

Dear Prospective Staff Member,

Thank you for your interest in the Bar 717 Ranch/Camp Trinity! We hope the following information will be helpful to you in considering employment with us for this summer. We have two distinct job opportunities, Counseling Staff and Kitchen Staff. Please read the information carefully and decide which position best suits your interests.

In determining whether the Bar 717 Ranch/Camp Trinity is the right place for you, we feel it is important that you know about us and our expectations of our staff. Therefore, we will take this opportunity to tell you something about the Ranch, its history, philosophy, and the environment you would be working in.

The Bar 717 Ranch/Camp Trinity is a 450 acre working ranch located halfway between Redding and Eureka, in northern California. The elevation of the Ranch is 2000 feet. We have warm, dry summer days and cool nights. The country around us is mountainous, with forests of Douglas Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Oak, and Madrone. A river flows through the Camp property, providing an abundance of swimming holes. The Camp is surrounded by the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, so our nearest neighbor is literally miles away.

The Camp is located on property homesteaded by my great grandparents (the Gates family) 100 years ago. Four generations have lived and worked on this land, passing on their knowledge, skills and traditions about ranch living in these mountains. Camp Trinity was started in 1930 when Grover Gates, a schoolteacher, invited several of his students to spend a few weeks on the Ranch during the summer. His hope was that campers would benefit from the lessons inherent in working cooperatively within a framework of mutual respect for people and the environment around you. Great things come from the knowledge, surprise, and sense of peace provided by the surrounding wilderness.

Today, our Camp program continues to teach children about life on the Ranch. Campers choose freely from activities that range from horseback riding, gardening, animal care, maintenance and improvement projects, to horseback and backpack trips, a ropes challenge course, overnight campouts, campfires, singing, and much more. We seek to create an environment where kids can have fun, learn skills, work with others and most of all gain a sense of satisfaction through accomplishment. Much of our program involves campers in the day-to-day work and chores on the Ranch. Although it is important to get these jobs done, we feel it is just as important to include children in that process of working and learning.

The Camp is located in an isolated and beautiful area. You will be living on a 'platform' that has a floor, back wall, and roof, but is otherwise open to the woods. Each platform has cots, shelves, a cold-water sink and bathroom. Counselors will live with four to ten kids on a platform. Kitchen Staff will share a platform with up to eight other kitchen or support staff. Your living areas have no electricity, and radios, tape players, CDs or other electronics are not allowed. Showers and hot water are nearby. Meals are sit-down and served family style. The food is excellent, with much of what we eat grown or produced right here on the Ranch. It is a long way to anywhere that might be considered somewhere (San Francisco-6 hrs, Redding-2 hrs.) and as a result our staff members generally spend their one day off per week either camping near the Ranch or exploring the wilderness of Trinity County. Most staff members come to camp with their own vehicles, some do not. The Ranch does provide vehicles for transportation.

### **COUNSELING STAFF**

As a Counselor, your job will be to involve campers in the program through active, responsible and continuous participation. Counselors are role models, leaders, organizers, substitute parents, motivators, big brothers or sisters and friends who, through their thoughts and actions, exemplify positive character and values. In our small community, people are interdependent and everyone becomes important to everyone else. Our staff creates a

mature and strong, responsible and reliable, sensitive and thoughtful community of adults who are willing and able to give of themselves and work in a way that serves the best interests of the children and the Ranch. This will be exhausting, frustrating, confusing and the most rewarding work you have ever done.

Our summer season is 9 weeks long:

*Lifeguard Training: June 8 - 12*  
*Wilderness First Aid: June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>*  
*Staff Orientation: June 14 - 20*  
*First Session: June 21 - July 4*  
*Second Session: July 5 - July 18*  
*Third Session: July 19 - August 8*  
*\*Family Camp: August 9 - 16*

All staff must attend the Orientation Week. It is usually not possible to begin or end work mid season. \*Only a few staff will be hired to work through Family Camp. We ask that you plan to stay one day beyond the end of the second session to help close up Camp. All counseling staff must have current CPR/First Aid, Lifeguard Training and Wilderness First Aid Certification. No Exceptions! Equivalent certifications from international certifying agencies may be accepted on an individual basis. Please contact us with any questions about which certifications are valid. If you are hired you will not be able to begin work until we have a copy of the current required certificates. Background checks will be performed on all applicants who are considered for employment.

