

Geauga-Trumbull County 4-H Camp Counselor Application June 14-19, 2026

It is time to start thinking about the Geauga-Trumbull County 2026 4-H Camp. Interested in serving as a Camp Counselor? Anyone age 15 and older as of June 14th may apply to be a 4-H Camp Counselor. **4-H membership is not a requirement.** All first-year counselors, regardless of their age, are considered counselors-in-training and work with experienced counselors.

Application Process:

- * Complete the attached application.
- * Provide two references that are not relatives. Previous counselors are not required to submit references.
- * Submit the application, including both reference forms, to the Geauga County Extension office by January 15, 2026.
- * Participate in an interview on January 26, 2026, 6:30pm-8:30pm at the Geauga County Extension Office. Inclement weather date: January 29th.

Counselor and Counselor-in-Training Requirements:

- * Participate in all training and camp program planning meetings (attendance is required). Training begins in March and are held every Monday from 6:30-8:30pm until camp.
- * Participate in an overnight "Counselor Camp" training at Camp Whitewood in February or March.
- * Participate in Counselor Organized fundraiser(s).
- * Must be available for entire week of camp 24/7.
- * Counselors 18 years old and older are required to obtain a BCI and may be eligible for reimbursement.
- * Counselors are responsible for all communications with Camp Directors.

Selection Process:

- * Potential counselors will be notified via email to participate in an interview. Counselors are responsible for contacting the Geauga County Extension Office to confirm their interest in participating in the interview.
- * All counselors participating in the interview selection process will be notified.
- * Interview process may consist of one-on-one, group, and/or stations.
- * *Selected counselors must confirm their position as a 2026 Camp Counselor as indicated in their acceptance letter.*

Serving as a camp counselor offers an opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people and have a great time at Camp Whitewood this summer. Additional copies of the Counselor Application are available online at <http://geauga.osu.edu> or by calling the Geauga County Extension Office, 440-834-4656.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL
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4-H EVENT/OPPORTUNITY: 4-H Camp Counselor, Geauga-Trumbull 4-H Camp **June 14-19, 2026**

DATE / DEADLINE: Applications are due to the Geauga OSU Extension Office no later than January 15, 2026.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The 4-H Camp Counselors are a group of 4-H teens selected to assist in being responsible for campers ages 8-14 during 4-H camp. As a result of participation, counselors will develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and aspirations needed for adult success, and the Geauga & Trumbull county 4-H program will be strengthened and expanded. Roles and Responsibilities of 4-H Camp Counselors include:

- Attend required trainings prior to camp
- Market and promote camp
- Serve in a leadership and teaching role to other counselors
- Serve on committees or other groups to plan programs at camp
- Conduct self in an appropriate manner before, during, and after camp while serving as a role model to campers and peers
- Assist staff and other counselors with camp activities; work as a team to implement the activities
- Know and understand all safety guidelines, including emergency procedures, associated with the camp and program areas
- Follow and enforce camp rules
- Assure for safety of campers at all times including in cabins, sessions, and large group activities
- Be aware of child protection regulations and report any child abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect in accordance with university policy
- Identify and respond to camper behavior issues
- Ensure campers' health and hygiene, e.g., brushing teeth, eating meals, taking medication, etc.
- Promote camper participation during camp
- Lead and supervise campers in activities at camp including but not limited to songs, teambuilding challenges, group activities, challenges, etc.
- Teach and lead campers at workshops or during other components at camp (table setting, song leading, etc.)
- Mentor and give guidance to campers to encourage positive youth development and enhancement of life skills

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be at least 15 years old by the start of camp.
- Must be able to get transportation to meetings and events as needed.
- Must complete a minimum of 24 hours of training and a training at Camp Whitewood.
- Must complete Ohio State University's Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness training.
- Must Sign Standards of Behaviors, complete the Code of Conduct form, and have a current Ohio 4-H Health History form on file.
- Provide two references of non-relatives. Returning Geauga-Trumbull 4-H Counselors do not need to provide references.
- If the individual is 18+ year old at least two months prior to camp, the individual must have their background check conducted.

*Serving as a camp counselor may fulfill students community service requirements.

TO APPLY:

- Complete the application in its entirety.
- Turn in reference forms from two non-family members.
- Read and sign the Standards of Behavior and Camp Counselor Code of Conduct forms.
- Return all materials to the Geauga County Extension Office by 4:30pm on January 15, 2026.**



2026 GEAUGA-TRUMBULL COUNTY 4-H CAMP COUNSELOR APPLICATION



*4-H Membership NOT required.
Due: January 15th*

Name: _____ D.O.B.: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Can you receive texts at this number? yes no

E-mail: _____ *All correspondence will be sent to this email.*

Current grade level: _____

Are you a member of a 4-H Club (not a requirement)? Yes No

Have you ever attended camp as a camper? Yes No If yes, when/where: _____

Have you been a counselor before? Yes No If yes, when/where: _____

Please check any certifications below that you hold:

CPR First Aid Lifeguard Other: _____

Why are you interested in volunteering as a counselor? State at least three reasons.

