

WATERFRONT ASSISTANT (Lifeguard)

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:

The Waterfront Assistant works under the Waterfront Director to ensure camper safety during all waterfront activities on Bills Lake, assist with swim instruction, and support water-based programming including swimming, canoeing, and water games.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide vigilant supervision during all waterfront activities
- Respond to aquatic emergencies
- Assist with swim tests and swimming lessons
- Help maintain waterfront equipment, boats, and facilities
- Support waterfront programming (canoeing, boating, water games, etc.)
- Enforce safety rules and procedures
- Assist Waterfront Director with daily operations
- Maintain a positive, safety-focused attitude

Required Qualifications:

- Minimum 17 years of age
- Strong swimming skills
- Camp or aquatic facility experience preferred
- Responsible, alert, and safety-conscious
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Must pass background check
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs and work on your feet

Preferred Qualifications:

- Current Lifeguard certification
- Current CPR and First Aid certification
- Water Safety Instructor (WSI) certification
- Previous camp lifeguard experience
- Boating experience
- Wilderness First Aid training

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
 - Lifeguard certification: +20/week
 - Wilderness First Aid (WFA): +\$20/week
 - Wilderness First Responder (WFR): +\$20/week
 - EMR/EMT/Paramedic: +\$25/week
- Room and board provided
- All meals included

Training:

2 weeks of paid staff training: June 21 - 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.**