WORK & TRAVEL USA

Snow Mountain Ranch - Lifeguard

HOST INFORMATION

Company Description:

YMCA of the Rockies – Snow Mountain Ranch is a nonprofit retreat and conference center located near Winter Park and Rocky Mountain National Park in Granby, Colorado. Set on over 5,000 acres of stunning mountain terrain, Snow Mountain Ranch offers a welcoming, mission-driven community where staff from around the world come together to serve guests and enjoy the outdoors.

Staff live on-site in shared housing and receive three meals a day. Perks include free access to trails, an indoor pool, gym, roller rink, climbing wall, summer tubing hill, zip line, and more. Our friendly and inclusive workplace fosters professional growth, cultural exchange, and lifelong friendships.

Summer brings mild weather—typically 70s–80s°F (21–27°C) with cool evenings—and endless opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, wildlife viewing, and campfire gatherings.

Snow Mountain Ranch has a strong tradition of hosting international staff. Orientation, support, and cultural exchange events like international dinners and talent nights create a rich, community-based experience.

Whether you're looking for adventure, connection, or meaningful work in the mountains, Snow Mountain Ranch is a place to grow, give back, and make memories that last a lifetime.

Host Website: https://www.ymcarockies.org/

Site of Activity: Snow Mountain Ranch

Parent Account Name: YMCA of the Rockies

Host Address: 1101 County Road 53 Granby , Colorado , 80446

Nearest Major City: Loveland , Colorado , Over 50 miles away

PLACEMENT INFORMATION

Job Description:

The Lifeguard is responsible for protecting the safety of pool patrons by monitoring assigned areas, preventing unsafe behavior, responding to emergencies, and rescuing swimmers in danger. Duties include providing first

aid, CPR/AED, and emergency oxygen; maintaining test-ready lifeguarding skills; inspecting pool areas, locker rooms, restrooms, and equipment; cleaning and maintaining the facility; following pool and YMCA safety procedures; completing records and reports; operating telephones, rescue equipment, and cleaning equipment; and participating in all required in-service and safety trainings. Lifeguards must remain alert, communicate clearly, provide excellent customer service, and work cooperatively with guests and staff from diverse backgrounds. Lifeguards may also assist with swimming lessons and other recreation programs as assigned. Current lifeguard and CPR/AED certification is preferred. Certification and Emergency Oxygen training may be provided to qualified candidates. Employees must be able to perform aquatic rescues, speak and read English fluently, meet physical requirements, and lift or move up to 30 pounds.

Typical Schedule:

Schedules vary based on pool operations, guest demand, and staffing needs. Shifts may include mornings, evenings, weekends, and holidays. Seasonal full-time and part-time schedules are available.

Seasonal changes to job duties or available hours: Yes

Hours and assignments may vary based on facility hours, guest volume, staffing needs, and other recreation programs.

Drug Test required: Yes

COMPENSATION

Hourly Wage: $16.16

Eligible for Tips: No

Estimated weekly wages including tips: $16.16

Bonus: No

* All figures above are pre-tax

Estimated average number of hours per week: 40

Estimated minimum number of hours per week: 32

Estimated maximum number of hours per week: 40

Potential fluctuation in hours per week:

Hours may fluctuate with pool operations, guest volume, staffing needs, holidays, and occasional facility closures or maintenance.

Average number of hours per week reached by last year's seasonal employees: 40

Overtime Policy:

Yes, paid after 40 hours

Job-Specific Benefits:

Seasonal staff perks may include discounted meals, employee discounts, access to YMCA facilities and activities, staff events, and other seasonal staff benefits.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

English Level required:

★★★★★☆ Upper-Intermediate

Required to be 21+: No

Previous Experience required: No

Qualifications & Conditions

Swimming

Description:

Participants must complete YMCA lifeguard certification, CPR/AED, First Aid, and Emergency Oxygen training after arrival in the United States. They must also complete facility orientation, pool safety procedures, rescue skills training, and ongoing in-service training. Certification and Emergency Oxygen training will be provided as required.

