



# AMERICAN JEWISH SOCIETY FOR SERVICE COUNSELOR APPLICATION

## SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY For College/Graduate Students interested in Community Service and Jewish Life

The American Jewish Society for Service is seeking energetic, mature and experienced Jewish college/graduate students to serve as counselors for our on-site six-week summer community service work project for Jewish teens.

Two Counselors are hired for each work site, and report to the Project Directors. Their role is to support our program by living and working alongside our teens, acting as role models, mentors and guides. AJSS has completed more than 135 projects in 46 states since our founding in 1951. Each group is hosted by a local community development agency that provides housing and professionally supervised construction work for the 6-week project. During the summer the group lives together, works five days a week, travels on weekends to explore the surrounding area, and examines these experiences as they relate to core Jewish values. The counselors live on-site with the campers and project directors.

Successful applicants will have a commitment to sharing positive Jewish identity with teens, and the ability to be flexible in changing circumstances.

Other responsibilities include:

- Participating with the campers at the work site each day.
- Establishing and enforcing routines and rules for living, working and learning
- Organizing camper committees that encourage leadership and empowerment of participants
- Providing creativity and serving as a resource to our teens in such activities as Shabbat services and the summer yearbook

A valid driver's license is required as counselors frequently assist with the driving throughout the summer.

All applicants must also complete a voluntary disclosure form which will be sent to them upon AJSS's receipt of this application.

Staffing an AJSS Summer program can be as transforming an experience for staff as well as the camper by serving communities in need.

For more information about AJSS and to apply, please visit our website at [www.ajss.org](http://www.ajss.org).

Please send the application by mail, fax or email to:

**American Jewish Society for Service**  
10319 Westlake Blvd, Suite 193  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
240.205.5940 / 301.469.8115 fax  
[www.ajss.org](http://www.ajss.org)

(Please complete Informational Questions as well)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently enrolled in school?  yes  no  Male  Female

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Course of Study \_\_\_\_\_ Expected year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

### Employment History (list most recent first)

Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

### Community Service & Jewish leadership Experience (list most recent first)

Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Upon receipt of this application, all applicants will be asked to fill out a voluntary disclosure form regarding any criminal or related actions. In addition, accepted applicants are required to undergo a recent and complete physical. These medical forms will be sent to you upon acceptance and must be returned to AJSS.

Please answer the following questions in the space below or on a separate sheet of paper.



**Short Answer Questions for FIRST TIME applicants:**

**Name of Applicant** (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

1. How have you spent the last three summers?

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2. What qualities do you possess that you think are the most important for a good leader working with teens?

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3. Please describe your experiences, if any, with teenagers.

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4. Please describe your Jewish education, level of practice, interest and comfort in terms of leading or directing Jewish programming

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5. At the end of the summer, how would you like the project directors and the campers to describe you and your role?

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6. What else do you want us to know about you?

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**Additional Questions for former AJSS campers applying for counselor position::**

1. What about your AJSS camper experience makes you want to return as a counselor?

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2. What do you think your greatest challenges will be in making the transition from camper to counselor?

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Thank you!

Signature of Applicant

Date

Please answer the following questions in the space below or on a separate sheet of paper.



**Short Answer Questions for RETURNING AJSS Counselors:**

**Name of Applicant** (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why do you want to return as an AJSS counselor?

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2. Please list 3-5 pieces of advice that you would offer to first time counselors.:

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3. What experience(s) in your previous AJSS summer were the most challenging and how did you handle them?

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4. At the end of the summer, how would you like the project directors and the campers to describe you and your role?

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Thank you!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# AMERICAN JEWISH SOCIETY FOR SERVICE COUNSELOR REFERENCE

Applicant, Please print and give this form to 2 individuals who know you well and can speak to the questions below.

Dear Reference:

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of applicant) is applying to be a summer counselor for the American Jewish Society for Service for this upcoming summer. The AJSS is a Jewish social action and community service organization that gives teens an opportunity to put their Jewish values into action as they provide hands on manual labor for communities and individuals in need. The program is designed to develop leadership skills of the participants. Two counselors work with the project providing leadership, guidance and support for up to 16 Jewish teens. They live and work on-site for the full duration of the program.

We would appreciate your help in evaluating this candidate. Your honest and thoughtful opinion will enable us to select staff who will serve as authority figures, chaperones, role models and supporters to our campers.

AJSS has a rolling admissions process. Please return this completed recommendation as soon as possible to:

**AJSS, 10319 Westlake Blvd, #193, Bethesda, MD 20817**

This reference will be kept in strict confidence and will not be shared with the candidate. Please use an extra sheet of paper if needed.

Name of Reference

Email Address

1. AJSS counselors need to be able to deal with group living and the challenges to personal lifestyle that this sometimes requires. In addition, an AJSS summer frequently experiences changing situations (modifications to work, living accommodations, etc.) that also may challenge them in different ways.

2. In what capacity have you known the applicant and for how long?

3. Please speak to the applicant's ability to be flexible and adaptable in this kind of environment; how they may help campers cope with these changing circumstances. Please discuss the applicant's leadership qualities and ability to serve as a Jewish role model for teenagers?

4. How would you rate the applicant's ability to relate to adolescents?

5. How would you rate the applicant's sense of responsibility and reliability?

Thank you!

Signature of Recommender

Date

Title/Position

Address

Telephone