

Position Description | RISE Retreat Camp Counselor

Organization Background Information:

The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio (DCNEO) was founded in 1927 as The National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ), a human relations organization dedicated to eliminating bias, bigotry, and racism in America. DCNEO's School & Youth Team provides year-round diversity and inclusion centered programs for students and educators alike. Our workshops empower youth and youth-serving professionals throughout the region with the skills and abilities to build communities where everyone is connected, respected, and valued.

The R.I.S.E. (Respect, Inclusion, Social Justice, Empathy) Retreat, formerly known as the Fall High School Retreat, is a gathering of Northeast Ohio's students and youth-serving professionals, who spend 3 days exploring topics of diversity and inclusion through experiential activities and discussions. The theme of the retreat is **ACTIVISM: Student Change-Makers**, and will be held **April 18-20th, 2024** at Camp Wise (Chardon, OH).

Volunteer Camp Counselor Position Summary

Our retreats and conferences provide unique opportunities for youth to share a fun, critical thinking space. The Volunteer Camp Counselors will uniquely impact the students by serving as facilitators, active listeners, and guides to student experiences as they work through program activities. With the help of the Diversity Center's staff, Camp Counselors are responsible for monitoring students as they participate in Diversity Center activities, camp activities, and simulations. All counselors will receive training in Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) workshops from skilled program specialists and hands-on experience as program facilitators. After successfully fulfilling their responsibilities, each Volunteer Camp Counselor will receive a \$200 stipend at the conclusion of the retreat.

Primary Responsibilities

- Accompany students to all Retreat related activities
- Facilitation of designated Diversity Center curriculum
- Escort students to and from cabins, meals, and activities
- Keep a constant headcount of students before and after transitions
- Sleep in student participant cabins as chaperones and supervisors

Additional Responsibilities:

- Socialize with students during meals and breaks
- Model positive active participation for students
- Help lead icebreakers and activities as necessary
- Attend facilitation and curriculum content trainings
- Other tasks as assigned by Diversity Center Staff or Camp Director



Outcomes and Skills Gained:

- Each Volunteer Camp Counselor will receive a \$200 stipend
- Facilitator/Counselor training from skilled Diversity Center Program Specialists
- Best practices, skills, and strategies in addressing social justice related incidents and/or challenges
- Leadership, time management, and hands-on facilitation experience
- Room and Board for the duration of the R.I.S.E. Retreat
- Relationship building with Students, Educators, Counselors, and Diversity Center Staff

Preferred Knowledge and Skills:

- Passion and curiosity about social justice issues and about using your skill set for good causes
- Strong interpersonal skills—ability to work successfully with individuals of all backgrounds
- Effective communication skills
- College students pursuing any field of study are welcome to apply for this opportunity

Application | RISE Retreat Camp Counselor

Our residential host is Camp Wise, (13164 Taylor Wells Road, Chardon, OH 44024). Please note that you will be staying at a camp, and that all activities are rain or shine. There will be over 10 school groups with approximately 110 students and educators participating in the Retreat.

There will be mandatory counselor orientation and curriculum training which will take place prior to camp – dates TBD. Lunch, refreshments and snacks will be provided during our in-person all-day training session.

On Thursday, April 18th, all counselors should be present at Camp Wise no later than 12:00. If you are willing and able to drive to Camp Wise, please let us know at Counselor Orientation. We will work with you to secure transportation, if necessary. Counselors will depart from camp on Saturday, April 20th by 1:00 pm following a staff and counselor debrief session with lunch provided.

Please fill out the following application forms and email them to schoolandyouth@diversitycenterneo.org by March 15th, 2024.

Contact Information:

Name:

Email:

Cell Phone #:

Background Information:

What year did you graduate high school?

If attending college, where are you currently attending?

Have you participated in The Diversity Center's programs before (as a student or counselor)?

If you selected yes, please explain.

How did you hear about The Diversity Center and this experience?

- Website
- Email Newsletter
- Friend/Colleague/Advisor
- Social Media
- Event/Program
- Other

References:

Please provide **two** references using the Reference Form. Your references may be an advisor, employer, educator, or other reference (non-relative) who can vouch for your character and skills related to the role of camp counselor at The Diversity Center's high school R.I.S.E. Retreat. Each reference should send this form directly to The Diversity Center at schoolandyouth@diversitycenterneo.org by March 15th, 2024.

Application Questions:

1. How do you define diversity? What impact does diversity have on people's lives and the communities in which they live? Why is it important to build an awareness of and hold spaces for dialogue around the diversity of our communities and the identities/experiences of individuals within a community?
2. Please share about any experiences you have had working with high school students, facilitating dialogue sessions, participation in leadership roles, and/or learning experiences related to diversity, identity, inclusion, and justice. How have these experiences contributed to your development as a citizen, student, and leader?
3. What inspirations or life lessons have you had that you would share or model with the students at the RISE Retreat (especially as they pertain to topics of social justice, equity, and inclusion)?
4. In the practice of social justice, equity, and inclusion, are there any topics in particular that you are passionate about? In what areas do you want to grow? Are there any topics that you want to know more about?

5. What are you hoping to get out of this experience as a counselor and for your own personal growth?