Job Training required: Yes

Length of job training:

ongoing

Hours per week during training period: 40

Different wage during training period: No

Start on specific day of the week: No

Training requirements:

Participants must complete YMCA lifeguard certification, CPR/AED, First Aid, and Emergency Oxygen training after arrival in the United States. They must also complete facility orientation, pool safety procedures, rescue skills training, and ongoing in-service training. Certification and Emergency Oxygen training will be provided as required.

Need to wear uniform: Yes

Uniform Policy:

Lifeguards must wear YMCA-approved lifeguard attire and required safety equipment while on duty. Uniform details will be provided during orientation. A name badge must be worn while working.

Cost of uniform: $0

Uniform laundry: Provided at no cost

Dress Code: Yes

Description:

Participants may wear shorts and must bring non-slip shoes. YMCA uniform shirts will be provided. A name badge must be worn while on duty.

CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

Types of Cultural Opportunities:

Company Parties, Holiday Events, Trips to Nearby/Major Attractions, Will provide information about Events, Local Resources, Attractions/Sites, Local Community

Additional Details about Cultural Offerings:

Hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park, international potlucks, talent shows, holiday events, and trips to Denver and local festivals. Staff also enjoy movie nights, craft center access, and sharing traditions through cultural exchange activities.

Local Cultural Offering:

Estes Park offers staff discounts on local attractions, shops, and tours. The town hosts festivals like Elk Fest and the Rooftop Rodeo. The Chamber of Commerce organizes concerts and markets. Students can join local volunteer groups, attend events, and explore cultural sites like the Stanley Hotel.

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Housing Provided: Yes. Employer Guarantees employer - owned or employer - arranged housing to all hired participants. May find own (can choose alternative).

Employer-owned or employer-arranged housing description:

YMCA provides sheets, blankets, pillows, pillowcases, towels, and washcloths at no cost. Linens must be returned at the end of the program. Participants are expected to keep rooms clean and dispose of trash properly. Room inspections may occur with or without notice. The YMCA of the Rockies enforces a zero-tolerance drug and alcohol policy. Although marijuana is decriminalized in Colorado, it is illegal under federal law. Drug/alcohol testing may occur at random or under reasonable suspicion and can result in immediate termination. Seasonal staff may not drink or store alcohol on YMCA property, including in staff housing.

Lease Agreement: Yes

Onsite Amenities:

WiFi: Yes

Description:

Internet available

Phone Service: Yes

Description:

Yes, Verizon generally has the best cellular service, others suggest that AT&T also offers decent coverage

Kitchen facilities: Yes

Description:

Access to a dormitory kitchen with appliances, dishes, cooking utensils, etc.

Laundry facilities: Yes

Description:

Access to free laundry facilities

Occupancy Requirements for Provided Housing:

Minimum Occupancy Per Room: 1

Maximum Occupancy Per Room: 4

Suggested Occupancy Per Room: 1 - 4

Rooming Arrangement Description:
Housing is provided in on-site dormitories. Participants will share a room with 2–3 roommates and have their own bed. Communal bathrooms and showers are shared.

Provided Housing Cost:

Required to Pay for Provided Housing: Yes
Cost per Week: $170

Housing Cost Deducted from Paychecks: Yes

Utilities Costs: No

Housing Deposit: No

Transportation to Worksite:

Walking Commute Time
Estimated commute time: Under 15 minutes

Description: On-site: 5 - 10 minutes walking distance.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Arrival Instructions:
Participants should arrive during business hours, preferably between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., and no more than two days before their DS-2019 start date. Fly into Denver International Airport (DEN). Airport pickup is not provided; participants must reserve the appropriate shuttle in advance: Estes Park Shuttle for Estes Park Center or Home James for Snow Mountain Ranch. Arrival details must be emailed to international@ymcarockies.org at least two weeks before arrival.

Suggested Arrival Airport:

Denver International Airport, DEN, Over 50 miles

Estimated cost of transportation to worksite from suggested airports: $75 to $100

If arriving after regular hours:

Suggested After-Hours Accommodation:

Baymont by Wyndham Denver International Airport
6805 Argonne St
Denver , Colorado 80249

(303) 373-5400
$75 to $100

TRAINING AND ONBOARDING

Pre-Arrival Onboarding: Yes

Pre-Arrival Requirements for Employment at YMCA of the Rockies
All staff members and volunteers must complete a criminal background check before their start date. In addition, the following items are required before arrival:

A completed online application

Two professional references and one family reference.

