



Day in the life of the: Youth Care Professional

Your schedule – As a Youth Care Professional (YCP) you are there when the youth need you most. The full time YCP has set days and hours, but flexibility is necessary to meet the needs of the youth residing at Hillside’s residential campuses. You can expect to see YCP shifts being scheduled days, evenings, and weekends. The majority of shifts occur during 3 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Your responsibilities – You are at the forefront of teaching the youth basic routines. As a YCP your primary responsibilities are to:

- ensure the safety of the youth on campus;
- routinely check the residential units;
- ensure the youth have a daily routine of hygiene, making it to school on time and eating proper meals.

You will also be called upon to immerse yourself in the daily lives of the youth. The quality of life for the Hillside youth will be enriched because you are there:

- accompanying them on field trips;
- planning and participating in weekly recreation activities;
- teaching life skills;
- communicating with Clinicians and other YCPs to review behaviors during the shift.

When you have successfully drawn on your skills and abilities to role model and carry out these responsibilities you will have taught the youth valuable life and social skills. You will have become part of the valued Hillside “A” team.

At Hillside safety is first therefore, as a member of our team you are also responsible for providing crisis interventions when necessary. Our YCPs report in to the Unit Supervisors who provide training and guidance on all matters.

Your Background - Prior positions or internships that provided experience working with youth with behavioral issues or diagnoses will help you hit the ground running. Successful YCPs have had college majors in areas including, but not limited to, Social Work, Sociology, or Psychology. The best YCPs have personal styles that encompass patience, understanding, the ability to handle environments that can, at times, be high stress; all while maintaining a positive and energetic attitude to role model for the youth. Please refer to the job posting for specific educational and experience requirements.

Your Total Experience – Not only will you be in a role where you help others learn and grow, but you will be in an ideal position to learn and grow yourself. Future growth opportunities as Hillside could include moving through the two YCP levels (I and III) to providing mentorship to YCPs or eventually into a Supervisory role.

This environment is great for someone who does well in a team-oriented, cooperative culture in an organization committed to its core values. You will be a part of a structured, proven system of care that assists youth in getting back on track to be successful in the future. If you work at Hillside, you can't think of anything more rewarding than helping young people achieve growth and providing them with life skills that will help them to become contributing members of society. YCPs, in particular, can feel that they have a direct impact on the youth's success in reaching their goals. The environment can be challenging at times due to the unpredictable nature of human behavior, but there are always employees there to support and assist you in challenging situations. Hillside also prides itself on ongoing training and mentorship of its employees.

"It's incredibly enjoyable to watch the youth you work with learn how to build and maintain healthy relationships with both other youth and staff."

-Youth Care Professional, Finger Lakes, and Varick