

WATERFRONT DIRECTOR

Dates: June 14 - August 8, 2026 **Type:** Residential/Live-in Position **Compensation:** \$675-\$725 per week (based on qualifications)

About Camp Trotter:

VFW Camp Trotter is a non-profit residential camp in beautiful northern Michigan where kids are encouraged to try new things, stay true to themselves, and grow in confidence within the shared experience of community. Our mission is to cultivate **courage, community, and curiosity** in children and youth through outdoor programs that build resilience, foster belonging, and inspire hands-on learning.

Important: While we proudly prioritize military families, our doors are open to all youth who share a spirit of service and curiosity. **You do not need any military affiliation, VFW connection, or veteran background to work at Camp Trotter.** We're building an inclusive, welcoming community focused on child development, outdoor education, and creating meaningful summer experiences. Camp Trotter is a nonreligious program that celebrates diversity and welcomes staff and campers of all backgrounds and beliefs.

This is a brand-new program. While the camp has been around for 75 years, this is a brand new program. You'll have the opportunity to shape Camp Trotter's culture, contribute your ideas, and build a lasting legacy in the camp industry. We're looking for experienced, passionate camp professionals who want to be part of something meaningful.

Location: 5566 E 86th St, Newaygo, MI 49337 (on Bills Lake in northern Michigan)

Camp Sessions: 5 one-week sessions

- Week 1: July 5–11
- Week 2: July 12–18
- Week 3: July 19–25
- Week 4: July 26–Aug 1
- Week 5: Aug 2–8

Campers: Approximately 88 co-ed campers per session, ages 7-12

Position Overview:

The Waterfront Director oversees all waterfront activities on Bills Lake, ensuring the safety of all campers and staff during swimming, boating, and other water-based programs. This leadership role requires strong aquatics experience and the ability to manage waterfront operations, supervise lifeguard staff, and create engaging programming. You'll have the opportunity to

establish waterfront protocols and culture for this new camp, working closely with the Camp Director for guidance and support.

Key Responsibilities:

- Supervise all waterfront activities, staff, and safety protocols
- Conduct swim tests and assess camper swimming abilities
- Teach swimming lessons and water safety
- Manage waterfront schedule, equipment, and facilities (boat house, waterfront area)
- Ensure compliance with state waterfront regulations
- Train and supervise lifeguard assistant
- Maintain waterfront area, equipment, and boats
- Enforce safety protocols and emergency procedures
- Lead waterfront-based activities (canoeing, swimming, water games, etc.)
- Develop waterfront programming and safety systems for this new program
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs and work on your feet

Required Qualifications:

- Minimum 21 years of age
- Current Lifeguard certification (or willingness to obtain—will train the right person)
- Previous waterfront management experience at a camp or aquatic facility required
- Strong swimming and water safety skills
- Leadership and supervisory experience
- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- Self-motivated, responsible, and safety-conscious
- Must pass background check

Preferred Qualifications:

- Water Safety Instructor (WSI) certification
- Lifeguard Instructor certification
- Boating safety certification
- Previous camp waterfront director experience
- Experience with various watercraft (canoes, kayaks, etc.)
- Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder training

Compensation & Benefits:

- **Salary:** \$675-\$725 per week (based on qualifications and experience)
- Room and board provided
- All meals included
- Opportunity to build waterfront program from the ground up

Training:

3 weeks of paid administrative and staff training: June 14 - July 3, 2026

To Apply:

Submit resume, copies of current certifications, and 3 professional references to: **Garrett Sieloff**
camptrottedirector@vfwmi.vet

Applications accepted on a rolling basis. Video interviews will be conducted. **Position will be removed once filled.**