

# 7 Ways a Summer Position at Horseshoe Improves Your Life

By Emily Huguenin, Assistant Horseshoe Director

Let's face it: anyone who's spent time volunteering at a summer camp or working with children knows that the job's not easy. At the same time, those who have served at least one summer at Horseshoe attest that the rewards earned make the long days well worth it. Here's just a few of the many ways people benefit from serving at Horseshoe ... and why you should consider applying.

## Gain valuable skills for career success

Leadership, character, service, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy ... these truths are not only learned in every program at Horseshoe, they are lived out. Public speaking, facilitating small groups, managing and maintaining resources, working as part of a diverse team, behavior management, and giving and receiving feedback are part of the daily life of a Horseshoe counselor. These are the skills employers are looking for, developed on-the-job in a supportive and caring camp environment.

## Earn useful training and certifications

Horseshoe counselors engage in three weeks of paid training before campers arrive on site. First Aid, CPR, AED, Food Handler's Permit, Mandatory Reporter training, and activity specialist trainings are just a few of the certifications you'll earn and get to take with you to use in college or career applications. We can also work with you and your university to make your summer field experience qualify for a required internship as it applies to your major.

## Build lifelong connections with peers

Most Horseshoe counselors are between the ages of 18 and 25. This is an ideal time to meet the friends and colleagues who will make a difference throughout your adult life. Business and networking opportunities, best friends, and even marriages often get their start through working together in the small-group community found at Horseshoe.

## Earn and save money

Horseshoe camp counselors are paid volunteers. You'll earn a living allowance of \$330/week, plus if you qualify as a Summer Associate VISTA, you can earn an additional Segal Education Award of around \$1,200 to use toward education expenses. All of your housing and meals are taken care of, so it's easy to save up your living allowance with little to no expenses during the summer.

## Unplug from everyday stress

Horseshoe's serene setting in the Monongahela National Forest has been a soothing home away from home for generations. When you're immersed in the camp environment, helping young people learn and grow, enjoying the benefits of nature, and disconnected from technology and the outside world, you'll find a peace in your soul unique to this special place. Your heart will sing, along with the campers, "I want to wake up in the morning where the rhododendrons grow."

## Make a difference for good in the lives of children

Helping a child thrive through a week of caring attention at Camp Horseshoe is a life-changing experience. Camp counselors have a unique opportunity to be positive role models that children remember for the rest of their lives. "As a former camper and returning counselor, I can attest to not only the difference it has made in today's youth, but also in myself. Camp is a place of love, expression, empowerment, kindness and God's grace." – James Sullivan, Horseshoe Alum

## Become part of a lasting legacy

For over 80 years, lives have been changed at Horseshoe. When you serve here as a camp counselor, you join the ranks of leaders and world-changers who are carrying the light and lessons learned at Horseshoe throughout the world. We are currently assembling our 2021 summer team, and the 18 slots left are filling quickly. Call **304-478-2481** or email [horseshoe@yla-youthleadership.org](mailto:horseshoe@yla-youthleadership.org) today to apply.