

The overall purpose of summer camp at Common Ground is to provide a diverse group of children with a fun, safe summer experience, emphasizing building friendships and developing an appreciation for the natural world. Campers will experience nature as a fun, exciting place to explore, and discover how people, food, and the environment are interconnected. Committed camp staff are critical to establishing and maintaining the friendly, educational, community atmosphere of Common Ground Camps.

**Common Ground will offer five different camps for summer 2010. Now hiring for the following:**

	<b>Camp Description</b>	<b># campers</b>	<b>Positions open</b>
<b>Ecology Camp</b>	Explore the farm and forest in Ecology Camp! Campers will pick juicy strawberries from the garden, hunt for box turtles in the forest, build a fort from sticks and leaves, help feed and care for our family of farm animals, go on hikes throughout West Rock Park, and enjoy a summer's worth of adventures, stories, and memories. Most days include free time to play and explore on the farm and in the forest, lesson and activity time focused on science, farm, and nature themes, and special, choose-your-own-activity sessions including cooking from the farm, nature exploration, farm animal care, science investigations, natural arts, music, and more! Each session ends with a family picnic on the farm, a magical night hike in West Rock, and an overnight campout at Common Ground.	<b>one adult counselor for every 10 campers</b>  Ages 6-8: 60 campers per session  Ages 9-12: 40 campers per session	10 positions  <b>Especially seeking staff who will specialize in one of the following:</b> -Animal care -Gardening -Cooking from the farm -Nature & recycled arts -Science/nature knowledge -Hiking & outdoor skills -Cooperative games
<b>Farm to Feast Cooking Camp</b>	Build your own pizza from scratch! Create your own salsa recipe and compete in a salsa contest! Gather fresh eggs from the chicken coop and cook a hearty farm breakfast! Make your own chef hat and apron and get ready to use farm fresh foods to cook up daily feasts. We will harvest fresh ingredients from the farm and garden and enjoy a field trip to our local farmer's market as we learn about all the foods that can be grown in Connecticut. Each day will include time to visit the farm animals and go on hikes and adventures in the forest in addition to plenty of cooking and eating. We'll celebrate on Friday with a family farm tour and pizza party!	<b>one adult counselor for every 10 campers</b>  Ages 8 – 12: 20 campers per session	2 positions  <b>Especially seeking staff who love to cook and have experience leading children in cooking activities</b>
<b>Sprouts Camp</b>	Our youngest campers will spend the week seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and exploring the farm as we learn about where our food comes from. We'll learn to hold a baby chicken, bring food scraps to the piglets, and pick sweet peas in the garden. Sprouts campers will also go on short hikes in West Rock Park, wade in the stream and chase minnows, picnic under shady trees, make farm and nature crafts, and learn silly farm songs. Specific activities follow the cycles of farm and forest, and each week is a unique adventure.	<b>one adult counselor for every 10 campers</b>  Ages 4 – 5: 20 campers per session	2 positions  <b>Especially seeking staff who have significant experience in a preK or kindergarten setting</b>

*chart continued on next page*

	<b>Camp Description</b>	<b># campers</b>	<b>Positions open</b>
<b>Animal Adventures Camp</b>	Just for animal lovers, young naturalists, and aspiring zoologists, wildlife biologists who want to learn to care for and conserve animals of all sorts! Learn about domestic and wild animals as we use the farm and forest to get up close and personal with the animals we share the earth with. On the farm, help with farm chores, adopt a chicken, and learn about all the ways that humans depend on farm animals for products we use every day. In the forest, seek salamanders, track animal signs in the woods, and learn about how you can help and protect wildlife in your own neighborhood. Each session will include a special visiting presenter who will share a special creature or two with our animal loving campers!	<b>one adult counselor for every 10 campers</b>  Ages 7 – 10: 20 campers per session	2 positions  <b>Especially seeking staff who have significant experience working with and educating others about domestic and/or wild animals</b>
<b>West Rock Rangers Camp</b>	Are you ready for real outdoor knowledge, skills, and challenges? In one adventure-filled week, learn to identify local plants and animals and develop your skills as a naturalist as we roam West Rock Park. As we hike and explore you will make new friends, learn “leave no trace” skills that minimize our environmental impact, and develop confidence as an outdoor adventurer. Each session ends with a magical night hike in West Rock and an overnight campout at Common Ground (followed by a campfire cooked breakfast for the last day of camp!). Please note: campouts are Thursday night to Friday morning, with 10 AM dismissal on Friday.	<b>one adult counselor for every 10 campers</b>  Ages 11 – 13: 20 campers per session	2 positions  <b>Especially seeking staff who have significant experience leading hikes and outdoor adventures for groups of youth, and who are familiar with trails in West Rock Park.</b>

