



Service Corps Program Overview

Leadership Development Programs

Program Purpose and Overview

YMCA Camp Greenville has a particular competence for reaching young people and believes strongly that an ethic of service to others is an important factor in their development. Through the Service Corps, high school students are offered opportunities to learn and develop in Spirit, Mind and Body. The program provides students who have completed at least their freshman year the opportunity to serve the camp community in support service areas (dining hall, maintenance, office, etc.).

Program Description

The Service Corps is a fantastic opportunity for young people to make friends, contribute their service, and live in a beautiful environment beyond their regular camp experience. Participants are expected to work hard each day and perform in a mature and responsible manner. This is a unique program for those who want to give their all in return for the satisfaction of helping behind the scenes and giving to the camp community as a whole. They will not participate in camp's normal daily program, but will have occasional opportunities to enjoy the benefits of the camp environment. While participants are a unique part of the YMCA Camp Greenville community, they are under the immediate supervision of adult leaders and must follow the same policies, rules and regulations as other campers.

Benefits of the Service Corps

- Develops character and leadership in an environment of positive peer relations.
- Develops a service ethic in both the participants and the entire YMCA Camp Greenville community.
- Offers a sense of accomplishment and achievement that comes from hard work.
- Promotes positive peer relationships and encourages the development of long lasting friendships in an accepting environment.
- Provides quality role models for participants through caring adult leadership.

Types of Duties and Responsibilities

There are several areas for Service Corps members to serve Camp during the summer:

1. **Dining Hall:** All Service Corps members assist with food service: they set tables before meals and then wash dishes and clean after the meal. Additionally, they assist with recycling and our efforts at conservation through the "Zero Waste" program.
2. **Horse Barn:** At the barn, volunteers muck stalls, groom, feed and water horses, and assist the Barn Manager as needed.
3. **Maintenance:** Volunteers work with the Maintenance Department in general grounds work and the upkeep and preservation of Camp. Typical projects may include daily trash pick up, recycling, trail maintenance, erosion control, cleaning, etc.
4. **Other:** Other possibilities may arise during the summer, including helping in pack-out, the main office, at the waterfront, or other areas. We strive to make each volunteer experience both rewarding and useful to Camp and the participant.

Training

All participants need some training to perform their duties. Such training includes orientation to camp facilities and to specific work areas. This training will take place on the day of arrival and includes general rules, procedures, and expectations necessary for safety.

Supervision

Participants are supervised by the Service Corps Leaders who are responsible for their work and leisure time. These staff members assume supervisory duties during the day and stay in the cabins with the participants at night. The Service Corps Leaders are involved in the work right along with the participants and lead by example.

Program Fees

The cost of each Leadership Development Program is reflected on the application and is **payable upon acceptance**.

The cost includes a group photo, a Service Corps shirt, and a daily snack and beverage at the camp store. Participants are responsible for providing their own spending money (typically \$30/week) for meals and activities during supervised in town time-off between sessions. Additionally, participants are required to have a current health form (within one year) and medical exam by a physician for participation in any camp program.

Schedules

- Participants must make a one- or two-week commitment to the program
- Arrival/Departure: Service Corps assignments always begin on Sunday, with check-in from 2:30 PM until 4:30 PM. Service Corps assignments always end on Saturday, with check-out from 10:00 AM until 12 noon.
- Weekends typically consist of a short service project, helping in the dish room, Chapel, and fun camp activities.

Paving the Way

Service Corps members are paving the way each summer for future participants and future summers. It is important to understand that **service learning is hard work** and that participants are expected to give their all! Participation in the program can be very rewarding – participants develop friendships, work as a team, and learn about themselves through service to others. Finally, the program and the participants fill unique roles at Camp, and they can take pride in the fact that they are a special part of YMCA Camp Greenville.

As a Service Corps member, you are paving the way to your own future, whether at YMCA Camp Greenville, or leadership service in another organization. Your service and commitment to YMCA Camp Greenville means opening new doors in your own life, as well as helping Camp to be an extraordinary place. Service to others involves commitment and is a big responsibility – that is why we want participants who are truly dedicated to doing a great job.

Application Process

There are two parts to the application process: (1) a written application and references, and (2) a personal interview. Due to the large number of qualified candidates for the very limited number of spaces, we would strongly encourage candidates to get their application and reference forms completed and returned quickly. Please note that incomplete applications (forms not completed, missing references, etc.) will be returned to the sender and may jeopardize placement in the program.

#1: Written Application and References

To begin the application process, candidates must complete the enclosed *Leadership Development Programs Application*. Be sure to complete the entire application, giving thorough thought and consideration to the following:

- Complete the *Leadership Development Programs Application* by printing or typing it in blue or black ink.
- Answer all questions completely; incomplete applications will be returned and may jeopardize your chances.
- Consider answering questions on scrap paper first and then copying your answers onto the application.

Each applicant must have **two** completed reference forms on file to be considered for the program; three reference forms have been included in this packet. An adult who is not an immediate family member should complete references. Possible ideas for appropriate references include teachers, former camp counselors, and adult leaders from school, civic, or church groups.

Based on our experiences through the years, we have found the following steps to be helpful to ensure that your reference forms are completed and returned:

1. Decide who you would like to serve as references for you.
2. Explain to your potential references what the Leadership Development program is about (they may not be familiar with Camp or our programs), and ask if they would be willing to give you a "favorable" reference.
3. Provide them with the *Leadership Development Reference Form*.
4. After a reasonable amount of time (a week or two) follow up with them to be sure that they have completed the *Leadership Development Reference Form* and returned it to you.
5. Write them a thank-you note for taking the time to serve as a reference for you.

#2: Interviews

Once your complete application (application form and two references) is received at Camp, you will be contacted to set up a phone appointment for a phone interview. Sometimes interviews can be arranged while we are in your area doing "Showings" to recruit campers or having a "Summer Reunion." Interviews can also be arranged during Volunteer Weekends at Camp or by scheduling an appointment.

Additional hints for having a successful interview include:

- Be prepared - review your application and put a lot of thought into why you want to participate in Service Corps
- Make a list of questions you would like to ask during the interview.

Selection, Notification, and Acceptance

Selection for participation in the Service Corps will be based on your completed application, completed reference forms, a personal interview, and your previous camping experiences. The Service Corps popularity forces YMCA Camp Greenville to turn away several applicants each summer. ***We, therefore, give preference to those applicants who are also registered for a regular camp session, including Trailblazers, Outback, Counselor In Training (CIT), and others.*** The Service Corps program should occur immediately before or after the session that the applicant is registered for. Campers wishing to serve for non-contiguous weeks will receive secondary consideration, except for the first and last weeks of the camp season, and may be denied the opportunity to participate. Those selected for the program will be notified and given the opportunity to accept their assignment by a specific deadline and pay the associated fees. If they fail to accept by the deadline or decline the assignment, their space in the program will be offered to another candidate.

Thank you for your interest in the Service Corps Program at Camp Greenville. We hope to hear from you soon!