**Summer Work: Shadow Camp Counselor**

Neil Klatskin Summer Camps located at the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades in Tenafly, NJ is seeking Shadows to work with children of all ages.

A Shadow Counselor is a support counselor who provides one-on-one assistance to facilitate a child with special needs to be involved in the camp program to the maximum degree possible. The role of the Shadow Counselor plays in camp requires a special sensitivity as to when to offer the child with individual assistance, and when to allow the natural dynamics of the group instruction and interactions to assimilate the child into the group as part of a more spontaneous process. The balance of support and freedom within the context of the program is a delicate choice to be orchestrated by the Shadow Counselor.

Shadow counselors receive special individual training in addition to participating in the general staff orientation. Shadow Counselors are members of the group team of counselors and are viewed by all as part of the team. Whether hired by camp or privately by families, all Shadow Counselors are considered camp staff and are held responsible to all JCC and camp policies.

Prior to the beginning of camp, the Shadow Counselor will need to meet with the Summer Camp Inclusion Coordinator(s) to discuss the needs of the assigned campers. At this time the Summer Inclusion Coordinator will discuss any social/emotional/behavioral and/or physical limitations the child may have and advise and discuss techniques to be used in meeting the needs of the child. Together with your co-counselor(s) supervise your camper in a manner that finds you always as a positive role model and in concert with the directions and philosophies of the camp.

**Minimum Qualifications:**
- At least 18 years of age
- Experience working with children in a structured setting, preferable in a camp environment
- At least 2 professional references
- Team player mindset, strong, verbal and written communication skills, patience, compassion and professional attitude
- Special Needs Experience preferred

**Schedule:**
- Eight weeks camp season, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, June 22 – Aug 14
- Staff orientation Sunday June 14; Open House June 21; various evenings the 2 weeks prior to June 22
- Staff meetings, extended nights and additional programs as needed

**General Responsibilities:**
- Ensure the safety and physical and emotional well-being of your assigned camper.
- Enthusiasm and positive energy
- Integrate your camper into the camp group during every activity period as appropriate
- Assist the activity counselor or specialist in the program and offer guidance and positive energy
Swim with your camper as required by the program schedule
Maintain awareness of your campers’ health situation and act as an advocate for them to maintain good health and appropriate physical hygiene
Help your camper during lunch and snack times
Communicate with your co-counselors. If you need to engage in alternative activities for your camper, make sure the other counselors in the group are aware of this
Maintain constant communication with the Summer Inclusion Coordinator and Unit Leadership dealing with concerns, ideas or any item deemed necessary
Structure any free time during the day with fun, interesting and appropriate activities.
Responsible for camper evaluations of behavior through written daily and/or weekly reports submitted to the Summer Inclusion Coordinator
Confidentiality is a must and camper’s special needs should NEVER be discussed with anyone.

Please send resume to: Shelley Levy, Director, Guttenberg Center for Special Services, slevy@jccotp.org
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