



## EKONE RANCH

### 2021 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 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 and 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/playing together
- Remember 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 pay 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 for contributing to cover to the costs of the experience per week.

- **\$500:** this covers the cost of your youth volunteer spot 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 \$250 is prohibitive, let us know what is possible for you!

## COVID Protocols

- Youth volunteers will be allowed to be “bubbled” with one other youth volunteer. Bubbled youth volunteers will likely bunk together, and will be able to work closely together without masking. You can choose to come with a friend you are already bubbled with, or we can pair you with someone (your families will need to communicate beforehand to make sure everyone is comfortable with the arrangement). If you do not want to be bubbled with someone for extra caution, that's okay too! We just find it's usually a little more fun if you can have a buddy.
- All other COVID protocols apply: keeping at least 6-foot distance from everyone (except your bubble buddy), wearing a mask around your neck at all times, wearing your mask when you need to get closer than 6 feet, lots of handwashing, only hanging out with other people outside, etc.—we'll send you a whole handbook of info before you arrive)

If that all sounds like something you're ready for, please fill out the application on the next page and email it to Michelle at [michelle@ekone.org](mailto:michelle@ekone.org) THANKS!

# 2021 Youth Volunteer Application

Date of Application:

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Age:</b>	
<b>Mailing Address:</b>			
<b>Phone Number:</b>			
<b>Email:</b>			

1. What inspired you to want to be a youth volunteer this summer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Are there any particular projects you are interested in helping with or special skills you would like to share? (i.e. helping with ranch projects, the garden, the kitchen, lodgekeeping, etc.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
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. Please circle/highlight which session(s) are you interested in volunteering for.  
*Arrivals are on Tuesdays and departures are on Sundays. You can stay for one, two, or three sessions, depending on availability. Please note: youth volunteer sessions overlap with Family Retreat programs, not summer camp programs*  
  
July 27 – August 1  
August 3 – August 8  
August 10 – August 15
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Which cost amount will work for you? (\$500, \$250, or let us know the amount that works for you)