



RIVER CAMP

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San Joaquin River
Parkway and
Conservation Trust, Inc.

WELCOME

We are so glad that you have taken an interest in River Camp with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust (SJRPT)! The following is an overview of the River Camp programs, staff responsibilities, and what to expect as camp staff.



WHAT IS RIVER CAMP?

River Camp consists of five summer day-camps held along the San Joaquin River:

[Young Explorers](#) is our Pre-K and Kindergarten program. It takes place at the River Center (SJRPT's headquarters in Fresno) and serves 20 campers each week. Young Explorers runs Tuesday-Thursday, from 9 am-12 pm. There are 8 weeks of camp each summer. The Young Explorers Director and 3 part-time counselors staff this program.

[River Camp Adventurers](#) at Scout Island serves approximately 100 1st-5th grade campers each week. There are 8 weeks of camp each summer. The Adventurers Camp Director, 10 full-time counselors, 2 Lifeguards, and one AM/PM assistant staff this program.

[River Camp Rangers](#) at Owl Hollow takes place at the River Parkway Trust's Owl Hollow property (located near the River Center). Approximately 44 6th-8th grade campers attend camp each week. There are 8 weeks of camp each summer. The Rangers Camp Director, 4 full-time counselors, and 1 Lifeguard staff this program.

[River Camp Voyagers](#) at Sumner Peck Ranch, new in 2022, takes place at the River Parkway Trust's Sumner Peck Ranch property, approximately 4 miles north of the River Center. 12 High School aged campers attend camp each week. There are 5 weeks of camp each summer. The Voyagers Camp Director and one counselor/co-leader staff this program.

[River Camp at Firebaugh](#) takes place in the community of Firebaugh at the Andrew Firebaugh Community Park. Approximately 48 1st-8th grade campers attend camp each week. There are 6 weeks of camp each summer (depending on available funding). The Camp Director, 5 full-time counselors, and 1 Lifeguard staff this program.

JUNIOR LEADERS

Junior Leaders are high-school student volunteers that assist with all of our River Camp programs (except Voyagers). While counselors may rely on Junior Leaders to assist with many of their daily activities, they are expected to act as role models and counselors to Junior Leaders as well.

STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Each counselor is in charge of a group of 9-12 campers each week. Camper age ranges vary from camp to camp; see ‘What is River Camp’ on page 2 for information on the age ranges served by each camp. Counselors are assigned a new group each week, and are in charge of their group throughout the day. Typical responsibilities include leading daily teambuilding and educational activities, nature hikes, small group games, and arts and crafts. Additionally, counselors will have 1-2 Junior Leaders assigned to their group every week (except for River Camp Voyagers). All counselors are expected to treat their position seriously and attend camp with enthusiasm and respect each day.

A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP

While every day is different, most camp staff will work approximately 8:30 am—4:30 pm each day. Young Explorers staff typically work 8:00 am—1:00 pm each day.

A typical day at Adventurers, Rangers, or Firebaugh camps includes:

- Individual Group Time
- Big Group Time (all-camp)
- Snack Time
- Games/Environmental Education Activities/Nature Walks/Exploration
- Lunch
- Big Group Time (all-camp)
- Arts & Crafts/Swim/Canoe
- Snack Time
- Big Group Time (all-camp wrap-up for the day)

A typical day at Young Explorers includes:

- Big Group Time
- Educational Activity/Nature Walk
- Snack Time
- Craft Time/Story Time/Exploration Activity
- Water Play
- Wrap-up

Daily schedules and activities at River Camp Voyagers vary; the counselor at Voyagers camp will work closely with the Camp Director and weekly participants to choose daily activities.



TIME OFF

All staff must be able to attend at least 75% (25 hours) of staff training the week of May 30th. All staff receive the week of July 4th off. Camp dates vary by program site. For full information on River Camp 2022 dates, visit riverparkway.org/things-to-do/river-camp. Staff may request a maximum of one week personal time off (vacations, etc.) during the camp season; requests must be made prior to the start of camp. Emergency time off may be granted as necessary. As our first priority is to ensure the safety and adequate supervision of our campers, time off may not be granted even if requested.

STAFF POSITIONS

Lifeguard- The Lifeguards at Adventurers, Rangers, and Firebaugh camps act as assistants to the Camp Directors. In addition to performing swim area set up and regular water safety activities, they assist with set-up and clean-up each day, provide short breaks to counselors, lead songs and activities, and other duties as requested by the Camp Directors. This is a full-time position.

Counselor - Counselors are the backbone of our River Camp programs. They lead their groups through various activities each day, assist with general camp set-up and clean-up, and act as role models for Junior Leaders. Counselor positions at Adventurers, Rangers, Firebaugh and Voyagers camps are full time positions. Counselor positions at Young Explorers camp are part time positions, approximately 18 hours/week M-Th AM only.

AM/PM Assistant (Adventurers Camp) - The AM/PM assistant oversees morning check-in and afternoon pick-up at the River Center, as well as overseeing a small group of up to 12 children signed up for early drop off and/or late pick up each week. This is a part-time, split shift position working 7:15 am—9:15 am and 3:45 pm—5:45 pm, M-F approximately 25 hours/week.

Alternate Counselor (All programs) - Alternate counselors are part-time staff that fill in for full-time counselors as needed. Alternates typically work several full weeks during the camp season, and may work at a combination of any of the five River Camp programs. This is a part time position.

Intern (All programs) - Interns assist at camp or with administrative duties as necessary. Interns have highly flexible scheduling, and gain leadership experience by shadowing counselors. This is a part-time, unpaid position; 5-15 hours/week.

Daily start and end times vary by program site and staff position. Full-time staff are **strongly discouraged** from maintaining any other employment over the course of the summer.

NEW APPLICANT GROUP INTERVIEW

Applicants new to River Camp programs (including former campers/Junior Leaders who have not served on staff previously) are required to attend a two hour group interview after the initial round of one-on-one interviews has ended. If a new applicant is unable to attend the group interview date, alternate arrangements must be made in advance. The new applicant group interview will take place on April 16th, 2022.

HIRING TIMELINE

January—Applications open

March—Applications close, individual interviews conducted

April— New applicant group interview, positions are offered

May—First aid training

Late May/June—Staff training

June - August—Camp!



TO APPLY

To apply to work at River Camp 2022 complete our application packet and submit it to kkincaid@riverparkway.org by March 3rd, 2022. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted. Full information on the application process can be found [on our website](#).



San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust,
Inc.

11605 Old Friant Rd, Fresno, CA 93730

(559) 248-8480

www.riverparkway.org