



EAGLE RANCH

Assistant Counselor Q&A

1. Why do the children come to Eagle Ranch?

Children come to Eagle Ranch when circumstances make living at home difficult. We counsel with the child's entire family to identify the generational patterns deeply rooted in their family's struggles. Difficulties may include changes in family structure or custody, poor school performance, behavioral issues, judicial requirements, or other factors that affect the child and his/her family. The goal is family reunification and restoration.

2. What are my responsibilities as an Assistant Counselor?

You will be assigned to one home and will work with up to seven children. You and the Houseparent Couple are equal partners who report to a Licensed Professional assigned to that home.

Your duties include, but are not limited to:

- Facilitate children's group counseling in the home
- Manage the group process and create a safe atmosphere where the children can work on their issues, develop new skills, and practice new behaviors
- Plan and implement group development and recreational activities together with fellow Assistant Counselors
- Provide a stable environment where all of the basic needs of the children are met

- Model healthy family relationships incorporating Christian principles
- Interface with the child's family and incorporate them into the Eagle Ranch program
- Offer one-on-one time with the children to help them process their issues
- Participate in the intake process

Additional responsibilities vary depending on your gifts and program needs, including teaching PE, managing the breaks in our Eagle Ranch on-campus school, or other duties assigned.

3. What kind of training do we receive?

Our staff of five Licensed Professionals provides individual, group, and family counseling. They work in partnership with the Houseparents, Assistant Counselors, teachers, and the children's families to ensure that the treatment plan established for each child and his/her family is consistently followed.

Our Assistant Counselors and Houseparents are also trained and managed by our Counselors. Before new Assistant Counselors can work with children, they will receive over 40 hours of training. Once an Assistant Counselor starts working in a home, a Counselor will stay closely connected and assist as needed. In addition, Counselors conduct weekly treatment team meetings with Houseparents and Assistant Counselors to discuss issues and provide on-going training.

During the school year, weekly child care meetings are held for all Houseparents, Counselors, and Assistant Counselors. Program issues are reviewed and additional training provided.

4. What is a typical daily work schedule for the Assistant Counselor?

In general, the mornings are usually open times for the Assistant Counselor. By late morning and/or early afternoon, your schedule will vary between meetings or responsibilities at the school or counseling administration office.

During the school year, you have responsibilities with the children at our Eagle Ranch school either during the school breaks or during PE.

After school, you are with the children in the home eating dinner together as a family and supervising them until bedtime which is between 9:00 and 10:00, depending on the ages of the children in the home.

During the summer the children and staff spend a great deal of time developing the group in the home. The summer program is a time of group development, and the Assistant Counselors are instrumental in designing and fostering this process. Your daily work with the children usually begins in the early afternoon and runs through the evening.

5. How many hours a week do I work?

The children go home every two weeks and on holiday breaks. On average, you will work 80 hours every two weeks. 6. When do I have time off?

The children live on the Ranch full-time and year round, but all of them go home every other weekend, all school holidays, and several weeks during the summer in order to practice implementing new family behaviors which the counselor is working on with

them and their families. When the children are home you are off duty and free to leave the Ranch or to remain here and enjoy it.

Additionally, during those weekends the children stay on the Ranch, you will have time off on either Friday or Saturday evening and most Sundays.

7. Is there a time when I am the sole individual supervising the children in the home?

Yes. There are times when your Houseparents take a date night and you are the sole person responsible for the children for the evening. Houseparent couples usually receive two date breaks per week: one six-hour break on either Friday evening or Saturday and one four-hour break sometime Monday through Thursday evening.

8. Do I live on the Ranch?

Yes! This position requires that you live on the Ranch. You cannot live off Ranch in your own housing.

9. Do I live with the children?

No. You will live in a separate, gender-specific house on the Ranch with the other Assistant Counselors, completely apart from the children's homes. In the Assistant Counselor house, you will have your own private, furnished bedroom and will share a bath. If preferred, you may bring your own furniture.

10. How would you describe life when living in the same house with the other Assistant Counselors?

Assistant Counselors report they enjoy the community created by living with a group of peers who share the same interests and whose priorities are similar. Some of our

Assistant Counselors have enjoyed their lives here so much, they stayed with us longer than their two-year commitment.

11. Do you have housing for married Assistant Counselors?

No. This position requires that you live in a separate, gender-specific house on the Ranch with the other Assistant Counselors. (Male Assistant Counselors live with the other male Assistant Counselors. Female Assistant Counselors live with the other female Assistant Counselors.)

12. What kind of time commitment do you require?

We ask Assistant Counselors to commit to two full years in this position at Eagle Ranch. We do not have much turnover. Our staff forms teams, and it is important to keep those teams consistent for the benefit of the children.

13. How much does it pay?

You receive a salary and benefits, plus free room & board.

14. What are the benefits?

You will have excellent health insurance; a free furnished, private room in a house with other Assistant Counselors; free utilities; free access to the Ranch food store and all the food you can eat; free access to our pool and gym; free access to our lake with fishing and canoeing. All of these benefits, plus surrounded by 270 beautiful acres in the foothills of the north Georgia mountains yet only a 1 hour drive from Atlanta.

15. Do I need a psychology degree?

No. A Bachelor's degree is necessary, but any field of study is acceptable. Although a

degree in counseling or a related field is preferred, it is certainly not necessary.

16. Could this job help prepare me to become a Licensed Professional?

Yes! This position will give you the practical opportunity and experience to work under a Licensed Professional; therefore, enabling you to determine whether pursuing a career in a related field is your calling. The job will help prepare you for graduate school.

17. Is Eagle Ranch like a summer camp?

No. Eagle Ranch is a residential treatment home for families in crisis. Children live here year-round for approximately 9 months – 2 years, depending on how quickly the entire family works on their root issues. Family counseling and restoration is our focus with the entire family, not entertainment.

18. Is this a youth pastor position?

No. You are mentoring children, modeling a healthy Christian lifestyle, and walking with the children in their difficult struggles.

19. Is it possible to move into a different type of position after my two-year commitment?

Yes. Some staff who started with us in one position have moved into another position, according to openings and qualifications.

20. How can I discern if this job is a good fit for me?

God sends workers to Eagle Ranch to grow spiritually. The work here requires you to be transparent, honest, and flexible. Situations will arise which challenge your ability to look at your own wounds and your willingness to allow yourself to be changed by God.