



Outdoor Education Counselor Selection

Mrs. Michelle Waiter - Outdoor Education Director

What is Outdoor Education?

Outdoor Education is a 5-day residential program for Palmyra 7th grade students. This is the 41st year of the program. There are three 7th grade teams and each year one of the teams split, and each group goes for a week to Camp Swatara. The continued success of camp is derived from dedicated teachers and high school students (OE Counselors) who believe in the principles that are at the heart of this program.



Qualities Needed for a Counselor Position



- ❖ Good academic standing - 3.0 GPA or higher
- ❖ Positive Role Model - make good choices in school and in the community
- ❖ Leader - be able to take charge of a cabin of students and make sure tasks are completed
- ❖ Interpersonal Skills - be able to communicate well others and work with different personality types
- ❖ Enjoy middle school age students
- ❖ Commitment to the position if selected
- ❖ Be able to perform skits/songs in front of others

Roles/Responsibilities of a Counselor Position

❖ Before Camp Weeks

- Attend 1-2 in-service meetings with Mrs. Waiter
 - Understanding the OE schedule
 - Learn about specific activities you will be in charge of leading or assisting teachers
- Attend counselor group meetings for planning and preparation for camp (several)
 - Working on Cabin Poster/Identify Cabin song/skit for week
 - Work on preparing counselor songs/skits for the week
 - Review daily camp schedule and class lessons your assigned
- Responsibility to communicate with your teachers and to get work ahead of time if possible
- Communicate with Mrs. Waiter any school sponsored conflicts that come up (athletic/academic/musical) during your camp week.
 - You will be excused for school sponsored athletic games, not practices



Roles/Responsibilities of a Counselor Position

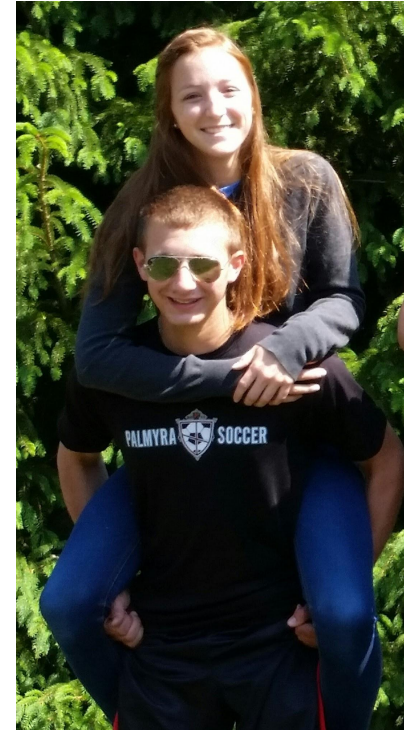
❖ During Camp Weeks

- Be a leader/role model all the time (eyes and ears are on your every word/action)
- Strive to make connections with all students and help them get the most out of camp
- Actively participate in assigned classes
- Bring student/counselor concerns to Mrs. Waiter as needed at our daily check-ins
- Organize and run evening recreation activities (gaga ball/kickball/four square) as assigned
- Be enthusiastic/energetic with singing, having fun, getting kids involved
- Lead your cabin
 - Make sure your cabin is safe and respectful of everyone there
 - Assign cruiser duty/cleaning duties
 - Get kids to meals/classes on time
 - Help kids to connect/build brotherhood/sisterhood in cabins
 - Make sure kids know cabin song/skit for week
- Know counselor led songs/skits for week (Monday/Thursday)



The Counselor Selection Process

- ❖ All applications are reviewed and scored on a rubric by Mrs. Waiter, Mrs. Mason, & MS administration.
- ❖ Character references will be checked
- ❖ Several applicants from the pool will be selected for a 10 minute follow up interview
- ❖ Candidates who have not been selected for an interview will be notified by Mrs. Waiter
- ❖ All candidates who were selected for interviews will be notified of their status by the middle of December
- ❖ We select 20 girls and 20 boys each year, possibly more depending on our student needs.



Questions?

- ❖ Any general questions regarding Outdoor Education or Counselor Selection Process?
- ❖ Individual questions/concerns can be shared with me through email michelle_waiter@pasd.us

