



**Job Title: Summer Leadership Institute Counselor**

**Organization: WPS Summer Leadership Institute**

**Location: Newton Centre, MA**

**Position Type: Seasonal, Full-Time**

**Duration: July 1st to July 30, 2024**

**Compensation: \$25-\$30 per hour**

### **Overview:**

The [WPS Summer Leadership Institute](#) is seeking dynamic and motivated individuals to join our team as Summer Leadership Institute Counselors. As a Counselor, you will play a crucial role in facilitating a transformative experience for high school students participating in our innovative and immersive summer program. This role is ideal for a college or graduate student.

### **About WPS:**

Since its inception in 2017, the [WPS Institute](#) has offered programs for teachers and students with a focus on fostering educational innovation and opportunity. As a non-profit education start-up, we seek to advance a model of education where learning thrives everywhere, not just in school; where young people and their families are empowered to shape their own educational journeys; and where entire communities contribute to the education of their young people.

As a partner to communities, WPS provides wraparound support to launch innovative experiments in student-centered learning, including research and development; program design; professional learning; implementation support; evaluation; and seed funding. In 2022, we launched our first Community Innovation Partnership in Salem, MA, working in collaboration with local schools, families, and community partners to reimagine middle school with offerings that are relevant, experiential, and open-walled. In 2023, we opened the WPS Community Learning Lab on our campus in Newton, Massachusetts. In the Community Learning Lab, we partner with out-of-school organizations to develop capacity and resources to imagine greater educational possibilities and programming that is learner-centered, empowers youth voice and fosters choice and agency. We collaborate with universities and community organizations to research best practices for out-of-school learning that can inform and influence what happens in schools and also to connect a network of greater-Boston area institutions that advance innovation in student-centered learning.

### **WPS Summer Leadership Institute:**

This summer, we are thrilled to introduce our inaugural program for high school students—the WPS Summer Leadership Institute. This three-week initiative is crafted to empower rising 10th, 11th and 12th grade students by developing their leadership skills, exposing them to innovative city spaces, and inspiring them to shape their own futures. Throughout the program, participants will:

- Immerse themselves in hands-on experiences.
- Visit first-rate institutions, such as an MIT maker space.
- Engage with experts in engineering, biotech, social innovation, and more.
- Develop skills in entrepreneurship, digital storytelling, networking and influencing, which they can apply in internships and community impact projects.

The program is scheduled to run from July 8 to July 26th, 2024, on our T-accessible campus in Newton Centre. Hours are 9 AM to 4 PM. Counselors arrive one hour early and stay one hour late (8-5 pm) and will attend the week before for training (June 26th & 27th; July 1st-3rd) and two days of the following week for debrief (July 29th-30th).

Upon completion of the summer institute, participants will have the opportunity to participate in the WPS Innovation Everywhere Internship program. During the 2024-2025 school year, students can receive funding and skill development to incubate their own programs or contribute to existing programs in consultation with area experts.

**Responsibilities:**

Support, guide, and coach a small group of students as they engage in a variety of experiences during the three-week program:

Group Dynamics and Fun:

- Ensure a positive and enjoyable atmosphere within the group.
- Be responsible for creating a fun and engaging environment for participants.
- Plan and facilitate team-building activities to foster a sense of camaraderie.

Engagement with Experts:

- Accompany students on exploratory visits to innovative organizations across Boston.
- Collaborate with students during hands-on experiences, such as engineering in an MIT Maker Space, touring a Biotech Lab, and engaging with Social Entrepreneurs.
- Facilitate activities to promote an inclusive environment.

Skill Development:

- Guide students in choosing mini-course selections from a diverse range of future-ready skills, including Social Media & Digital Storytelling, Data Visualization, Developing and Leveraging Social Networks, Internship Creation & Career Development, and Influence, Persuasion, & Negotiation.
- If possible, teach one or more of these courses.

Problem-Solving and Application:

- Collaborate with students to address community-specific problems, providing guidance and support.
- Assist in the selection and implementation of social impact projects or internships for participating students during the 2024-2025 school year.

Qualifications:

- Passion for working with high school students and fostering their personal and professional development.
- Strong organizational and interpersonal skills.
- Enthusiastic about innovation, leadership, and community engagement.

## **How to Apply:**

Interested candidates should submit their resume, cover letter, and a brief statement outlining their approach to mentorship and guiding high school students in experiential learning environments to [carrie.wihbey@wpsinstitute.org](mailto:carrie.wihbey@wpsinstitute.org) (watch out for the tricky spelling of the last name!). Please include "Summer Leadership Institute Counselor Application" in the subject line. Application deadline is March 15, 2024.

Check out our [careers page](#) for other posted positions at WPS Institute!