

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. Exceptional camp staff are critical to establishing and maintaining the friendly, educational, community atmosphere of Common Ground Camps.

Common Ground will offer six different camps for summer 2012. Now hiring for the following:

	Camp Description	# campers	Positions open
Ecology Camp	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. Note: this is our only 3-week camp (all other camps are one week per session).	<p>one adult counselor for every 12 campers</p> <p>Ages 6 - 12</p> <p>108 campers per session</p>	<p>Especially seeking staff who will specialize in one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Animal care -Gardening -Cooking from the farm -Nature & recycled arts -Science/nature knowledge -Hiking & outdoor skills -Cooperative games -Music
Farm to Feast Cooking Camp	Get ready to use farm fresh foods to cook up daily feasts! Build your own pizza from scratch, create your own salsa recipe, and collect fresh eggs from the chicken coop to cook a hearty farm breakfast. Campers harvest fresh ingredients from the farm and garden and shop at our local farmer's market to gather the basic ingredients for each day's culinary adventures. Each week includes a special themed day – campfire cooking, homemade ice cream and desserts from the farm, edible food art and more! Camp days include time to visit the farm animals, play games, make new friends, and go on hikes and adventures in the forest in addition to plenty of cooking and eating.	<p>one adult counselor for every 12 campers</p> <p>Ages 8 – 10</p> <p>24 campers per session</p>	<p>Especially seeking staff who love to cook and have experience leading children in cooking activities</p>
Sprouts Camp	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. Special themed days include a daytime camping adventure with a campfire, marshmallow roasting, fort building, and time for creative play in Common Ground's cabins in the woods and a Garden Tea Party Day with snacks made by campers with fresh foods from the farm. Specific activities follow the cycles of farm and forest, and each week is a unique adventure, so Sprouts campers may be signed up for any number and combination of sessions.	<p>one adult counselor for every 8 campers</p> <p>Ages 4 – 5</p> <p>32 campers per session</p>	<p>Especially seeking staff who have significant experience in a preK or kindergarten setting</p>

	Camp Description	# campers	Positions open
Animal Adventures Camp	Just for animal lovers, young naturalists, and aspiring zoologists and 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 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 visiting presenter who will share a special creature or two with our animal loving campers!	one adult counselor for every 12 campers Ages 7 – 9 24 campers per session	Especially seeking staff who have significant experience working with and educating others about domestic and/or wild animals
West Rock Rangers Camp	In each adventure-filled week, Rangers campers will make new friends and favorite memories as they hike and explore West Rock, conquer the Big Rock Challenge, learn to build and cook over a campfire, use maps to hunt for hidden treasure, visit the farm animals, help with animal and garden care, play games, get wet in Wintergreen Brook, eat a picnic lunch in the woods, create a giant fort, and harvest and cook with food from the farm! Limited to 16 campers per week, Rangers have a special spot as the oldest kids on campus – children who have come to Common Ground for many years can look forward to Rangers as a special way to end their years as campers, and children who are new to Common Ground will find that Rangers camp is a great way to jump into a small group of new friends!	one adult counselor for every 12 campers Ages 11 – 13 12 - 16 campers per session	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.
Eco-Explorers Camp	Creative play and active exploration are the starting point for each week of Eco-Explorers Camp. Fort building, nature arts, wading in the stream, and caring for farm animals are typical weekly activities. Special themed days will follow seasonal events of the farm and forest and can include making snacks from the garden, hiking in West Rock and climbing through Judge’s Cave, seeking and learning about bugs, following wildlife signs in the woods, or a day full of chicken themed activities! Eco-Explorers Campers will spend most of their time in small groups so that children really get a chance to explore and experience hands-on activities and engage all of their senses in summer on the farm!	one adult counselor for every 10 campers Ages 5 - 6 60 campers per session	Especially seeking staff who have significant experience with young children.

Summer Schedule Overview:

Staff Week June 25 –29	July 2 – 6 <i>(we DO have camp on July 4)</i>	July 9 - 13	July 16 – 20	July 23 – 27	July 30 – August 3	August 6 - 10	Eval & clean-up August 13 - 14
All staff	Ecology Camp 1			Ecology Camp 2			All staff
	Cooking 1	Cooking 2	Cooking 3	Cooking 4	Cooking 5	Cooking 6	
	Sprouts 1	Sprouts 2	Sprouts 3	Sprouts 4	Sprouts 4	Sprouts 6	
	<i>(no camp)</i>	Rangers 1	Rangers 2	Rangers 3	Rangers 4	Rangers 5	
	Eco-Explorers 1	Eco-Explorers 2	Eco-Explorers 3	Eco-Explorers 4	Eco-Explorers 5	Eco-Explorers 6	
	Animals 1	Animals 2	Animals 3	Animals 4	Animals 5	Animals 6	

Job Schedule:

- Staff work Mon – Fri from 8:00 –4:00 with optional extended day hours available from 7:15 – 8:00 and 4:00 – 5:15.
- 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.**
- Ecology Camp has a required overnight camp out on the last Thursday to Friday of each three 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 overall camp schedule and general themes are planned ahead of time by the Camp Directors. Camp Staff are responsible for developing 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 built into the day!)

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. Applicants must also email a resume to Rebecca Holcombe, Camp Director: rholcombe@nhcp.com
- Applications accepted until positions are full. Interviews begin in February 2012.