

2017

# FAQ'S FOR MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS



## WHAT IS FLYING HORSE FARMS?

The mission of Flying Horse Farms is to enrich the lives of children with serious illnesses and their families by providing magical, transforming fun through year-round, medically-safe and cost-free camping experiences. Volunteers are the key to our program. They bring enthusiasm, creativity and energy to help our campers make awesome memories and lifelong friends.

## WHAT DO MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS DO AT FLYING HORSE FARMS?

The Flying Horse Farms medical program is overseen by a full-time Medical Director and Nursing Director and supported by highly trained nurses and doctors. We rely on volunteer physicians and nurses throughout the summer to provide medical support, distribute medicine and provide one-on-one medical attention when needed. Each cabin is assigned a minimum of one cabin nurse, who ensures that every camper is given the appropriate medications when needed. Medical volunteers and staff members are on hand to meet any medical needs in our on-site, 24-hour medical facility, the WellNest.

## WHAT IS SUMMER CAMP?

Summer camps typically last six days. We can host up to 65 campers from ages 8 to 15, and each week of summer camp is tailored to one of the diagnosis groups that we serve (for example: heart camp, hematology/oncology camp, etc.). Volunteers are very busy during summer camps as they help our campers explore, make new friends, play, relax and enjoy being kids. As a medical volunteer, you will be assigned to a cabin of eight to twelve campers and participate in their medical care, safety and fun.

For many children, camp is the first time they have been away from their families since being diagnosed.

Summer volunteers arrive the day before camper arrival for a full day of orientation and stay through brunch on the last day of camp.

## DO I NEED TO BE A SPECIALIST TO VOLUNTEER AT CAMP?

No. The Flying Horse Farms medical staff will provide all medical volunteers with diagnosis-specific information and education prior to the beginning of camp sessions. All medical volunteers will also attend a full volunteer training prior to camper arrival.

## WHAT HOURS WILL I WORK WHILE AT CAMP?

Medical volunteers are responsible for distributing medications when campers need them (typically outside the dining hall at breakfast, lunch, dinner and in cabins at bed time) as well as being available for any medical needs that arise. This requires volunteers to be flexible and willing to be available for rotating, on-call and overnight coverage. Days typically start around 8am and end around 10pm.

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## WHO CAN BE A MEDICAL VOLUNTEER AND WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

We have a variety of medical volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Family camps last one weekend (Friday-Sunday), while summer camps last 6 days. Our greatest need is for medical volunteers to commit to a full week, however, we understand that is not always feasible. Please contact us with your availability.

Although not an exclusive list, we are generally looking for volunteers in these professions:

- Physicians (Fellows/Attending)
- Nurse Practitioners
- Registered Nurses
- Pharmacists (Arrival days - June 18, June 26, July 9, July 30, August 7)
- Respiratory Therapists (Pulmonary/Craniofacial week - July 30 to August 4)

## WHERE WILL I SLEEP WHILE AT CAMP?

While at camp, medical volunteers typically share a double or triple room (with individual beds) in an apartment on the second floor of the Well-Nest, our medical facility, or in the Big Red Barn. Each apartment has a full bathroom. Medical volunteers are expected to eat meals in the dining hall with campers and counselors, however, medical volunteers will have access to a kitchen for snacks and drinks during off-meal hours. Accommodations are modest, but comfortable, and are heated and air-conditioned. Towels, linens and bedding are provided.

## WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO SUBMIT?

### REQUIRED:

- BCI or FBI background check
- Tetanus and Pertussis Vaccine (TDaP)
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccine (MMR)
- Varicella Vaccine (Chickenpox/Shingles)
- Tuberculosis PPD skin test
- Basic Health History

### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

- Flu Vaccine (Required during Fall Camps)
- Meningococcal Vaccine
- Hepatitis B Vaccine

If receiving live vaccines, please do so at least 4 weeks prior to arriving at camp

## DO I HAVE TO ATTEND ORIENTATION?

Yep! All volunteers, new and returning, attend an orientation. Orientation for returning volunteers, however, is a bit different. Specific arrival times vary and will be identified once you are approved to come to camp.

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## WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

After you are approved to come to camp, we'll send you a confirmation e-mail. The e-mail will have a packing list, driving directions, and other information. Along with your sunscreen, positive attitude, and willingness to have fun, please remember to bring clothes that you won't mind getting a little bit messy.

### WE WANT CAMP TO BE A SAFE EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE. PLEASE FOLLOW OUR DRESS CODE:

- Always wear closed-toe shoes or open-toe shoes with a heel strap (but you can bring your flip flops for the pool and inside the cabins)
- Make sure your shorts are below your fingertips or just above your knees (at least)
- Feel free to wear tank tops, but please leave the tube tops and spaghetti straps at home
- All clothing must cover your stomach/midriff
- Keep necklines of shirts appropriate
- Please only bring one-piece bathing suits. Leave the bikinis and 2-piece suits at home with your tube tops and spaghetti straps
- Clothing and any visible tattoos that reference drugs/alcohol/obscenities/anything offensive are not allowed
- Avoid wearing perfume or cologne as some campers are sensitive or allergic

## WHAT IS THE CAMP SCHEDULE?

### A TYPICAL SCHEDULE MIGHT GO SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

- 7:00 am - Rise and Shine!
- 8:30 am - Breakfast
- 10:15 am - Morning activities
- 12:30 pm - Lunch
- 1:30 pm - Rest time
- 2:30 pm - Afternoon activities
- 5:00 pm - Back to cabins to get ready for dinner
- 5:30 pm - Dinner
- 7:00 pm - Evening program
- 9:00 pm - Younger campers head back to the cabins for lights out
- 10:00 pm - Older campers head back to the cabins for lights out

## CAN I VOLUNTEER FOR MORE THAN ONE CAMP SESSION?

Absolutely! There will be a place on your application to list your availability. If your free time matches our staffing needs, we may place you in more than one session.

## WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION?

Deadlines for applications will be posted on the online application site, but volunteer positions are all filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Space fills up quickly, so we recommend getting your application in ASAP.

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## DO YOU PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO CAMP?

Unfortunately, no. But we'd be more than happy to connect you with other volunteers from your area, and you can arrange carpools, etc. If you are willing to carpool with other volunteers, contact Dani Grosh at [dani@flyinghorsefarms.org](mailto:dani@flyinghorsefarms.org).

## CAN I BRING A CELL PHONE OR COMPUTER?

We try to keep camp low-tech so our campers are focused on exploring and having fun. You can bring your cell phone, but we would love if you try not to use it. Computers and valuable items should be left at home, unless they are a necessity. We have computers at camp, but only for emergencies.

## HOW DO I APPLY

Visit our website at [www.flyinghorsefarms.org/get-involved/provide-medical-care/](http://www.flyinghorsefarms.org/get-involved/provide-medical-care/) to learn more and begin the application process.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS THAT WERE NOT ANSWERED HERE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL US AT 419-751-7077.