



# Ekone Summer Camps

## Youth Volunteer Information

**Ekone Ranch and Sacred Earth Foundation depend heavily on our talented volunteers.** A big part of how we are able to get all of the many amazing things that we accomplish as a summer camp and an organization done is because young people like YOU really care about this place and want to see it thrive! Through many years of summer camp, we've realized that one of the most important lessons we teach is how to find the fun in everything (including our work) and that working together leads to a much stronger sense of community at camp.

**Youth volunteers are in a unique position**, having grown up going to summer camp, and are usually older teens who are now ready to take all of those teachings and put them to good use at Ekone!

**Youth volunteer benefits include** getting to spend time at Ekone in a new way, delicious food, excellent company, learning new skills, and contributing to the ranch in a meaningful way. Plus, we are always happy to write you a letter of recommendation for a job or school application in the future!

### Expectations of youth volunteers:

- Holding yourself to the same standards and agreements as summer campers
- Setting an even better example for younger and new campers with your topics of conversation, work habits and general attitude
- Working hard and jumping into projects in a self-motivated way
- Keeping track of tasks you are asked to do by staff
- Setting realistic expectations and pacing yourself so you don't burn out before you even get started
- Getting enough sleep, drinking enough water and any other self-care essentials (we expect you can manage this yourself as a volunteer)
- Helping staff keep Ekone a drama-free zone, and making camp a place where ALL campers are supported, everyone looks out for each other, gossip and cliques aren't tolerated, and we have tons of fun living, working and playing together
- Remembering that being a youth volunteer is a **privilege**, and that your actions should reflect that

### Cost

Youth volunteers work really hard, but there are costs associated with the program. We hire a staff member just to run the volunteer program each week, and of course we feed volunteers the same delicious food as summer campers while they're at the ranch. To help make this program accessible to all teens, there are three options contributing to covering the costs of the experience.

- **\$500:** this covers the cost of one youth volunteer and makes it possible for a youth volunteer without financial resources to participate
- **\$250:** this covers the cost of one youth volunteer
- **The \$ amount that works for you:** if the full cost is prohibitive, let us know what is possible for you!

If that all sounds like something you are ready for, please fill out the application on the next page and email it back to Caitlin at [summercamp@ekone.org](mailto:summercamp@ekone.org) Thank you!

## Youth Volunteer Application

Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_

### Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions:

1. What inspired you to want to be a youth volunteer during summer camp?
2. Are there any special projects you are interested in helping with or special skills you would like to share? (ie. Helping with ranch projects, the garden or in the kitchen, lodge-keeping)
3. Please describe any previous work and/or volunteer and/or life experience that might help you step into the role of a youth volunteer at Ekone?
4. Which session(s) are you interested in volunteering for? (Youth volunteers are welcome during Session 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8)
5. Which cost amount will work for you? (\$500, \$250, or pay what you can)