



FLAT ROCK RIVER YMCA CAMP SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM SUMMER 2022

SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Flat Rock River YMCA Camp, Service Corps Program is a two-week leadership experience for those entering the 12th grade. This program is designed to help our Service Corps members gain leadership skills through experiential service learning, leadership sessions, and trainings during their two-week stay. They will form a tight knit group with the other Service Corps members as they work together to complete their daily responsibilities. It is our hope that they will leave the Service Corps Program with an understanding of our "kids and guests first" philosophy, which makes Flat Rock a place where ALL children, staff, and guests are Included for who they are, Engaged with their peers in the camp experience. Becoming confident in their skills and who they are and ultimately Inspired to make a difference in this world. We also hope they leave with a desire to continue their service to others.

SERVICE CORPS RESPONSIBILITIES

Service Corps primary responsibilities during their two-week stay will be to perform an assortment of jobs and tasks throughout the camp that are essential and necessary for our success in providing quality experiences for our campers. These tasks include washing dishes, helping with lost and found laundry, working in Trading Post, developing camper skills in an activity area, 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 will have time for classic camp fun and time with campers during their program time. There will be opportunities to engage with campers at activity areas. They are assigned an activity area they will work during morning blocks. In addition, during the afternoons, they will spend time with their campers during cabin activities and during waterfront times, they will work and engage with campers in canteen or shadow a staff member on lookout rotation. They will attend all evening programs including opening and closing campfires, and staff meetings on Friday evenings and be a part of devotions and showers with their cabins. They will also be given some opportunities to assist with the organization and implementation of camp-wide programming.

2022 SESSIONS

SESSION 1: June 5-17

SESSION 2: June 19-July 1

SESSION 3: July 3 -15

SESSION 4: July 17-29

*Service Corps members may only participate in one session.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Fill out the Service Corps Program Application online.
2. Drop an e-mail note to Ben Baker via email (bbaker@indymca.org).
3. Your application will be reviewed by the Flat Rock team and an interview will be set up.
4. Selection will be dependent on the interview, availability, openings, and needs within the program.

SERVICE CORPS TRAINING WEEKENDS

Each Service Corps member will be required to attend a Service Corps Program Training in the Spring. This training weekend will include a stayover at Camp Carson and a volunteer event (either Volunteer Work Day or our Open House). This weekend will help prepare our Service Corps members for their summer stay at camp.

The dates for the trainings are: Date 1 - TBD

Date 2 - Saturday April 30th at 1pm – Sunday May 7th at 4pm

SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DO SERVICE CORPS MEMBERS HAVE COUNSELORS?

The Service Corps Program is led by a Service Corps Coordinator. The Service Corps Coordinator is a college-age leader who will supervise them in the kitchen, during their sessions and trainings, help them build friendships, and guide them through their transition from camper to volunteer. The Service Corps Coordinator lives in the cabins so they are near the Service Corps members to help them with anything that comes up during their stay.

HOW LONG DO SERVICE CORPS MEMBERS STAY?

A Service Corps Program session is two weeks long. Service Corps members will stay on-site during the Saturday of their two-week program. They will have time to relax, do their laundry, and have an activity of recreation including a trip to town to purchase any necessary items for the following week. Parents should not expect to visit with their Service Corps member during their two-week session.

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 participants are in a training program at Flat Rock and their roles rotate between service roles at camp (washing dishes, laundry, facility projects, etc.) and mentoring and working with our campers at activity areas and in the cabin.

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

Our Executive Director has a saying here at Flat Rock that if you can make the Dish room fun at Camp then you can make any part of Camp fun! Our Service Corps members also understand that in order for our campers to have the best week at camp that all departments must be functioning at their best, and that includes the kitchen, the dishroom, the property team, our office staff, and our counselors. There is also something said for the friendships built over shared experiences and hard work. We have also found that our teens like having a purpose at camp and seeing behind the scenes. Mostly, the friendships that are not only created, but strengthened and the team built by serving others in a Service Corps Program session are what makes all the hard work worth it. **These volunteer hours can also be logged and counted as hours you need recorded for school or college applications.**

SAMPLE SERVICE CORPS DAILY SCHEDULE

7:00am Wake Up
7:40am – 8.30 Breakfast & Chapel
8:30am Breakfast Dishes
9:30am Leadership Session
10:00am Activity Areas
12:30pm Lunch
1:00pm Lunch Dishes
2:15pm Cabin Activities/Waterfront Time
4:30pm Leadership Session or Break or Cabin Activity
5:30pm Dinner
6:15pm Rec Hour/Evening Program
8:30pm Showers/Devotions with Cabin
10:00pm Devotions with Service Corps members
10:30pm Light Out

FEEDBACK FROM OTHER CAMPS SERVICE CORPS PARTICIPANTS:

"You learn so many life skills that you will continue to use for the rest of your life." -Josh, 2021 Service Corps
"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, 2021 Service Corps

"At the end of the day, know that you joined Service Corps to do something bigger than yourself, and to help staff and campers have the best summer they could. I have no doubt I would do it all again to make more memories."

-Jordan, 2021 Service Corps