

Special Friends Camp Volunteering

Job Responsibilities

Volunteer Counselor (ages 15 and up)

Counselor/Buddies assist an individual special needs camper, or work together with one or two other counselors with a small group of campers. In your role as a “Buddy”, you will:



- Keep campers safe
- Escort campers through activities (including pool time, so bring your swimsuit!)
- Communicate with camper(s) and help them to feel comfortable at camp
- Assist campers as needed in the restroom (only volunteers age 18 or older will be asked to help in this way if needed, and only with a camper of the same gender. Training will be provided prior to camper’s arrival).
- Communicate with parents when they pick their camper up each day
- Attend staff meetings and training sessions
- Participate in fellowship activities with other staff members in the evenings (for those staying overnight)

Support Staff (ages 14 and up)

This is a job for people who are not interested or old enough to be a counselor, but still want to be a part of the program. Support staff provide a vital function, serving in the following ways:

- Clean cabins
- Set up and clean up before and after meals
- Help with supplies and other needs at mini golf & other activities
- Go for walks with campers in small groups
- Assist leadership
- Help with worship time
- Participate or help with skits for worship time
- General grounds clean up
- Run craft and activity stations which can include but are not limited to:
 - Crafts
 - Story time
 - Face painting
 - Music
 - Other assorted game or activities

Housing

Staff members and volunteers who need housing will be housed in cabins at Chinook Village, or in other staff houses on the camp grounds. All housing assignments will be made by the Special Friends Camp Director and will be based on the needs of the camp program.

Some of the facilities are very rustic, and all will require you to bring your own bedding or sleeping bag, pillow, towels, and other toiletry items.

If coming as a group, please understand that you are likely to have other staff and volunteers in your cabin who are not with your group. Everyone is part of the same team, and there is a lot of opportunity for fellowship together.

Housing assignments will mostly be made by gender, so families coming together will not be able to be housed all together, but will be divided up with males in the “Boys Cabins” and females in the “Girls Cabins”.

Volunteer Groups

We love to have groups volunteer together for Special Friends Camp! This is an incredible missions opportunity, and a great time for your group members to have a unique bonding experience working together in this environment.

If you have some specific goals or ideas of things you want your group members to experience or to be involved in after the campers go home for the day, please let us know. Laurie Fertello, our Special Friends Camp Director, will be happy to talk with you about opportunities and meeting your group’s specific needs.

Group members are welcome to participate in any and all fellowship activities for Special Friends staff and volunteers during the week, including Special Friends Overnight Camp activities. This can be a fun fellowship and bonding time for the whole group.