

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Ortiz, Volunteer



When Not at Camp I am a: Nanny

Volunteer at Roundup River Ranch since: 2014

Favorite Camp Activity: Boating

Favorite Meal at Camp: Spaghetti

Favorite Camp Dance: Justin Bieber's "Eenie Meenie"

How would you describe camp in three words? Energetic, funny and powerful

In what volunteer role(s) do you serve at Roundup River Ranch? Camp counselor and a best friend

What motivates you to volunteer at Roundup River Ranch? To see the kids'

faces when they meet someone who is going through the same thing, being able to make a change in their lives, and to give back, since people helped me when I was a Roundup River Ranch camper.

What do you like to do when you are not volunteering? I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, shopping, hiking, and road trips.

What is your favorite memory as a Roundup River Ranch volunteer? I had a camper who was really into the painting part of Silly Olympics and so I sat down so she could paint both of my legs, front and back, while everyone else was running around playing with shaving cream and water.

How has your Roundup River Ranch volunteer experience impacted your life? It has impacted my life by seeing how all the campers interact with each other. How one camper might have it a little tougher than another camper, but at camp they can't even tell the difference, or for that matter they all just make all their illnesses go away and act like normal kids. This shows that we should just treat everyone equally, because we don't really know what everyone is going through.

Why would you encourage others to volunteer at camp? I would encourage people to volunteer because while they may be changing a camper's life, the campers really make a big impact on our lives. And it's a great week or summer to act silly and no one will judge you. It's a blast.

What would you like to say to those who may be interested in volunteering at Roundup River Ranch? If you are considering volunteering, I say go for it! It is one of the best experiences you will ever have in your life. You meet these amazing campers, who are all unique, and they have the best staff at camp. You can make a mark on someone's life and it will give you this great feeling that will make you want to come back and do more.

What is the biggest challenge that Roundup River Ranch volunteers face at camp? I think one of the biggest challenges you face at camp is when a camper is feeling homesick. It might be their first time away from home, and spending a week away from home is the scariest thing to them.