We will be offering American Red Cross Lifeguard Training and Wilderness First Aid (by WMI/NOLS) during the week of June 8-14. Participating in the certification courses here at the Ranch is *optional*; you may choose to take either or both course prior to coming to Camp. International Staff should plan to complete both courses here at the Ranch. The cost for Lifeguard Training is approximately \$200, depending on instructor, and Wilderness First Aid is \$175, with accommodations and meals included.

If you are interested in applying for a counselor position, you may request an application by email or print one off of this website. Please note that your completed application should be returned to the Ranch in time for us to consider it during our hiring period, January 1 to April 15. The earlier we receive your application the better. Each summer we hire approximately 30 counselors from a pool of applicants four or five times that size. We are very selective and therefore encourage you to be both thoughtful and thorough in your answers on the application. We read your applications carefully and, when feasible, we will try and schedule a phone or in-person interview. It often takes two to four weeks to make a decision, at which time we will let you know in writing.

We are eager to hire people who can be content and productive in a child-oriented environment. Many of our staff are former campers, while others come from the far corners of the US and the world. Our intention is to create a community where everyone can make important contributions. To this end, we rely heavily on the staff to support our efforts. There is no prerequisite training or experience to become an outstanding counselor. However, you must have a sincere commitment to the welfare of children and your colleagues who will make up your family, friends, and community for two months.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to receiving your application. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to write to us or call us here at the Ranch.

## **KITCHEN STAFF**

The duties of the Kitchen Staff include meal set-up, limited food service, dishwashing, clean-up, and general maintenance of the kitchen and eating area. The work hours vary depending on the camp schedule, but you can generally expect a typical day to be as follows: Breakfast shift 7am-10am, Lunch 11am-2pm, Dinner 5pm-8pm. When your work is completed, you are free to relax or participate in Camp activities. All Staff have one 24hr day off each week. Kitchen Staff are off from Saturday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. We make a strong effort to include Kitchen Staff in every aspect of our Camp community, and in turn we expect Kitchen Staff to exemplify positive character and values through their thoughts and actions. In our small community, people are interdependent and everyone becomes important to everyone else. Our staff creates a mature and strong, responsible and reliable, sensitive and thoughtful community of adults who are willing and able to give of themselves and work in a way that serves the best interests of the children and the Ranch. This will be exhausting, frustrating, fun, exciting and rewarding work.

Kitchen staff may bring personal audio devices (CD/walkman/MP3) with headphones. However, personal audio equipment must be stored and used **ONLY ON YOUR PLATFORM** or taken with you on your day off. This is a privilege for Kitchen Staff only. You may **NOT** use any electronic equipment around Camp.

Our summer season is 9 weeks long:

*Lifeguard Training: June 8 - 12*  
*Wilderness First Aid: June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>*  
*Staff Orientation: June 14 - 20*  
*First Session: June 21 - July 4*  
*Second Session: July 5 - July 18*  
*Third Session: July 19 - August 8*  
*\*Family Camp: August 9 - 16*

Kitchen Staff will have a day of duty specific orientation prior to the beginning of Camp Royal. All staff must attend the Orientation Week. We require all Kitchen Staff to work through the second week of Family Camp, however Counseling Staff are not guaranteed employment beyond the end of the second session of Camp. It is usually not possible to begin or end work mid-season. Background checks will be performed on all applicants who are considered for employment.

If you are interested in applying for a kitchen staff position, you may request an application by email or print one off of this website. Please note that your completed application should be returned to the Ranch in time for us to consider it during our hiring period, January 1 to April 15. We read your applications carefully and, when feasible, we will try and schedule a phone or in-person interview. It often takes two to four weeks to make a decision, at which time we will let you know in writing.

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