



The Darien Nature Center is located in the heart of Darien's Cherry Lawn Park. We inspire passion and respect for the natural world through nature education, hands-on experiences with nature, and environmental action and stewardship. Built by generous supporters, the Nature Center is open daily to the public, who visit our 22 species of animals and hike the trails. This summer we will be running seven weeks of on-site camp sessions that will include all the usual summer fun – outdoor exploration, nature discoveries, animal encounters, games, crafts, stories, songs, water play, science experiments, and more!

Summer Camp 2026 JUNIOR COUNSELOR JOB DESCRIPTION - AGE 16+

Responsibilities:

- Assist your team members with activities based on curriculum: Activities may include animal encounters, waterplay, science experiments, crafts and hiking
- Supervise and interact with children at all times
- Help with clean tables and putting away supplies and materials
- Work under the direction of the lead teacher and senior counselor
- Get to know your campers, provide a positive, supportive, and welcoming environment
- Ensure positive interactions with parents and staff
- Participate in an orderly drop-off and dismissal, and greet children with enthusiasm
- Review lesson plan and gather supplies the day prior to teaching the lesson

Requirements:

- Appreciation and respect towards animals and nature
- Patient, understanding, and kind to young children 3 to 10 years of age
- Ability to lift about 40 pounds (camp supplies, children, animal enclosures)
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Demonstrate leadership abilities and creativity
- Self-motivated, punctual, and dependable
- Provide documentation of a current health exam

Qualifications:

- Experience with young children preferred

Hours:

- Orientation/Training/Set up: June 17- 18, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
- Camp Dates: June 22 – August 7 (no camp on 7/3)
- Camp Staff Hours: Monday & Thursday 8:45 AM–2:45 PM, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 8:45 AM–2:30 PM
- Pay: Starting at \$17 per hour

The Darien Nature Center is an equal-opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran, marital, or disability status.



Please Return Application
by February 27, 2026

SUMMER CAMP 2026 JUNIOR COUNSELOR APPLICATION

Camp Dates: June 22 – August 7, 2026, 8:45 AM to 2:45 PM
Required Training: June 17 & 18, 2026, 9 AM to 3:30 PM

**At the Darien Nature Center, we inspire passion and respect for the natural world
through nature education, hands-on experiences with nature, and environmental
action and stewardship.**

Name_____Gender_____Preferred Pronouns_____

Address_____Cell _____

City/State/Zip_____

Email Address_____Date of Birth_____Age_____

Are you CPR/Basic First Aid Certified?_____

Why do you want to be a nature educator?_____

EDUCATION

High School_____Years Completed_____

College_____Years Completed_____

Advanced_____Years Completed_____

REFERENCES

Please list two references:

Name

Occupation

Phone

1._____

2._____

WORK EXPERIENCE

Describe your work experience, particularly any work with children or work related to environmental education. Please include dates:

VOLUNTEER WORK

Describe any volunteer positions you have held. Please include dates:

INTEREST & HOBBIES

Please list your hobbies, including clubs, extracurricular activities, etc.:

I certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and are made in good faith.

I understand that the position that I am applying for requires my attendance Monday through Friday from 8:45 AM to 2:45 PM each day between June 22 and August 7. On June 17 and June 18, I will attend team building and training sessions from 9 AM to 3:30PM.

Signature of Applicant:_____Date:_____

**Please email, mail or hand-deliver your application to:
The Darien Nature Center, 120 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820 or
victoria@dariennaturecenter.org.**