References must be submitted directly by the individuals providing them. Participants may not submit their references—submissions from participants will not be accepted. These materials must be submitted at least 4 weeks before arrival. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of employment. Upon receiving a job offer, participants must contact their employer via email to confirm acceptance. Failure to make contact may also result in the loss of placement. While the YMCA of the Rockies is open to hiring friends or couples, participants should not expect to work or live together or be assigned the same departments or shifts.

Social Security Number:

Require participants to apply for SSN before arrival at worksite: No

Details about how to apply for Social Security Number:

Participants must apply for a Social Security number shortly after arrival (Once SEVIS is active). YMCA of the Rockies – Estes Park Center will provide transportation to the Social Security office in Loveland, CO, during your first two weeks of work. You will be taken as part of a group once you have been in the U.S. for at least 3 business days. This waiting period is required to ensure your information has been entered into the Social Security system. We will help you complete your application and provide the necessary documents, including: Job offer letter Passport with J-1 visa DS-2019 form I-94 arrival record (can be printed online) You will receive additional instructions and a scheduled trip date during your orientation. If you miss the group trip, contact HR to arrange another time.

Nearest SSA Office: Fortcollins , Colorado , Over 50 miles

Other:

Wage Payment Schedule:

Participants can expect to receive approximately 32+ hours of work per week throughout their program.

Meal Plan: Mandatory

Estimated Cost Per Day: $170

Meal Plan Description:

$170.00 per week (Room & Board Included) • Room: Accommodation in our staff dormitory, featuring Wi-Fi and access to paid laundry facilities • Board: Three meals per day, seven days a week

Provide Certificates/Performance Evaluations: Yes

Hire in Groups: Yes

Maximum Group Size:

Grooming Requirements:

Long black pants and non-skid black shoes are required while working in the Food Service Department. Uniform shirts are provided at no cost and participants need to arrive with black pants and black shoes. All employees are required to wear their name badge while on duty or while eating in the employee dining room.

Second Job Availability: No, unlikely

Applicable Company Policies:

Staff Policies Overview

General Job Conditions Professionalism: All staff are expected to conduct themselves professionally at all times, including respectful communication with guests, coworkers, and supervisors. Positive attitude and teamwork are highly valued. Work Environment: Staff work in a fast-paced, guest-centered environment. Flexibility and willingness to assist beyond assigned duties may be required. Uniform and Appearance: Proper uniforms or dress codes must be followed as outlined by supervisors. Personal grooming should be neat and appropriate for the role.

Work Hours and Scheduling Schedules: Work schedules are assigned by supervisors and vary depending on department needs and seasonal demands.Shift Changes: Any requests for schedule changes or days off should be communicated to supervisors in advance and are subject to approval. Attendance: Punctuality and consistent attendance are mandatory. Excessive tardiness or absences without out a valid reason may result in disciplinary action. Overtime: Overtime must be pre-approved by management and is paid according to applicable labor laws.

Alcohol and Drugs: The use or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs during work hours or on YMCA property is strictly prohibited and grounds for immediate termination.Drug Testing: Random or cause-based drug testing may be conducted according to policy. Housing Policies (If Applicable)Cleanliness and Respect: Staff living in YMCA-provided housing must keep their living areas clean and respect shared spaces and neighbors.Visitors: Guest visitors may be restricted or require prior approval from housing supervisors. Overnight guests are generally not allowed. Quiet Hours: Quiet hours must be observed, typically during nighttime, to ensure a restful environment for all residents.Safety: Staff are responsible for securing their personal belongings; the YMCA is not liable for lost or stolen items.

COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Walking Distance from Worksite:

Post Office, Restaurants, Public Library

In Town, Requires Transportation:

Food Market, Shopping Mall, Bank, Fitness Center, Public Library

Unavailable:

Internet Cafe