

**Job Posting: Counselor**  
**El Ranchito Summer Camp, Austin, Texas**  
**www.elranchito.org**

**El Ranchito**  
*a natural place for kids*

Title: Counselor

Employment Dates: May 31-June 29, 2008, overnight full time.

Camp Sessions: June 8-13, June 15-20, and June 22-27, 2008

Salary: \$1,500; plus tent lodging and all meals; \$200 stipend for Lifeguard Certification

Supervisor: Assistant Director

Classification: Seasonal Contractual, health benefits not provided

Closing Date: Until filled.

To Apply: Please submit cover letter and resume to [employment@elranchito.org](mailto:employment@elranchito.org) or to Shield Ranch, 707 W. 10th Street, Austin, TX 78701

### **Camp Description**

*El Ranchito* summer camp nurtures an ecologically sound "sense of place" where the campers intimately experience the land, its plants and animals, its creeks, the starry night sky and the culture of a working ranch. A primitive tent camp, where staff and campers sleep, makes experiencing the natural world fun and safe for the campers. Shield Ranch (site of the camp), Westcave Preserve, and El Buen Samaritano have teamed up to provide this nature immersion experience that nurtures the mind, body, and spirit of underserved children from the Austin area.

### **Position Description**

Counselors will be responsible for leading campers in afternoon/evening nature and recreation activities and be available for overnight emergencies and counseling (homesickness, bathroom needs, etc.). Primary hours are from 1:00 to 9:30 pm and on call at other times. Other duties include, yet may not be limited to:

- Work with the staff to prepare campsite and take part in the staff orientation: May 31-June 7
- Facilitate recreation activities with campers
- Model 100% involvement with the program and commitment to children through nature experience
- Promote conservation values with children and staff
- Participate in camp duty rotation with assigned crew
- Serve as a healthy role model land guide providing insight, direction and support for the children
- Cultivate effective working relationships with staff, volunteers and camp participants
- Live in a tent for camp duration – sharing quarters with one or more staff members
- Work with cook to provide breakfasts as needed
- Support other staff as needed
- Contribute to the weekly camp evaluation and final evaluation after camp sessions

### **Qualification Requirements**

- One or more years of college required
- Experience working with children ages 9-13
- Experience tent camping, hiking, exploring and recreating in natural areas
- Spanish fluency preferred
- Willing to accept supervision, work independently and as part of a team
- Willing to live in a tent camp setting without running water, air conditioning and use of electronics
- Current Texas Driver's License; pass a CPR and First Aid Certification (as part of training)
- YMCA, Red Cross, or other Lifeguard Certification required (\$200 stipend for current lifeguard certification)
- Complete a sexual misconduct prevention course (as part of training)
- Background check required for applicants; any candidate with a felony conviction will be disqualified
- This is a non-smoking and drug-free camp