



# VOLUNTEER FAQ



## WHO WE ARE

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 medically-safe, cost-free camping experiences.

## WHAT IS FAMILY CAMP AND WHAT DO VOLUNTEERS DO?

In the fall of each year, we hold weekend-long family camps (beginning on Friday evening and going through to early Sunday afternoon). We can host up to 18 families each weekend. Families get to play, relax, create, unplug and reconnect while they are at Flying Horse Farms. Our goal is to provide families of children with serious illnesses the opportunity to experience what camp can do for the child and their family.

As a family camp volunteer, you will be placed as a family sidekick, an activity counselor, on our medical team or on our kitchen crew.

Volunteers arrive Friday morning for volunteer orientation and stay through brunch on Sunday.

\*Shifts may vary for lifeguard, facility, and kitchen volunteers\*

## WHAT IS SUMMER CAMP AND WHAT DO VOLUNTEERS DO?

Summer camps typically last six days. We can host up to 80 campers from ages 8 to 17, 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. For many campers, summer 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 lunch on the last day of camp.

As a summer camp volunteer, you will be placed as a cabin counselor, activity counselor, on our medical team or on our kitchen crew.

\*Shifts may vary for lifeguard, facility and kitchen volunteers\*

## WHAT IS AN ACTIVITY COUNSELOR?

From archery to boating to Angie's Arts and Crafts, the activities at Flying Horse Farms are a large part of the magic. Campers and/or families use activity spaces to explore, create, laugh and get a little bit messy. Activity areas include: archery, arts and crafts, boating and canoeing, fishing, high ropes, nature and discovery, indoor/outdoor sports and activities, woodworking, performing arts and more. Activity counselors are responsible for planning fun projects for our campers, preparing the space and materials and operating any equipment necessary in their area. Activity counselors also have the important job of making sure that all campers can participate in all activities. They are responsible for setting up, leading the activity and cleaning afterward. Activity counselors must be at least 19 years old.





## WHAT IS A CABIN COUNSELOR?

Cabin counselors play a big role in helping campers develop relationships with their cabin-mates at camp. In fact, if you ask our campers what they remember most, chances are they'll mention their counselors. There are up to four cabin counselors in any one cabin who are responsible for building a "family" among their 6-12 campers. They take part in activities, sit with their cabin during meals and provide support and supervision for their cabin of campers. Counselors stay in their assigned cabin (with heat, air conditioning and semi-private restroom facilities). Although the medical team will provide medical care, counselors often help campers with basic daily tasks while they are at camp, including dressing, personal hygiene or helping a camper transfer to/from a wheelchair. It's important that cabin counselors are energetic, positive, patient and ready to help make magic happen. Cabin counselors must be at least 19 years old and volunteer during weeklong summer camp sessions.

## WHAT IS A FAMILY SIDEKICK?

Many families come to Flying Horse Farms with little camp experience and may not know what to expect. Sidekicks help all campers feel welcome and supported while they are at camp. Sidekicks eat meals with their assigned family and help family members explore and experience group as well as individual activities. They are role models, facilitators, song-leaders, counselors and hosts who focus on helping to create a magical, transforming and fun weekend. Parents and guardians are typically responsible for supervising children, but we sometimes offer programming for adults only. During these activities, sidekicks are responsible for the safety and well-being of family members. Sidekicks will stay in the Big Red Barn with other volunteers. Each room is heated/air conditioned with semi-private restroom facilities. Family sidekicks must be at least 19 years old and volunteer during family camp weekends.

## WHAT DO MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS DO AT CAMP?

Campers come to Flying Horse Farms with a range of unique needs. Our medical staff is responsible for helping to meet these needs. During summer camps, volunteer physicians and nurses work with the medical staff to provide basic medical care, treatments and distribute medications to campers, staff and volunteers. During family camp weekends, families will bring any equipment, supplies and medication that their child may need. The medical team acts as a resource for the family and provides general first aid.

## WHAT IS A KITCHEN VOLUNTEER?

Keeping camper bellies happy is a huge undertaking at camp. In order to keep our campers well-nourished and full of energy, we rely on volunteers to work with our food service director. Kitchen volunteers help prepare food, set up the dining hall, clean the dining hall, serve food to campers in our buffet-style line and help wash dishes. These volunteers must be at least 18 years old, but 16-17 year old volunteers may be considered if they volunteer with a parent/guardian.

## DOES FLYING HORSE FARMS NEED LIFEGUARDS?

We do! Flying Horse Farms has a handful of water activities including swimming, boating and fishing. We need lifeguards to help keep campers, families, volunteers and staff safe at these activities. Lifeguards will work lakeside or poolside during any time that water activities are open to campers and families. Lifeguards can choose to volunteer for an entire camp session, for a day or for a shift during a family or summer camp. Lifeguards must be at least 16 years old and must provide proof of current lifeguard certification and current CPR for the Professional Rescuer with AED certification.

## WILL THERE BE AN 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 in your confirmation information.

## WHAT ARE THE DAYS/HOURS I'M EXPECTED TO BE AT CAMP?

Camp days typically begin at 8:00 am (sometimes there are early morning activities beginning at 7:00 am) and end at 10:00 pm. Time is provided for counselors to take breaks during rest times.



## WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY OF CAMP LIKE?

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

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

## WHO CAN VOLUNTEER?

Camp volunteers range in age from 19 to 119. We've had students, professionals and retirees all volunteer their time at camp. Anyone can apply. Volunteers 18 and older are eligible to serve as camp lifeguards, kitchen volunteers and in facilities roles.

## WHERE WILL I SLEEP AT CAMP?

For family camp weekends in the spring and fall, volunteers will stay in the Big Red Barn at camp. For summer camps, cabin counselors will stay in their assigned cabin with campers and other counselors. Volunteers other than cabin counselors will stay in the Big Red Barn, except medical volunteers who may stay in the WellNest. All of our accommodations are heated/air conditioned with electricity and semi-private restrooms and showers. Towels, linens and bedding are provided.

## WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO CAMP?

After you are approved to come to camp, we'll send you a confirmation email. The email 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)
- 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 bring only one-piece bathing suits
- 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

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

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.

## WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO SUBMIT?

### REQUIRED:

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

### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

Flu Vaccine  
Meningococcal Vaccine  
Hepatitis B Vaccine

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



## CAN I LEAVE CAMP DURING THE TIME I AM VOLUNTEERING?

We ask all of our program volunteers (counselors and activity leaders) to stay at camp the entire session. Sometimes this can change for people who are working day shifts, but all exceptions need to be pre-approved, except for scheduled four hour breaks.

## 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, please let us know at [volunteer@flyinghorsefarms.org](mailto:volunteer@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. We have computers at camp, but only for emergencies.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

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

## I CAN'T COME FOR A WEEK OR WEEKEND, CAN I STILL VOLUNTEER?

Please! Camp relies on a variety of different volunteers to keep camp running, and not just during the camp season.

## GIVING

### Online Fundraising

Whether you're running a 5k or simply asking for donations in support of a special occasion, you can set up a personal fundraising page on our Team Flying Horse site to solicit support. Setting up a Team Flying Horse fundraising page is easy. Contact us at 419.751.7077 or [events@flyinghorsefarms.org](mailto:events@flyinghorsefarms.org).

### Corporate Philanthropy

#### Partnerships

Partnership support from corporations and businesses are incredibly important to camp. We can collaborate to find the best fit for your company while providing a unique return on your investment, brand alignment and visibility community-wide. Contact us at 419.751.7077 or [giving@flyinghorsefarms.org](mailto:giving@flyinghorsefarms.org)

#### Workplace Giving

An easy and efficient way to make tax-deductible donations to Flying Horse Farms through payroll deduction. Contact us at 419.751.7077 or [giving@flyinghorsefarms.org](mailto:giving@flyinghorsefarms.org)

#### Matching Gifts

Double your impact by inquiring with your employer about matching gift options. Contact us at 419.751.7077 or [giving@flyinghorsefarms.org](mailto:giving@flyinghorsefarms.org)

### Supply Drives and Gifts in Kind

Did you know that campers use 78 gallons of paint and almost 8 pounds of glitter per season? You can help us make messes (and clean them up) by hosting a supply drive. We'll tell you exactly what we need so you can communicate with your team. Contact us at 419.751.7077 or [wishlist@flyinghorsefarms.org](mailto:wishlist@flyinghorsefarms.org)

### Fundraising Events

Host an event for Flying Horse Farms or make us the beneficiary of your existing event. If you would like to host an event, visit <http://flyinghorsefarms.org/give/giving-guide/third-party> and click APPLICATION.

### Sign Up!

Have you signed up for an Amazon Smile account? Do you have a Kroger Plus Card? One of the easiest ways to support Flying Horse Farms is to designate us as your charity on Amazon Smile and your Kroger Plus Card.

#### AmazonSmile

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-3498125>

#### Kroger Plus Card

<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>

## VOLUNTEER

### Camp Creator Days

Each year it takes hundreds of volunteers from corporations and organizations around Ohio to keep camp humming. Opportunities are available for groups to make beds, clean buildings and prepare for our next set of campers. Spaces fill up fast!

Contact us at 419.751.7077 or [volunteer@flyinghorsefarms.org](mailto:volunteer@flyinghorsefarms.org)

### Event Volunteers

Help spread the word about camp by volunteering to staff an event. These volunteers help coordinate event-day details and assure everything runs smoothly. Contact us at 419.751.7077 or [events@flyinghorsefarms.org](mailto:events@flyinghorsefarms.org)

## ADVOCACY

### Campers First

Campers are the heart of Flying Horse Farms. The children who benefit from camp have medical conditions including cancer, heart conditions, rheumatoid arthritis, blood disorders, asthma, gastrointestinal disorders and craniofacial anomalies. If you know a child living with a serious illness, share Flying Horse Farms with them! Additional information and camper applications can be found online at [www.flyinghorsefarms.org/camp](http://www.flyinghorsefarms.org/camp) or contact us at 419.751.7077 or [campers@flyinghorsefarms.org](mailto:campers@flyinghorsefarms.org)

### Friendraisers

You bring the friends, we'll share the message. Host an event to introduce your friends to the life-changing work happening at Flying Horse Farms. During a Friendraiser, we'll share our mission and introduce ways to get involved. Contact at 419.751.7077 or [events@flyinghorsefarms.org](mailto:events@flyinghorsefarms.org)

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