



Discovery Day Camp Junior Volunteer Counselor 2026 Volunteer Description

Camp Season: June 1, 2026 to July 24, 2026 (No camp for the week of 6/29 - 7/3).

The Nature Institute is a private, non-profit conservation organization that fosters an awareness and appreciation for the natural world through preservation, restoration, and education. The Nature Institute manages nearly 500 acres along the Mississippi River bluffs in Godfrey, IL. This property includes a variety of natural communities that are home to a diverse population of plants and animals. In 1982, The Nature Institute held its first Discovery Day Camp at the Olin Nature Preserve in the historic Talahi Lodge. Each year the camp has successfully grown and it remains the only nature camp of its kind in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Open in June and July, the camp is organized by grade levels from PreK - Middle School. The camp is open to children of all backgrounds.

Junior Volunteer Counselor Position:

The Nature Institute is looking for fun, energetic junior counselors (JC) to *volunteer* for the summer of 2026. JCs will interact daily with campers, help lead hikes, crafts and ecological programs under the supervision of the Summer Day Camp Counselors and the Assistant Camp Director.

Qualifications:

- Persons 13 - 16 years of age.
- Applicants must possess enthusiasm, patience, desire for nature, and leadership skills.
- Be self-motivated and be able to work as a team .
- Applicants will be required to work outside in all weather conditions and be on their feet for long periods of time.
- Applicants must attend **mandatory training on Sunday, May 31st, 2025 from 12 - 5 pm** prior to working with campers.
- Applicants must have their own transportation.
- **Applicant selection will favor those who are available to commit to at least 2 weeks this summer;** Monday through Friday.
- The Nature Institute is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Duties will include but are not limited to:

- *Assist with supervision and safety of campers
- *Help complete daily chores
- *Assist with daily programming
- *Assist in daily planning

- *Serve as a positive role model
- *Ensure everyone has FUN!

Growth and Development:

Junior Counselors will report to and be evaluated by the Assistant Camp Director and summer camp counselors. JCs will also meet once a week with the Assistant Camp Director for a brief training. JCs will receive a volunteer hours certificate at the end of the summer.

Feel free to reach out to our Assistant Camp Director, Dave, at dschiber@thenatureinstitute.org, or 618-466-9930 with any questions.



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