What do you wish to gain from serving as a camp counselor and how will it benefit you in the future?

What traits, skills, or special experiences do you have that would benefit you in this position? (Please include experiences working with children and youth.)

List any other camp/camp counselor (does not have to be 4-H) experience you have had or leadership experiences that would contribute to your being a capable and responsible counselor:

What experiences do you think camp should offer young campers?

What sets you apart from other counselor candidates?

Are there any questions you have about being a counselor, 4-H camp, etc. that you would like answered during the interview process?

I have read and understand the responsibilities I will be expected to fulfill as a Geauga County 4-H Camp Counselor. I will strive to adhere to the policies of the Geauga County and Ohio 4-H programs. I understand that this agreement may be terminated by the volunteer or by the Ohio State University Extension staff if a violation of policy and/or requirements occurs.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____
(If applicant is under 18 yrs old.)

Submit a complete application, including references, to the Geauga Extension Office by January 10th.

OSU Extension, Attn: Camp Counselors, P.O. Box 387, Burton, OH 44021.

OHIO 4-H CAMP COUNSELOR CODE OF CONDUCT

I, _____ agree that if selected, I will participate in the 4-H Camp Counselor Training Program. I understand that this is a training period and only once I complete my certification am I permitted to be a counselor at 4-H Camp.

I understand that I am taking on a different role at camp. I am applying to serve other, not to go purely for my own enjoyment. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by the above responsibilities if selected as a camp counselor. I understand and agree that I will be asked to call my parents/guardian immediately to pick me up if I conduct myself in an irresponsible manner, which includes being out of my cabin after hours and/or the possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs or fireworks.

I will be expected to:

- ✓ Attend the required number of counselor training sessions. I understand I will be dismissed if I am not able to complete the required training.
- ✓ Abide by the No Cell Phones at Camp Policy (note: unless otherwise authorized by Extension staff)
- ✓ Treat other peers with respect.
- ✓ Not bully fellow counselors or participate in roughhousing, horse-play, or hazing.
- ✓ Conduct myself as a positive role model and be responsible.
- ✓ Set a good example by not using profanity or telling off-color jokes, and stories.
- ✓ As a 4-H member, not have in my possession tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs.
- ✓ Not have possession of harmful objects without specific authorization from the camp director, including but not limited to: knives of any kind (pocket, utility, etc.), lighters, matches, fireworks, explosives, firearms, weapons, etc.
- ✓ No pornography or other sexually oriented materials including nudity in visual or written materials including similar content.
- ✓ Be a responsible cabin counselor and ensure campers are provided guidance towards a safe and fun week.
- ✓ Ensure that all campers are supervised by counselor staff at all times. Be sure that all campers know that they must remain on the camp grounds at all times and are responsible for their behavior at all times.
 - Get to know each of the campers personally and by name.
 - Have all campers, including myself check in any of their medications with the nurse.
 - Make sure each camper uses personal hygiene.
 - Make sure that all of my campers are familiar with camp facilities and camp rules
 - See that all campers are involved in all activities. Make sure no one is excluded.
- ✓ Check for illness or injury, but don't make much of a "fuss" about minor things. Go with hurt or sick campers to the nurse no matter how minor the ailment.
- ✓ Follow guidelines for lights out, and cabin supervision. Be in my cabin with my campers at all times between the hours of "Lights Out" and "Rise and Shine."
- ✓ Never discipline a camper by ridicule or physical punishment; patience and understanding works best.
- ✓ Urge safety at all times. Take time to explain how and why to do something safely.
- ✓ Work as a team to plan, organize and conduct all camp activities.
- ✓ Be flexible with counseling and adult staff.
- ✓ Participate in camp promotion.
- ✓ Follow leadership of camping program through adult advisors/volunteers/staff.

I certify that the all the information being submitted is correct and understand that failure to comply with these rules could result in probation, or loss of counseling position for the year.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Parent/ Guardian Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

4-H CAMP COUNSELOR REFERENCE FORM

_____ is applying as a camp counselor for the Geauga-Trumbull 4-H Camp. The camp counselor selection committee would like your input about the qualities and ability to fulfill the responsibilities of a counselor. The information you include will not be shared with the applicant. Please complete this reference form based on *your* knowledge and/or observations. Thank you for your help.

Please mark how you would evaluate the applicant's qualities, using this scale:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Known
Responsibility					
Communication skills					
Respect for others					
Dependability					
Enthusiasm					
Flexibility					
Patience					
Initiative					
Resourcefulness					
Ability to work with children (age 5-10)					
Ability to work with children (ages 11-14)					
Ability to work with other teens					
Ability to work with adults					

Please write any additional comments here:

Signed:

Date:

Printed Name:

Relationship to Applicant:

Email:

Phone:

Please return no later than January 15th. OSU Extension, Geauga County P.O. Box 387, Burton, OH 44021

Please note: Please submit in a sealed envelope or email to faudie.2@osu.edu.



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