

2026

Junior Counselor Application





Junior Counselor Program

Important Dates:

Applications Accepted: February 7th

Deadline for Applications: March 27th

Interviews Begin: April 13th

Interviews End: April 17th

Notification Deadline: April 24th

Payment for Program Due: May 1st

Parent Mandatory Meeting: TBD

Junior Counselor Orientation: TBD



Junior Counselor Program

Overview

The Junior Counselor Leadership Program is looking for dedicated youth ages 13 – 15 to assist with our summer camp at Bees Landing Rec Center, this summer. Participants will have the opportunity for growth and learning while being of service to their community. Spend your day's outdoors and indoors assisting in camp activities such as arts and crafts, sports, and games while focusing on leadership skill development.

Benefits

- Gain experience for future employment and/or school references
- Experience a behind the scenes look at being a counselor
- Exposure to leadership development topics such as goal setting, communication and decision making
- Work as a team with camp staff
- Have fun helping kids
- Gather hours for school, honor society, etc.

Who is eligible?

- Leaders age 13 – 15
- Must be available a minimum of 2 session weeks during the summer (session dates listed below)
- Must be available for an interview during the weeks of April 13th-17th.
- There will be a Junior Counselor Orientation at Bees Landing Recreation Center (date/time TBD)
- Participants who are energetic, motivated, and willing to work with young children

How to apply

- Stop by Bees Landing Rec Center to pick up an information packet. You may also contact them via phone or e-mail to have them e-mail you a copy. The deadline to turn in your information packet to your interested site is March 27th, 2026.
- **Selection is not guaranteed.** You will be notified by the site coordinator on your selection status by April 24th, 2026.
- Applicants for the program will be required to go through a selection process that includes a personal interview (no phone interviews, as this is part of the learning process). Interviews will be held during the month of April.
- The fee for the program will be \$100 for city residents (\$125 for non city residents) for a two-week session block. If selected, payment will be due by May 1st. There is no refund for this program, make sure you want the program before payment.
- Session 1: June 1-12
- Session 2: June 15-26
- Session 3: June 29-July10 (no camp July 3)
- Session 4: July 13-24
- Session 5: July 27-Aug7



Junior Counselor Description

Description/Responsibilities

Position Description

A Junior Counselor is a leader, aged 13 – 15, who is selected to participate in the Junior Counselor program. They also assist the summer camp staff with various activities and duties of the daily camp schedule as well as assisting the Celebration of Summer, all city camp events.

Position Supervisors

Junior Counselors are supervised by the following: Counselors, Unit Leaders, and Camp Director. Junior Counselors are not solely responsible for supervision of the campers; they are present to assist the camp staff and learn how to supervise.

Responsibilities

1. To attend all phases of training
2. Meet new ideas/activities with an open mind, accept constructive feedback, and make positive changes.
3. Participates in activities and are involved with the children and counselors.
4. Learn and accept all City of Charleston year round and summer camp policies.
5. To respect all City of Charleston property and equipment.
6. To assist in the creation and maintenance of a physically and emotionally safe environment for all participants.
7. To follow the set schedule for service, Monday – Friday.
8. To participate fully in weekly meetings, reviews, and debriefs for the junior counselor program.
9. To assist with preparation, execution, and clean-up of camp programs and activities as assigned, including lunch time. For those camps who attend pools, it is expected that the junior counselor assists with head count and supervision of campers during swim time.
10. To attend scheduled sessions and participate in all camp activities unless excused by prior arrangement. Please communicate these arrangements or conflicts to your supervisors as soon as possible.
11. Communicate issues/concerns in regard to accident and incidents to supervisors.
12. Be a good role model to the younger campers.
13. Teach or lead designated activities/programs on a weekly/daily basis as described in the program.

Not Your Responsibility

1. Disciplining a camper
2. Taking a child alone into a bathroom
3. Providing first aid/CPR to a child (unless you are certified by the American Red Cross and have cleared it with the recreation department)
4. Supervising a group of children alone
5. Writing up a camper or discussing issues with parents or your friends and family.

Dress Code

All Junior Counselors will wear shirts designating them as Junior Counselors. All Junior Counselors are expected to wear closed toed shoes to protect their feet during participation in all camp activities. Appropriate water clothing will be ok for swimming activities.

Discipline

There exists a mutual understanding that you were accepted into the Junior Counselor Leadership program and will be held to the City of Charleston Recreation Department standard. You will be expected to assist camp staff and not need an excessive number of corrections or reprimands. The program wants to provide an opportunity to learn and grow for youth. However, instances of inappropriate conduct, excessive corrections or reprimands, or failure to follow city policies will not be tolerated. If need be, per the Camp Director's discretion, individuals will be excused from the program.

Absenteeism

If the Junior Counselor needs to make a schedule change or be absent, please contact your site coordinator. However, if selected and when scheduled for a two-week block, it is expected much like work that you can fulfill your selected weeks. As a selected Junior Counselor, if you need a day off, it will be your responsibility (not your parents) to communicate this to the camp director in advance.



2026 Junior Counselor Leadership Program Application

Deadline

Date Received:

_____ / _____ / _____

Deadline: March 27, 2026

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

1. What are you expecting to learn by participating in the Junior Counselor Leadership Program?

2. As a role model, what characteristics would you bring each day to camp that you feel would make a difference in the lives of the children in your group? Why is this important?

3. As a Junior Counselor, what goals would you set for your group of campers and how do you plan on helping achieve those goals?

Applicants are NOT guaranteed a spot in the program. An interview or multiple interviews may be required before JCIT participants are chosen. The interviews will be held during the month of April at the individual sites at their scheduled times. Applicants will be selected by April 24th. If selected, payment will be due by May 1st, 2026. The total fee for the program is \$100 for city residents or \$125 for non city residents. All fees are non-refundable as you will be taking a spot that may not be able to be filled.

** Parents are required to attend a brief meeting at the Bees Landing Recreation Center (1580 Ashley Gardens Blvd., Charleston, SC 29414) Time and date are still to be determined. We may do this by email and send out the information we need acknowledged.

Applicants Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____