

KITCHEN ASSISTANT

Dates: June 21 - August 8, 2026 **Type:** Residential/Live-in Position **Compensation:** \$400 per week + bonuses

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:

Kitchen Assistants work under the direction of the Food Services Director to help prepare and serve meals, maintain kitchen cleanliness, and ensure smooth dining operations for campers and staff. This is a great role for someone who enjoys food service and wants to be part of building a new camp program.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist Food Services Director with meal preparation and cooking
- Help serve meals to campers and staff in the dining hall
- Clean kitchen, dining area, and equipment
- Assist with food storage and inventory management
- Follow food safety and sanitation protocols
- Support special meal events and activities
- Accommodate dietary needs under chef's direction
- Maintain a positive, team-oriented attitude

Required Qualifications:

- Minimum 17 years of age
- Previous food service experience preferred
- Camp kitchen or institutional cooking experience a plus
- Ability to work early mornings and flexible hours
- Strong work ethic and team player attitude
- Comfortable working in a fast-paced environment
- Reliable and responsible
- Must pass background check
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs and work on your feet

Preferred Qualifications:

- Food Safety/ServSafe certification
- Previous camp experience
- Experience with dietary accommodations

Compensation & Benefits:

- **Base:** \$400 per week
- **Bonus Pay Available:**
 - Associate's degree: +\$15/week
 - Bachelor's degree: +\$25/week
 - Military veteran status: +\$25/week
 - 2+ years experience in camp/experiential/outdoor/youth education: +\$20/week
 - Camp Trotter returning staff: +\$20/week
- Room and board provided
- All meals included

Training:

2 weeks of paid staff training: June 21 - July 3, 2026

To Apply:

Submit resume and 3 professional references to: **Garrett Sieloff** camptrotterdirector@vfwmi.vet

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