Urban Adventures Summer Program 2026
Junior Counselor Position

(Part-time, Seasonal)

Application Priority Deadline: Friday, March 28th, 2026.

Applications can still be submitted after March 28th, 2026.

Who We Are:

GWL's mission and operations are premised on the understanding that environmental conditions are inextricably linked to the economic and social health of a neighborhood. Therefore, GWL is committed to "changing places, changing lives, changing systems" through on-the-ground projects that help transform local communities.

What You Will Do:

Urban Adventures Summer Program is a 5-week summer youth program designed to provide children with a fun-filled summer camp-like experience within the heart of Lawrence while promoting social-emotional learning, environmental stewardship, sustainability, nutrition, academic excellence, team building, creative expression, and regional exploration. Groundwork Lawrence is working in partnership with community-based organizations and Lawrence public schools to administer this program. Urban Adventures is designated for youth ages 11-14. Youth will investigate healthy food access, sustainability, and/or environmental stewardship in the Lawrence community and create service-learning projects to promote positive change and community learning on these topics. All programming will adhere to and follow CDC guidelines for a safe and healthy summer experience.

Groundwork Lawrence (GWL) is seeking a responsible, intelligent, creative young adult, **16 years or older** with a passion for working with Lawrence youth indoors and outdoors, to hire as a Junior Counselor for the 2025 season. The **Junior Counselor will assist in the delivery of service-learning and related topic instruction, guidance, and supervision of youth in accordance with programmatic goals** as well as health and safety regulations as mandated by partner organizations and the state. There will also be a mandatory training period and some curriculum development before summer programming begins. This is a seasonal paid position with a maximum of 18 hrs./wk. Below is a sample of the job responsibilities required for this position. Changes to and additions to such responsibilities may occur depending on the needs of the program.

Job Responsibilities:

- Participate in a week-long, paid training prior to the beginning of the program on topics including but not limited to service learning, social-emotional learning, and program curriculum.
- Assist your Senior Counselors in delivering program activities, lessons, instruction, and games including but not limited to gardening, nature explorations, science experiments, cooking, games, arts/crafts, & technology.
- Adhere to all CDC guidelines and expectations in the prevention of illnesses.
- Maintain safety of children and youth by adhering to program and partner policies, rules, and procedures.
- Serve as a mentor and role model for youth participants.
- Be available to work for the entire duration of the season and adhere to daily schedule.
- Collaborate with the other counselors (junior and senior) for program planning, curriculum development/adjustment, and implementation.
- Complete weekly check-ins to record overall experience, challenges, and successes.

What We Seek:

Qualifications:

- Minimum of 16 years of age, US citizen or permanent resident status.
- Have an interest in working with youth, environmental education, community engagement, healthy food access, cooking, science, urban agriculture, and/or the outdoors.
- Successful and satisfactory completion of a background check, both Criminal and Sexual Offender Record Information.
- Access to the internet.
- Ability to participate in physical activities, including extensive walks, garden activities, and sports.
- Ability to work effectively independently and as part of a team.
- Experience or desire to work in multicultural settings.
- Strong communication skills.

Desired Qualifications:

- Have experience working with youth in-person or outdoors.
- Bilingual in English and Spanish.
- CPR/First Aid certified.

Compensation: $18/hour*
*Subject to change dependent upon grant funding.

Employment Dates:

- TBD; 18 hours a week; Approximately 6-7 weeks (1-2 weeks of training, 5 weeks of summer programming).

*Subject to change depending on partner sites' availability and/or changes to LPS schedule due to snow days.

Hiring Process:
Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. We strongly suggest applicants apply as early as possible. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Please, no phone calls. We will call or email you if your application meets position qualifications to set up an interview.

To Apply:
Applicants for the Junior Counselor position must fill out an application linked here, or linked on the Groundwork Lawrence website under Job Openings. **In addition to filling out the application form, Junior Counselor applicants must also have one letter of recommendation sent to ybushell@groundworklawrence.org.** Please include the position you are applying for in the subject line. ***No phone calls, please.***

Hiring Policy: Groundwork Lawrence is an equal opportunity employer. We consider applicants for all positions without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, age, disability, marital or veteran status, sexual orientation/identification, or any legally protected status. ***City of Lawrence residents are strongly encouraged to apply.***