

SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM

YMCA CAMP CARSON

DATES

- Check campcarson.org for available dates
- Service Corps members may only participate in one session with potential extra time in the last week of Summer.
- No weekend accommodations are offered during Session 3.

HOW TO APPLY

- Fill out the online Service Corps Program Application.
- The Camp Carson team will review your application and schedule an interview.
- Selection is dependent on interview, availability, openings, and needs within the program.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Ryan Meeks

812.385.3597

rmeeks@ymcacampcarson.org

OVERVIEW

The Service Corps Program is a leadership experience designed to help young people gain leadership skills through experiential service learning, leadership sessions, and trainings during their two-week stay. They form a tight knit group as they work together to accomplish daily activities.

Our goal is for Service Corps members leave with a desire to continue their service to others. The program is designed to instill our "kids and guests first" philosophy which makes Camp a place where all children, staff, and guests are Accepted for who they are, Challenged to stretch their comfort zones, and Empowered to make a difference in the world.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Service Corps volunteers assist with and lead a variety of activities throughout the camp that are essential to our success in providing quality experiences for our campers. This includes developing camper skills in an activity area, washing dishes, working in canteen, and mentoring campers in a cabin setting. These experiences are used to develop the leadership skills that will be beneficial in future summers at camp and other life endeavors.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Service Corps members have time for classic camp fun and time with campers. They engage with campers at activity areas, as they are assigned an activity area to work during morning blocks. In the afternoons, they may help with cabin activities, work in canteen, or shadow a staff member on waterfront rotation. They participate in all evening programs, including opening and closing campfires, and hootenanny. They have opportunities to assist with planning and implementation of camp-wide programming. They are also engaged in staff meetings on Friday evenings.

ORIENTATION

Service Corps members attend a Service Corps Program Orientation in the Spring. These orientations are designed to help prepare Service Corps members for their summer stay at camp. There is an in-person orientation weekend and a virtual orientation option. The weekend includes a stayover at Camp Carson and may include a volunteer event.

In-person Orientation Weekend in April
Virtual Orientation Options: late April and Early May

SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DO SERVICE CORPS MEMBERS HAVE COUNSELORS?

The Service Corps Program is led by a Service Corps Coordinator, a college-age leader who will supervise them in the kitchen, during their sessions and trainings, foster teambuilding and friendships, and guide them through their transition from camper to volunteer.

WHAT DOES A SERVICE CORPS DAY LOOK LIKE?

A day in the Service Corps Program is very similar to a day at camp for our campers and staff members. Their programming and break times will vary from day to day, but overall will follow our sample daily schedule.

WHAT EXACTLY DO SERVICE CORPS MEMBERS DO?

Service Corps members are volunteers at Camp Carson, and their activities rotate between service roles at camp (washing dishes, canteen, etc.) plus mentoring and working with our campers at activity areas evening programs, and in the cabin.

WHY DO THEY LOVE VOLUNTEERING IF THEY ARE DOING ALL OF THAT DIRTY WORK?

> "Working in the dish room built my teamwork skills to an all-time high. With the amazing playlist, I had so much fun singing and dancing with my peers, or just with myself."
> -Meagan, former Service Corps Member

Our Service Corps members understand that in order for our campers to have the best week at camp, all programs and teams must be functioning at their best - that includes the kitchen, the dish room, the property team, our office staff, and our counselors. Their assistance with each of those areas helps in the overall camp experience for everyone. Service Corps members learn that deep connections are made through shared experiences and hard work. We have also found that these future leaders enjoy having a purpose at camp and seeing behind the scenes. The memories and friendships that are created when serving others in the Service Corps Program are what makes all of the hard work worth it.

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

7:00am Wake Up
7:40am Chapel
8:00am Breakfast
8:30am Breakfast Dishes
9:30am Leadership Session
10:00am Activity Areas
12:15pm Lunch
1:00pm Lunch Dishes
2:15pm Cabin Activities, Waterfront, or Canteen Time
4:30pm Leadership Session, Break, or Cabin Activity
5:30pm Dinner
6:15pm Rec Hour/Evening Program
8:30pm Showers, Devotions with Cabin
10:30pm Devotions with Service Corps
12:00am Light Out