout the trip, counselors will monitor the group’s needs and adapt plans to help all individuals successfully engage in the programming and accomplish their personal and group goals.

Primary Responsibilities:

➢ Safely lead groups of 10 teen campers on multi-day backpacking adventures
➢ Teach and Demonstrate Leave No Trace practices
➢ Create trip plans with the planned route, water sources, and campsite locations
➢ Write an emergency evacuation plan that includes exit locations, counselor responsibilities, and related protocol
➢ With a set budget and list of dietary restrictions, organize a meal schedule and purchase and prepare all necessary ingredients
➢ Meet with families prior to each trip to review gear requirements and check gear fit
➢ Facilitate outdoor camp activities focused on nature connection and environmental education, including skills workshops, games, and team challenges
➢ Supervise camper safety and enforce activity policies, including our COVID-19 protocol
➢ Communicate with co-counselors, program coordinators, and parents about program outcomes, expectations and camper behavior

Qualifications:
➢ Prior experience leading backpacking trips and working closely with co-counselors
➢ Prior experience working with teenagers
➢ Experience cooking on open fires
➢ Excellent communication and organizational skills
➢ Knowledge of local ecology or tracking and survival skills
➢ Childcare and/or education experience
➢ Current or willingness to obtain a wilderness medical certification (WFR or WFA)
➢ Basic experience with G Suite
➢ Trip outfitting experience a plus

**Schedule:** Our [backpacking trips](#) are scheduled to run June 20 - 24, July 3 - 8, July 18 - 22, and August 1 - 6. Counselors are required to scout the trails and complete 8 - 10 hours of administrative work (including gear prep, food purchases, and camper orientation) in preparation for each trip.

We encourage our backpacking leaders to work our children's summer camp programs as well, however, it is not required. For more information about the camp counselor position, please visit [our website](#).

**Pay:** $800 - $1200 / trip depending on experience

**To Apply:** Please email a cover letter and resume to camp@piedmontwildlifecenter.org. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

If you have questions or require more information about this position, please contact us at 919-489-0900 or camp@piedmontwildlifecenter.org.

PWC does not discriminate in employment or recruitment of board members, staff, volunteers or provision of services on the basis of sex, creed, race, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation or national origin.