



Overnight Camp Activity Specialist

In 1887, John Ames Mitchell, editor of Life magazine, raised \$800 to send 266 children from New York City to the Life Fresh Air Farm in Branchville, Connecticut. Since that first summer, thousands of children and teens have participated in life-changing experiences at our nature-based summer camp and after-school programs in New York and New Jersey. We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to play, learn, and grow at camp. Trail Blazers is committed to creating diverse, equitable, and inclusive spaces where all children, families, and staff are valued, included, and empowered.

Summary of Position

The Activity Specialist leads an assigned program area (e.g., Arts/Crafts, Biking, Field Sports, Gardening/ Nature, Ropes, Sports, and Survival Skills) and serves as a mentor to a group of 6-12 campers. Specialists facilitate activities and ensure safety protocols are maintained. For the other parts of the day, the specialists will have the same responsibilities as a Group Leader, including behavior management and ensuring that their summer experiences are safe, meaningful, and fun. This position requires you to be creative and flexible, enjoy spending time outdoors, and love working with children. This is a seasonal, full-time, exempt position that runs from June to August.

Essential Functions

Leading Activities

- Work with the Head Counselor for Programs to create new program activities and/or adjust existing program plans for at least six 45-minute age-appropriate high quality activities for each camp session.
- Prep and facilitate daily activities, and work with group leaders to set expectations and manage behavior.
- Work with the Head Counselor for Logistics to maintain and enforce safety procedures in your specialty area.
- Adjust curriculum plans, safety procedures, and facilitation style based on age and skill level.
- Ensure that supplies in your program area are properly inventoried and maintained. Work with campers and group leaders to clean up after activities.
- Support trip planning or special activities that apply to your specialty.

Group Management

- Support Group Leaders in managing a small camp group of 6-12 campers, from morning wake-up until bedtime. Manage camper behavior during meals, transitions, and other informal activities.
- Ensure campers maintain tidy tents, keep healthy hygiene habits, and manage physical and emotional discomfort.
- Build relationships with campers as individuals, and tailor activities and program schedules to meet their needs and interests.
- Support camper conflict resolution and employ behavior management techniques as needed. Approach conflicts in an emotionally responsive manner.
- Lead your campers on an overnight off-site camping trip, either hiking, boating, or biking.

General Responsibilities

- Perform other duties as assigned

Job Specifications

- Meet age requirement for specialized activity staff employment (18+) by June 20, 2026
- At least one year of experience working with children ages 7 - 17
- High levels of enthusiasm, kindness, and patience
- Strong skill set and experience within the applicable speciality area
- Experience designing lessons plans and leading instructional sessions
- Able to move safely over uneven terrain
- Able to work outside in any weather
- Able to see and respond to dangerous situations
- Able to run, bend, and change directions while moving
- Able to lift up to 30 lbs.
- Willing to undergo background check requirements

Compensation and Employment Details

Compensation

Seasonal Salary: \$2560 for the contract period of June 20, 2026 to August 16, 2026

Final compensation will be prorated if the start or end date changes or if the employee works fewer days than the full contract period, except for approved paid time off.

Room, board, and laundry included. Daily time off plus one full day off/week

Dates

June 20, 2026 – August 16, 2026

Location

210 Deckertown Road Montague, NY 07827

Trail Blazers is an EEO employer. Applicants are considered for all positions without regard to race, religion, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, national origin, ancestry, physical/mental disability, medical condition, military/veteran status, genetic information, marital status, ethnicity, alienage or any other protected classification, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. By completing this application, you are seeking to join a team of hardworking professionals dedicated to consistently delivering outstanding programs and services to our campers and families. Applicants requiring accommodation to complete the application and/or interview process should contact jobs@trailblazers.org.