



TITLE: Volunteer Counselors

Works with our Program Coordinator and Site Staff to provide quality leadership to our Campers during the summer season:

Summer Program Coordinator schedules Volunteer Staff, weekly activities, and Site Staff for each camp session that is offered during the summer season. We ask that you communicate often with the Program Coordinator in the days leading up to your arrival time to camp so we can count on your arrival to assist with the camp session you have signed up for.

Our Site Director resides on site and is available most all times during summer camp, should you have concerns or questions about the overall program or site, we would invite you to visit with them. We have found that an open line of communication, and teamwork between site staff and volunteer staff ensures our goal of providing a quality camp experience for all.

Camp Chippewa our MISSION STATEMENT-

Camp Chippewa is a United Methodist Camp and Retreat Center whose mission is to provide an atmosphere in a simple outdoor setting where individuals can: experience the presence of God in nature; form a relationship with Jesus Christ and others; nurture one's journey as a disciple of our Lord and Savior; experience spiritual and personal growth and renewal; and to serve non-profit groups for the betterment of God's world.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The camping program of Camp Chippewa is an outreach of The Great Plains United Methodist Conference and Great Plains Camping for the purpose of providing experiences through which all persons (without regard to religious affiliation, sex, age, social status, etc.) can grow in the Christian faith, discover the power of Christian community, and experience the world in which God has placed us all. While membership in The United Methodist Church is not a requirement of employment, an active participation in a Christian church is expected. In addition, a general requirement for employment is that staff must feel comfortable in this setting and be able to be supportive of this ministry. Being of service to people and extending the greatest degree of courtesy to people is a very real and important requirement of all staff.

To be a Volunteer Counselor Our Minimum Qualifications are:

- Ability to share Christian faith and values
- Desire and ability to work with children, youth, and adults with developmental disabilities in a camp setting
- Ability to creatively plan games, programs and Bible study
- Enthusiasm, sense of humor, patience, self-control, and flexibility
- Ability to lead and or assist in Bible study, devotions, and activities of camp
- At least 18 years of age
- Ability to work as a team with other site staff and volunteers
- Ability to accept supervision and guidance, as well as provide supervision and guidance.
- Ability to follow the policies of the site that pertain to campers, staff, and all visitors of the site.
- Show hospitality to the Parents/Guardians with the arrival and departure of the Campers that are coming to camp.
- Previous camp experience and/or willingness to learn

Training Required

- Current Safe Gatherings Certification (formerly Safe & Sacred). Certification will be at no cost to you, as a Volunteer Counselor, if certification is complete, approved by the GPUMC and you participate as a volunteer counselor.

Specific Goals and Objectives

- Assist with Bible studies (lesson plans) for your camp, according to your ability.
- Help to evaluate each camp session, make suggestions that would or could improve the process.
- Assist and work with other counselors in planning and carrying out cabin activities.
- Provide supervision & leadership that allows for growth in themselves, the campers, and that of other volunteer staff and site staff.
- Host campers and their parents/guardians as they arrive and depart from camp.

Specific Responsibilities

- A timely arrival on Monday (8:00am) and or Wednesday (12:00pm) as requested or make arrangements with the Program Coordinator, if this is not possible. There will be an orientation and breakfast (Wednesday-lunch) served.
- On duty 24 hours a day while campers are under your care. *Please work closely with other Volunteers, Core Counselors, and Program Coordinator to give yourself and other counselor staff breaks throughout the week but remaining on site.*
- Work as a team with other Volunteer Counselors, and Core Counselors to provide the intended curriculum and schedule of the program.
- At least three (3) weeks before the start of the camp session, engage in frequent communication with the Camp Office to ensure that plans, schedules, counselor recruitment, curriculum and other needs are being addressed.
- Set a good example for campers and others, including punctuality, cleanliness, sharing cleanup and chores, sportsmanship, and table manners.
- Follow camp rules and regulations pertaining to smoking, use of alcoholic beverages, and use of drugs, etc. (if you must smoke only do so outside cabin when campers are not present)
- Encourage respect for personal property, camp equipment, and facilities.
- Be responsible for the welfare of campers under your general supervision and do all that is possible to solve problems.
- Inform Program Coordinator, Site Director, or Senior Staff of any camper, staff, or volunteer problems that may occur. We need to stay in communication at all times to ensure we have addressed any situations that may arise during a camp session, and are abreast of any needs or concerns of campers/parent/guardians/volunteers/guest/site staff.
- Assist those campers who may need help fitting into the camp atmosphere. Ensure that campers are taking part in activities and participating in the schedule of the camp session.
- Help ensure morale of campers by monitoring rest, eating habits, and balance of activities.
- Interact with campers so that each individual receives a quality Christian camping experience.
- Along with other staff, supervise all assigned aspects of the campers' day including wake up, cabin cleanup, meal times, rest hour, daytime and evening activities, getting ready for bed and after hours, as assigned.
- Help carry out, under the direction of camp staff, emergency procedures such as fire drills, evacuating the cabin, etc. Carry out camp health and safety procedures. These will be included in the Volunteer Counselor Orientation when you arrive.
- Teach and /or lead cabin activities and games, as you feel comfortable in doing. Special activities such as Archery/Low ropes etc. will need to be lead by site or Core Counselor staff.
- Help to evaluate each camp session, make suggestions that would or could improve the process. Also provide evaluation of C. I. T.'s or other Volunteers that you have worked with during your camp session. If you have a concern early on in the week please talk with our Program Coordinator /Site Director or other Senior Staff personnel, so we can try and make adjustments to correct any problems. Please don't wait until the end of the week while filling out your evaluation to let us know you had trouble in a specific area or with someone or something. We value your time and our campers need you here in a positive manner.
- To fulfill the mission of the camp through your responsibilities.

- We ask the you are present during the entire session of Camp you have signed up for, BUT if an emergency comes up and you have to leave before your camp ends. YOU MUST first talk directly to the Program Coordinator, Director of Camping, or Site Director before leaving the site. This way we are aware of needing a replacement for your particular camp. Our campers are counting on us to provide more than just adequate leadership.

Please complete the following statement and sign:

I, _____ have read, understand and will do my very best to fulfill the above responsibilities of a Volunteer Counselor for Camp Chippewa's Ministry Programs. I do give _____ / I do not give _____ my permission for the Camp to use photos of myself in promotional materials for Camp Chippewa.

Signature _____ Date _____