



Be a Counselor at Foothill Horizons

Foothill Horizons Outdoor School is a multi-night, residential outdoor school owned and operated by the Stanislaus County Office of Education. Our beautiful, 143-acre property is nestled in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains just outside of Sonora at an elevation of 2500 feet. Each week, we receive a new group of sixth grade students who visit us from Stanislaus and surrounding counties who stay with us for 3, 4, or 5-day programs. We recruit over 600 volunteers a year who fill the role of “counselor” – these dedicated individuals get to supervise a dorm group of students for a week!

WHY SHOULD YOU BE A COUNSELOR?

Do you need a LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION for job applications or college applications?

- You will receive a letter of recommendation at the end of your week highlighting all the great things you did!

Do you need VOLUNTEER HOURS OR WORK EXPERIENCE to enhance your resume?

- Counselors gain well over 40 hours of work experience that you can list on your job applications, college applications, and resume.

Are you thinking about a CAREER IN EDUCATION OR CHILDCARE?

- This is a great opportunity to gain experience managing 6th graders.
- By observing and conversing with our experience teaching staff, you can get guidance on what it takes to be a successful teacher or Naturalist.

YOU WILL CHANGE LIVES!

- Foothill Horizons depends on enthusiastic people like you to give back to the community and our kids – if you came as a 6th grader, we’re sure you remember the impact your counselor had on you!

QUALITIES OF AN EXCELLENT COUNSELOR:

- ✓ Cares for children & their safety at all times
- ✓ Wants to be positive role model and strong leader
- ✓ Shows good judgment and respect for self and others
- ✓ Encourages discovery and enjoys being outside
- ✓ Can be without their cell phone for most of the week
- ✓ Willing to play games and sing songs with the kids
- ✓ Has fun!



WHAT DOES A COUNSELOR DO?

You will have some pretty big responsibilities during your stay at Foothill. You will learn a lot about leadership, group management, what it means to be a positive role model, and you'll help the kids have a memorable experience. You'll also learn a lot about nature and make some new friends. A big surprise to many counselors is that you also learn a lot about yourself! During your week, you may discover skills you have that you didn't even know existed.

DORM SUPERVISION:

You will sleep in the dorms along with the 6th graders at night, and oversee behavior. You'll wake the students up, help prepare them for their day, and get them to their activities on time. You also get to read them a bedtime story...which the students love!

TEACHER'S AIDE:

You'll join your students on all their hikes and help the teacher pass out materials and help refocus students who are off task. You also get to help encourage discovery and promote learning by asking the students questions during their exploration time!

MEAL SUPERVISION:

You will eat all meals with the students and help encourage polite manners and make sure kids are eating enough and trying new things! We do provide coffee and tea for you at breakfast. ☺

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE A COUNSELOR?

- Recent High School graduates or College students who have been finger-printed. Contact Diann to begin the fingerprinting process.
- High school Juniors or Seniors who are in excellent academic standing, who have excellent attendance records, and who can handle the responsibility of missing a week of class to come to Foothill. In the spring we accept sophomores with a recommendation or training. (They will have some time to work on homework during their week away.)
- Students who are in homeschool programs who are equivalent to being in 11th or 12th grade.
- Counselors don't have to reside in Stanislaus County to attend.
- All interested volunteers must complete a Foothill Horizons Counselor Application.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY?

Visit: foothillhorizons.com and check out the COUNSELOR PAGE

Contact: Diann Rastetter, Assistant Director at 209-532-6673 or email her at: drastetter@stancoe.org

