



Position Title: Indy Parks – Nature Explorer Camp Counselor

Dates: May 12, 2025 – August 1, 2025

Service Term: 450 hrs

Pay: Maximum Living Allowance \$6,750.00

Segal Education Award: \$1,824.07 upon completion of term.

Schedule: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, some weekends required.

Location: Marion County, Indiana

Reports to: Bryce Patz – Manager – Improvement and Beautification Projects Manager – AmeriCorps Program Director

Organization Overview:

Indy Parks and Recreation provides parks, greenspaces, trails, and recreation opportunities for Marion County residents and visitors. The agency offers 216 parks, 11,258 acres of greenspace, 130 playgrounds, 155 sports fields, 153 miles of trails, 23 recreation and nature centers, 19 aquatic centers, 21 spray grounds, 13 golf courses, and four dog parks. Indy Parks also provides a range of sports, art, education, and recreation programs and more than 2,400 programs throughout the year. Indy Park's mission is to connect communities by providing places and experiences that inspire healthy living, social engagement, and a love of nature.

Position Description:

Urban parks play an important role in enhancing the quality of life in cities, providing spaces for recreation and civic engagement. They also offer solutions to various community and national issues by serving as healthy exercise spots, managing stormwater runoff, improving air quality, promoting economic and community development, and providing safe and accessible recreational opportunities. Indy Parks is seeking five (5) Nature Explorer Camp Counselors who can lead community building educational programs and support park stewardship efforts in Marion County. Nature Explorer Camp Counselors will prioritize the safety and well-being of all campers through vigilant supervision and effective risk management strategies. Nature Explorer Camp Counselors are committed to creating a nurturing environment where community members feel secure and supported. By fostering a sense of community, Nature Explorer Camp Counselors will encourage collaboration and connections that help community members navigate

challenges together. Nature Explorer Camp Counselors will provide equitable emotional support and motivate community members to step outside their comfort zones while engaging with nature while utilizing skills such as patience and encouragement. Nature Explorer Camp Counselors of the Summer 2025 cohort will be working to implement the inaugural Nature Explorer Camp in Marion County.

Overview of Duties and Responsibilities:

- Communicates with parents about participant's experiences and reports concerns to Camp Leadership.
- Assists in maintaining accurate program records including incident reports, logbook documentation, and daily attendance.
- Maintains sensitivity regarding ethics, gender, cultural diversities, and disabilities.
- Knows, enforces, and follows all safety guidelines associated with the camp and all program areas including, but not limited to, being responsible for campers' safety and whereabouts at all times.
- Maintains constant surveillance of the pool area/body of water, if applicable.
- Knows/reviews all emergency procedures and responds to emergency situations immediately.
- Members must commit to participating in all team activities, including service days and training.
- Participates effectively as a member of a team, despite potentially stressful and difficult conditions. This may require problem solving on an interpersonal or group level as well as a willingness to accept differences.
- Appropriately represents Indy Parks, City-County, and AmeriCorps to the public, park partners and patrons always.
- Supports Indy Parks staff during community events.
- May participate in creating an equitable, safe, and welcoming space for all members.
- Operates City vehicles and other power equipment (e.g., trucks, gator, weed trimmer, and leaf blowers).
- Willingness and ability to complete all aspects of the program including conservation projects, education, training, and service projects which may include but are not limited to planting, installing native plants, and removing invasive plant species.

Qualifications:

- Experience with youth, teaching, or environmental education preferred
- Valid driver's license
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Possess CPR and First Aid certification or ability to obtain certification upon hire
- Ability to effectively lead activities and lessons, with guidance from the Community Engagement Lead AmeriCorps member, which push campers towards achieving a set of objectives
- Ability to communicate both orally and in writing with co-workers, parents, and children
- Strong organizational skills
- Be able to pass federal, state, and National Sex Offender background checks
- Must have a high school diploma or GED equivalent
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite
- Tree and plant identification is a plus
- Strong time-management skills and ability to serve independently as well in group settings

Benefits:

- 3 personal days – in addition to days the City-County government is closed.
- \$1,824.07 AmeriCorps Segal Education Award after successful completion of service term
- Professional development trainings
- Qualify for federal student loan forbearance during service term
- Free access to Eagle Creek Park while serving

Term Schedule:

Nature Explorer Camp Counselor hours between May 12, 2025 – August 1, 2025. The schedule will be 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday with some evening and weekend requirements.

Physical Requirements:

The physical requirements descriptive here are representative of those what must be met by a member to successfully perform the essential functions of this position.

Use of tools and equipment as trained for normal park maintenance. Most work will take place outdoors in a variety of weather conditions. The Nature Explorer Camp Counselor

will work in the parks will present times where they will interact safely with the public. Members should have the ability to lift 50 pounds, bend, stand, walk, crouch, kneel, climb, stoop, and crawl throughout the day. While performing the duties of the position, the member is regularly required to talk and hear.

For questions and accommodations, contact Bryce Patz, Indy Parks Improvement and Beautification Projects Manager at bryce.patz@indy.gov or (463) 279-2641.

The City of Indianapolis and Marion County celebrates the diversity of our community, citizens and employees. As an equal opportunity employer, the City-County is committed to a work environment free of discrimination and harassment. Candidates will be considered without regard to race, color, physical or mental disability, religion, sex, age, national-origin, veteran status, gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation. All employment decisions are based on candidate qualifications, merit and business needs.