Helping Kids with Physical Disabilities Succeed

EASTER SEALS ONTARIO - RECREATION DEPARTMENT
JOB DESCRIPTION

Adventure/Enviro Counsellor

Number of Positions: 2
Reports to: Program Coordinator
Locations: Camp Merrywood (Perth, ON); Camp Woodeden (London, ON)
Employment Dates and Compensation:
June 4, 2027 – August 30, 2027. $110.00/day + meals and accommodation

At Easter Seals Ontario, we provide overnight camping opportunities for kids and young adults with physical disabilities. Each summer we welcome staff from all over the world and pride ourselves on providing an outstanding pre-camp training, so our staff are equipped with all the skills they need to give our campers a great experience. Our camps make many traditional summer camp activities accessible and inclusive, such as swimming, boating, archery, high ropes, and more! Check out our website to learn more about our locations in Perth, Ontario and London, Ontario.

Reporting to the Program Coordinator, the Adventure/Enviro Counsellor is responsible for providing and supervising an adventure program that meets the needs and abilities of the campers. The Adventure program includes archery, camp out, and other outdoor activities such as nature crafting, environmental identification, safe outdoor practices, and conservationism. The Adventure/Enviro Counsellor will complete all reporting associated with their programs.

Summary of Essential Job Functions

- Design and facilitate accessible nature-based activities such as scavenger hunts, nature crafts, and eco-education sessions focused on sustainability and appreciation outdoors programs that align with Easter Seals Ontario's mission and camp goals, fostering exploration, teamwork, and respect for nature.
- Incorporate environmental awareness (e.g., recycling, conservation, wildlife respect) into daily programming.
- Implement Easter Seals Ontario risk management plan for all adventure and environmental programs, including archery, nature hikes, and outdoor skill-building, ensuring adherence to safety and accessibility standards.
- Maintain accurate inventory and upkeep of all adventure and environmental equipment (e.g., archery, compass kits, outdoor tools, nature materials), ensuring everything is organized, safe, and accounted for at the start and end of each session.
- Provide staff orientation and training on outdoor safety, archery procedures, environmental education activities, and adaptive strategies for campers of varying abilities.
- Ensure all adventure and environmental equipment is safely maintained, properly stored, and routinely inspected for wear or hazards, reporting issues promptly to the Site Manager.
- Collaborate with counsellors to help campers safely and successfully participate in outdoor and adventure activities, providing adaptive support as needed.

- Support safe lifting and transferring of campers when necessary to enable participation in adventure or environmental programs. Training for these activities is provided during pre-camp orientation.
- Serve as a positive role model by encouraging curiosity, resilience, and teamwork through every outdoor experience.
- Participate as a member of the program staff team to deliver and supervise evening programs, special events and other all-camp activities.
- Adhere to and support all camp policies, procedures and guidelines as detailed in the Staff Resource Manual.
- Participate in camper care including bathing, showering, brushing teeth, hair care, dressing, toileting (changing incontinence pads), feeding, lifting and transferring, and any other activities of daily living. *Personal care training will be provided during orientation
- Perform any other duties as assigned by the Program Coordinator.

Physical Aspects of the Job

- Ability to communicate and work with groups and provide necessary instruction to campers and staff.
- Ability to observe camper and staff behaviour and apply appropriate behaviour support techniques, ensure safety regulations are followed, and execute emergency procedures.
- Physical ability to respond appropriately to situations requiring first aid. Must be able to assist campers in an emergency (fire, evacuation, illness, or injury) and possess strength and endurance required to maintain constant supervision of campers.
- Visual and auditory ability to identify and respond to environmental and other hazards related to the activity.
- Able to manage lifting, bending, stooping and stretching as well as daily exposure to the sun and heat and varying environmental conditions.
- Must be able to safely lift and transfer campers or equipment, often exceeding 25 kg, using proper techniques and with team support as needed.

Minimum Requirements:

- Minimum age: 18 years
- Enjoys fishing, archery, and other outdoor activities. Preference given to those with outdoor education experience.
- Archery training will be provided.
- Ontario Outdoors Card and Fishing Licence an asset.
- Previous experience working in a camp or outdoor recreation setting preferred.
- Strong communication and teamwork skills, safety conscious.
- Standard First Aid/CPR-C is an asset.
- Must provide clear background check completed within 1 year of the start date of the contract

Other Considerations

- Easter Seals Ontario camps are fully accessible and provide camping experiences to kids and young adults with disabilities.
- It is recommended that all staff be fully vaccinated against communicable illnesses including Covid19 and Measles. Easter Seals Ontario staff will follow the health and safety recommendations provided by Provincial and Regional Health Units.
- Model active participation in camp life by engaging in camp activities,
- Onsite housing provided for camping season; meals provided during camp sessions.

- June – August up to eight-day work period, 24 hours/day on call with scheduled breaks throughout the session and a minimum of 3 days off between sessions.

Easter Seals Ontario welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. Easter Seals Ontario fosters an environment of inclusivity, empowerment, and safety for participants and staff alike. Easter Seals Ontario is committed to the principle of equal employment opportunity for all employees and to providing employees with a work environment free of discrimination and harassment. All employment decisions are based on job requirements and individual qualifications, without regard to race, colour, religion or belief, national, social or ethnic origin, sex, age, physical, mental or sensory ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital, civil union or domestic partnership status, past or present military service, family medical history or genetic information, family or parental status, or any other status protected by the laws of Ontario.