

School of Environment and Natural Resources

Summer Camp Counselor at Metro Parks

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SCIOTO GROVE METRO PARK, GROVE CITY, OHIO

The mission of Metro Parks is to conserve open spaces, while providing places and opportunities that encourage people to discover and experience nature. At the youth summer camp program, this mission was geared towards children ages 6 - 12. Spending time with those kids throughout the summer was incredibly unique and gratifying.



Here, I'm getting set up for a fishing activity with a fellow counselor and our first group of campers for the day.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE...



Spending free time at the playground with the kids was always a blast, even when I got stuck on swing duty.

Each day brought a new experience thanks to the kids, but the comfortable pattern of crafts and activities helped to keep things steady. Some of my favorite duties were:

- leading the fishing activities
- kayaking in the lake
- helping kids with their crafts
- greeting the campers each morning
- playing games with the kids during free-time

WHAT DID I GAIN FROM THE EXPERIENCE?



I played quite a few rounds of Clue at the lodge.

Working as a camp counselor, you pick up a lot of new skills:

- helping kids with their problems
- solving disputes and conflicts
- being a leader to the kids

Before taking this job, I had almost no experience with kids. I felt nervous going into it, but the support I got from my supervisors and fellow counselors can't be overstated.



Saying goodbye to my favorite campers in the early afternoon

WHERE WILL I GO FROM HERE?

Getting to spend time working with Metro Parks was an incredible experience, but I don't feel like I'm done yet. I plan to reconnect with them this spring and inquire about park ranger positions. Hopefully I'll be able to work at Scioto Grove again, and might get to see some of my favorite campers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to give a huge thanks to Lucia Hadella for helping me along the internship process, Audrey Beam and Ashley Yockey for being incredible supervisors, and my team of fellow counselors who helped the whole summer become one of my favorite experiences.



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