### Summer Schedule Overview:

Staff Week June 28 – July 2	July 5 – 9	July 12 - 16	July 19 – 23	July 26 – 30	August 2 – 6	August 9 - 13	Eval & clean-up August 16 - 17
All staff	Ecology Camp 1			Ecology Camp 2			Ecology, Cooking, and Sprouts Camp staff
	Cooking 1	Cooking 2	Cooking Bonus A (M, T, W, only)	Cooking 3	Cooking 4	Cooking Bonus B (M, T, W, only)	
	Sprouts 1	Sprouts 2	Sprouts Bonus A (M, T, W, only)	Sprouts 3	Sprouts 4	Sprouts Bonus B (M, T, W, only)	
	Rangers 1	Rangers 2	(no camp)	Rangers 3	Rangers 4	Eval & clean-up (no camp)	
	Animals 1	Animals 2	(no camp)	Animals 3	Animals 4		

### Job Schedule:

- Staff work Mon – Fri from 8:00 –4:00 with optional extended day hours until 5:00
- See chart above for camp dates, including staff training week and clean-up and evaluation times. **Camp staff must be available for ALL scheduled dates.**
- Some camps have weeks when they do not meet, or when they only meet for a 3 day session. Staff DO NOT work when no camp is scheduled.
- Ecology Camp has a required over night camp out on the last Thursday to Friday of each three week session
- West Rock Rangers Camp has a required overnight campout on the last Thursday to Friday of each one week session

**Job Description for all positions:** Specific activities will vary with the camp, however all adult counselor positions include:

- Creating and/or learning lesson and activity plans; teaching lessons and running activities
- Supervising & interacting with campers during recreation and lunch times
- Supervision & direction of teenage & Jr counselors
- Assuring physical/emotional safety of all participants, behavior management
- Participating in all aspects of camp, including staff meetings, as well as physical activities like games and hikes and general facility maintenance & cleaning
- Camp activities include hiking, active outdoor play, garden work/exploration, farm animal care/activities, cooking, environmental science lessons, crafts, music, cooperative games, and more. Camp counselors should be prepared to lead/participate in all of these.
- The Camp Director and Camp Staff share responsibility for curriculum writing and daily materials prep. The overall camp schedule and some daily activities are planned ahead of time by the Camp Director. Camp Staff will be responsible for developing a portion of the curriculum and activities. A large library of resources will be provided, and staff will have time to develop these activities during staff training week.
- Adult camp staff eat lunch with the campers and are responsible for camp instruction and supervision at all times (there are no breaks!)

### **Minimum Qualifications:**

- Completion of at least one year of college (*post-college applicants welcome and encouraged – our typical camp staff represent a wide range of ages and backgrounds*)
- Experience working with children in formal or informal settings (school, nature center, summer camp, scouts, etc)
- Interest in and basic knowledge of the natural world
- Willingness to get dirty and work hard in all weather (including summer heat & humidity and/or rain)
- Ability to work on a team of adults and teenagers, including both taking and giving direction
- Ability to carry a daypack with supplies, to hike several miles, and to be physically active for most of an 8 hour day
- Demonstrated commitment, reliability, punctuality, and responsible behavior at previous jobs

### **Salary:**

- Based on education and experience, \$14.00 - \$16.50/hour, no benefits
- Staff are paid every 2 weeks

### **To Apply:**

- Apply online at [www.commongroundct.org](http://www.commongroundct.org). Applicants must also email a resume to Rebecca Holcombe, Camp Director: [rholcombe@nhcp.com](mailto:rholcombe@nhcp.com)
- Applications accepted until positions are full. Interviews begin in March.