

Cabin Counselor Essential Functions

1. Living in a cabin with individual groups of campers, serving as their counselor and leader throughout the session

- Guide your cabin in a variety of camp activities
- Live with a group of campers and work to develop a group/team feeling in your cabin, and the Camp as a whole
- Know the whereabouts of your campers at all times
- Set a good example for your campers

2. Monitoring the daily health and safety of each camper assigned

- Be safety and health conscious regarding campers' needs
- Enforce appropriate safety regulations and emergency procedures

3. Identifying and meeting camper needs

- Establish individual respect and relationships with each one of your campers
- Observe camper behavior, assess its appropriateness and apply appropriate behavior-management techniques

4. Assisting Activity Staff by actively participating and supervising campers at program activities Assisting in the development of special programs and activities as needed

5. Being aware of not only your own cabin's welfare, but also that of the entire Camp

Activity Counselor Essential Functions

1. Developing and/or implementing program activities to involve campers and their counselors during activity periods, in coordination with the Program Directors

- Develop/implement activities that will be appropriate to the various age groups
- Be present and on time for activity
- Provide leadership, guide, motivate, and instruct the campers while attending the activity

- Develop a team feeling in your program area if possible, and for the Camp as a whole
- Set a good example for all campers
- Observe camper behavior, assess its appropriateness and apply appropriate behavior-management techniques

2. Establishing and enforcing safety precautions, regulations, and emergency procedures relating to the equipment, materials, and area of your assigned program

- Be safety and health conscious regarding campers' needs
- Communicate and train staff and campers in safety regulations and emergency procedures

3. Assisting Cabin Staff by being involved and assisting with campers during evening programs, meal times and other free times.

4. Assisting in the development of special programs/activities as needed

5. Being aware of not only your own program's welfare, but also that of the entire Camp

Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions

We have prepared some information for you to review before completing the application. We hope it will answer some of your questions about our volunteer hiring process, our organization and our programs.

Who are the Volunteers?

Our volunteers are a widely diverse group of caring individuals. Each week of summer camp includes approximately 100 to 110 volunteers between the ages of 21 and 80, averaging 35. Approximately 90% of our volunteer staff members return to Camp Sunshine again and again.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life. They include decorators, artists, human resource managers, teachers, doctors, nurses, social workers, sales people, lifeguards, chefs, secretaries, homemakers, business executives, former campers, and college students.

What are the different roles for Volunteer Staff members?

- **Cabin Counselors** – two or three people work together with a cabin group of 6 to 8 campers. Cabin counselors sleep in the cabin with the campers; participate in all activities, providing guidance, safety and supervision.
- **Activity Counselors** – instruct or assist in one of the many program areas offered during a summer session. Activity counselors work with and meet more campers and staff throughout the week.
- **Nurses and Doctors** - the volunteers that provide 24-hour health care to our campers. Their job includes distributing medications at camp and monitoring the health of all campers and staff.
- **Unit Heads** – the unit heads are a group of individuals with previous Camp experience that provide support to the counselors and activity staff.

What is the time commitment?

New Camp Sunshine volunteers commit to an interview, a one-day pre-camp orientation in May, and full week of summer camp (Saturday to Saturday).

We believe the week at summer camp is the best way to fully orient a volunteer to understand the needs of our campers and families and the mission of Camp Sunshine. Job responsibilities, emergency procedures, medical procedures, program orientation and camp traditions are presented during the orientation.

After completing the week of summer camp, a volunteer can participate in our weekend programs, special events and house programs.

What are we looking for in Volunteer Staff?

Camp Sunshine provides a chance to make a difference in the life of a child with cancer. Volunteers must show enthusiasm for the program and our mission.

We are looking for volunteers who can work in and appreciate the recreational/camping environment as a therapeutic place for children. We are looking for individuals with patience and respect for the child and family. We are looking for individuals who promote healthy personal interactions with children and adults, and be a positive role model for our campers. Our volunteers must respect the patient's and family's privacy.

In addition, volunteer staff must be flexible. The needs of our campers and programs change, often at the last minute. You must have patience and energy when working with children of all ages. In working as a team member with other adults, you must be willing to deal with conflict, accept

coaching from others, and be accepting of all members of the camp community.

Camp is not the best volunteer experience for everyone since it can challenge an individual's **patience, flexibility** and **privacy**. You must be willing to deal with issues and feelings that develop when guiding children/teenagers with cancer and working with other adults in close unison.

What are our campers like?

We have one week designed for junior campers, ages 7 to 12 and one week for teenager campers, ages 13-18. All campers have or have had cancer. Many have had cancer and treatment in their younger lives and continue to attend camp. These children are "off therapy" and may or may not have challenges due to their cancer or treatment.

Other campers will be during some stage of their disease. The most obvious signs of treatment in campers may be bald heads, medications, fatigue, weakness, amputations, and decreased balance, mobility or vision. A number of campers may also have cognitive challenges or be in a wheelchair.

You will get more information about childhood cancer during orientation. Our campers want to have fun, meet new friends and learn new skills – just like all campers.

Where is Camp Sunshine summer camp held?

The home of Camp Sunshine for summer camp and many of our weekend programs is [Camp Twin Lakes](#) in Rutledge, Georgia. The site is about one hour from Atlanta. Accommodations are rustic cabins with twin beds, bathrooms and shower facilities in the cabins. Meals are served in the dining hall by the Camp Twin Lakes staff. A vegetarian option is available.

What are the rules for Volunteers?

Every camp community, when you have the responsibility for supervising children, needs rules or limits to insure the safety and well being of all our campers and staff.

Camp rules will be discussed in detail during orientation. Camp is an alcohol and tobacco free environment. Due to the goals of our camp program – we do not allow you to use a cell phone when campers are present. Please do not count on access to email.