



# Camp Coach

## Volunteer Position Description

**Overview of the Role:** Camp Coaches are volunteers who guide 1–5 campers and their families through the pre-camp, in-camp, and post-camp process. They help ensure campers feel emotionally ready and logistically prepared for their summer camp experience, and serve as a key communication bridge between families and A Thousand Summers. Camp Coaches become experts on their assigned camp, in order to prepare campers for their specific camp experience.

**About ATS:** A Thousand Summers removes barriers to life-changing summer camp experiences for families who can't afford them, partnering with high quality camps to support underserved youth nationwide.

**Campership Program Description:** A Thousand Summers' Campership Program offers multi-year scholarships to immersive, nature-based summer camps across the U.S., covering all costs—tuition, travel, gear, and camp store—so youth from underserved backgrounds can fully participate. Campers also participate in a social-emotional learning program to prepare them for camp.

**Volunteer Time Commitment Required:** Approximately 3-5 hours per month supporting between 1-5 Campers and their families from the fall to the end of the following summer. This position is entirely virtual.

### Volunteer Requirements:

- Completed ATS Volunteer Application
- Experience in youth development, teaching, or mentoring
- Camp experience - either having attended an overnight camp, or having sent their children to camp
- Completion of ATS training upon acceptance
- Commitment to full program camper support, including timely communication
- Ability to pass a background check and provide non-family references
- Summer camp experience required (either as camper/staff/parent of campers)

### Responsibilities:

- Provide ongoing support to campers and families throughout the year
- Guide families through the camp application process, including reminders for deadlines (health forms, fees, travel confirmations, etc.)
- Encourage camper participation in Compass Sessions
- Conduct regular check-ins with families and campers to:
  - Discuss camper feelings about camp
  - Prepare campers for homesickness and camp logistics (overnight trips, schedules, packing, etc.)
  - Reassure parents and address any concerns

### Supports from ATS

1. Training Meetings: Virtual training with ATS staff to walk through the timeline, expectations, and answer questions
2. Monthly Emails: Ongoing communication with key dates, action items, and helpful tips
3. Volunteer Resources
  - a. Comprehensive asynchronous trainings available on website
  - b. Camp preparation tools (packing lists, gear tips, camp schedules, FAQs)
  - c. Guidance on preparing campers for common challenges like homesickness or peer dynamics
  - d. Responsive ATS staff contacts for questions or concerns throughout the year

### Camp Coach Timeline

| Date                       | Volunteer Duties                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Meetings                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>September – October</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Receive assigned to camper(s)</li><li>- <b>Contact families</b> to introduce yourself</li><li>- Support with ATS campership application process</li><li>- Familiarize yourself with assigned camp as needed</li></ul>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Volunteer Training Meeting #1</b> on <u>Monday, October 26th at 5pm MT</u></li></ul>                                                                                 |
| <b>January – June</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Support families with camp enrollment, required paperwork, packing and travel logistics</li><li>- Support camper attendance of Compass sessions</li><li>- Check in regularly and remind parents of upcoming due dates</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Volunteer Training Meeting #2</b> on <u>Monday, January 11 at 5pm MT</u></li><li>- <b>Final Compass Session</b> on <u>Sunday, May 16th, 2027 at 1pm MT</u></li></ul> |
| <b>During Summer</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Write a letter to your camper(s) while they're at camp</li><li>- Support with packing and travel logistics</li></ul>                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>After Summer</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Support campers and families in completing post-camp requirements from ATS</li><li>- Complete volunteer post-camp survey</li><li>- Encourage campers to reapply for following summer</li></ul>                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |