

# 2026 Hocking County Camp Counselors

Insiders Scoop!

December | 2025

## CAMP STARTS NOW!

### Hello Camp Counselor Applicants -

We are already dreaming about sunny days and starry nights at 4-H Camp Tar Hollow. A great camp starts months before the campers arrive! Preparation, planning, and training are keys to a successful season. To help you hit the ground running, just follow the steps below:

- **Step 1—Counselor Application (NEW & RETURNING).** Applications can be found: [go.osu.edu/2026campounsapp](https://go.osu.edu/2026campounsapp)
  - **Applications due December 19, 2025**
- **Step 2— Counselor Interviews**
  - **New (1st Year) Counselor Interviews.** All potential FIRST year counselors are required to attend Counselor Interviews on **Thursday, January 15 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.**
  - **Returning (2<sup>nd</sup> year ++)** Counselor Interviews. Kayla will meet individually with each returning camp counselor over Winter Break to discuss best parts of 2025 and what we can do to make camp even better in 2026.
- **Step 3—Commitment.** All counselors need to attend the scheduled trainings. In order to assure that our campers have a great time, we rely on our camp counselors to follow through with your pre-camp and camp commitments. And as a super free **bonus** ... you get more time with me, Steph, and your other counselors as we help you become the best counselor you can be!!
- **Step 4—Counselor Selection.** Counselor selection and assignments are based on potential camper enrollments and are subject to change.

Hocking County Camp Counselors have a tradition of being enthusiastic and responsible leaders. We stress that **counseling is a privilege**, not a guaranteed right. You will continue to be evaluated throughout trainings and 4-H camps; you will be dismissed if you do not adhere to expectations and job responsibilities (but let's not even go down that path).

- **Step 5—Camp.** Time for your dedication and hard work to pay off— and a chance for you to have some fun and make some memories!

**We're looking forward to you being part of our Camp Family!!**

Kayla Nihiser, 4-H Educator

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## CHOOSE YOUR THEME!

**THIS START EARLY!** This will be an evening adventure to team build, discuss what makes a great theme, and then brainstorm and select what we will be working towards for 2026!

Brainstorm some of your great ideas for a camp theme. Bring them to the first training. These pieces should include the theme along with games, group names, activities, crafts, and anything else you can think of that follows along with your theme idea!

# STUFF YA GOTTA PAY ATTENTION TO:

## BE RESPONSIBLE

- It is expected that camp counselor obligations are at the top of your priority list.  
*Ya gotta do the training if ya wanna be a counselor.*
- If you're going to be absent for a super legitimate reason, then you must notify us in writing (text/email) waaayyy ahead of time (48 hours). We will use the Remind App to aid in communication.
- And... it must be you, the counselor, who notifies us (not your parental unit) because we are trying to help you develop your workforce skills!

## BCI Background Check

If you will be **age 18+** by June 1, 2026, then you must complete a BCI background check  
To get this done: You need to Pick up Background check Form from the Extension Office, take this to the Logan Hocking Schools District Office – Hours are posted on their website.

- Bring your receipt back to us (\$35.00) if you want reimbursed. – Must have completed by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Hocking County 4-H Camp Dates

- June 13 - Counselors Move in to Tar Hollow at 5PM - do not arrive before 5PM
- June 14-17 - Beginner Junior Camp
- July 25 - Cloverbud Camp @ Alley Park

*\*\*Counselors do not have to attend both camps to serve as a camp counselor – in fact most do not!*

## Counselor Training = 24 Hours Minimum

New Counselors must have 24 hours min. training; at least **16** hours MUST come from “in-county” training sessions

**Returning Counselors must do 16 hours** of training minimum. 10 must come from **Chart A**.

**Plan ahead!** If you have a conflict with dates, you may attend one of the “Counselor Opportunities” events (chart B) and earn credit for up to 8 counselor ‘make-up’ hours. Let us know ahead of time if you will be attending a “make-up” event. Just because you reach your hours does not mean your training is done. You are expected to attend as many trainings as you can, if not all of them! – There is a reward for the counselors with the most training hours.

DATE	Day	TIME	HOURS	Notes
15-Jan	Thursday	5:00-7:00		Interviews By Apt.
29-Jan	Thursday	5-7PM	2	1st years ONLY
17-Feb	Tuesday	5-7PM	2	
26-Feb	Thursday	5-7PM	2	
12-Mar	Thursday	5-7PM	2	
24-Mar	Tuesday	5-7PM	2	
7-Apr	Tuesday	5-7PM	2	
16-Apr	Thursday	5-7PM	2	
9-May	Saturday	9AM-Noon	3	
21-May	Thursday	8-10PM	2	Campfire Training
28-May	Thursday	10AM-Noon	2	
2-Jun	Tuesday	10AM-Noon	2	
4-Jun	Thursday	9AM-Noon	3	Meal Training
8-Jun	Monday	9AM-4PM	5	ONSITE TRAINING
10-Jun	Wednesday	10AM-3PM	3	Training
11-Jun	Thursday	9AM-3PM		Workday
12-Jun	Friday	10AM-1PM		Clean/Pack Trailer

(B) **Counselor Opportunities:** (up to 8 counselor ‘make-up’ hours. Registration & Fees are counselor’s responsibility)  
Must find own transportation.

DATE	HOURS	EVENT	FORMS DUE
Feb. 29 - March 1	6	MXC State Training @ 4-H Center (approx. \$65) *non required but highly recommended	Jan. 30
March 14	3	Ohio 4-H Conference @ Columbus (approx.\$40) * must attend camp workshop	Feb. 1
March 18-22	6	BLW Buckeye Leadership Workshop @ Ashley, OH (approx.\$415)	Feb. 27