



Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Southern California
Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times

Volunteer Activity Counselor

Position Description

Minimum Qualifications

- Desire and ability to work with children in an outdoor environment
- Desire to set goals to help create a successful Camp session
- Ability to be a positive member of a staff team
- Ability to relate to one's peer group
- Ability to accept supervision and guidance
- Good character, integrity, judgement, decision making, and adaptability
- Enthusiasm, sense of humor, patience, and self-control
- High School diploma or equivalent and at least 19 years of age
- Commitment to eight (8) consecutive days of volunteering

Reports to: Program Support Staff

Camp Goals

To provide cancer patients and their families with a rewarding outdoor experience by:

- developing self-confidence and independence
- developing friendships with others
- developing a spirit of cooperation and group identity
- developing skills and interests

General Responsibility

Responsible to teach and supervise a segment(s) of the camp's program to help maintain standards that lead to a quality experience for the campers.

Specific Responsibilities

Modeling appropriate behavior

- Demonstrating a personal understanding of camp rules
- Incorporating camp goals in cabin and activity outcomes
- Maintain healthy boundaries with campers and fellow staff
- Remain unplugged from cell phones during the Camp session

Provide Leadership

- Use skills and abilities to lead activities
- Lend support to cabins and other programs through attitude and participation

Team Member

- Proactively discuss activity issues and leadership styles with co-staff assigned
- Proactivity discuss and divide activity facilitation responsibilities with co-staff

- Participate in regular check-in meetings with support staff that include goal setting and review, giving feedback, soliciting and accepting coaching, providing updates on campers and co-staff.

Develop Campers

- Incorporate a basic understanding of developmental characteristics and personal growth
- Participate actively with campers assigned
- Observe camper behavior and apply appropriate behavior-management techniques
- Identify and meet the needs of the campers
- Facilitate activities to the developmental level of each cabin group

Develop Group

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of group dynamics
- Facilitate group building and problem-solving skills within cabin group(s) at activities

Mediate Conflict

- Follow and demonstrate basic effective conflict mediation skills

Promote safety

- Monitor and enforce the physical and emotional safety of campers and staff
- Identify, communicate, and monitor all safety aspects of activity
- Demonstrate understanding of camp emergency procedures
- Report all potential hazards

Teaching

- Display comfort in teaching activity
- Includes greeting, instruction and debriefing segments into program

Inclusion & participation

- Has a basic understanding of physical/emotional/cognitive difference in a group

Essential Functions

1. Visual and auditory ability to identify and respond to environmental and other hazards related to the position.
2. Verbal ability to communicate with peers and instruct youth of various skill levels and of various ages.
3. Stamina to work in an outdoor wilderness environment that can include extreme heat, dust, variable weather conditions including sun exposure.

Program Narrative

For over forty years, Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times has been creating long-lasting, positive impacts on children with cancer and their families by providing fun-filled, medically-supervised, cost-free, year-round camp programs. Our summer season starts in June and runs through August.

The administrative camp program staff (Camp Director, Program Director, Program Operations Manager, Family Relations Manager, Seasonal Staff), site & facility staff, & food service staff are the only constants throughout the summer. Approximately 50 volunteers will attend each session in the roles of medical staff, volunteer support directors, cabin counselors, and activity counselors. Each camp session starts with two days of volunteer staff orientation and training, immediately followed by six days with campers. Those six days are chock full of daily activities, evening campfires, and special events.