Helping Kids with Physical Disabilities Succeed

# EASTER SEALS ONTARIO - RECREATION DEPARTMENT
# JOB DESCRIPTION

## Arts and Crafts 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 + 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 directly to the Program Coordinator, the Arts and Crafts Counsellor is responsible for providing and supervising an arts and crafts program that meets the needs and abilities of the campers. The Arts and Crafts program includes tie-dye, pottery, nature crafts, handy crafts, painting, and other activities suitable to the enjoyment of the camper population. The Arts and Crafts Counsellor will complete all reporting associated with their programs.

**Summary of Essential Job Functions**

- Design and deliver creative, accessible art activities that align with Easter Seals Ontario's goals and support meaningful participation for campers of all abilities.
- Create a welcoming, calming program environment where campers feel safe expressing themselves through art.
- Encourage camper choice and independence, offering project options and supporting individual pacing.
- Introduce campers to a variety of art mediums (painting, collage, clay, textiles, mixed media) to foster creativity and exploration.
- Adapt art materials and processes (e.g., modified grips, pre-cut materials, textured tools) to ensure all campers can fully participate regardless of mobility, strength, or fine-motor abilities.
- Organize the program space to support mobility aids, ensuring pathways, tables, and materials are accessible and safely arranged.
- Showcase camper artwork during the session (mini displays, bulletin boards, cabin showcases) to promote pride and accomplishment.
- Develop and uphold a program-specific risk management plan, ensuring the Arts & Crafts space remains safe, accessible, and well-organized throughout all sessions.

- Complete accurate opening and closing inventories, maintaining clear records of supplies and identifying restocking or replacement needs.
- Provide a program orientation for all staff, introducing safety practices, adaptive strategies, and expectations for supporting camper engagement in art-based activities.
- Maintain a clean, organized, and fully stocked arts space, ensuring materials and tools are accessible, safe, and ready for daily programming; promptly report any repairs or concerns to the Site Manager.
- Collaborate with counsellors to adapt art activities, modifying tools, materials, or processes to ensure every camper regardless of mobility, sensory, or fine-motor needs can participate meaningfully and comfortably.
- Support campers with safe lifts and transfers when needed to help them access program spaces and equipment, using proper techniques learned during pre-camp training.
- 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 clearly and effectively with campers, staff, and supervisors, and provide direction or instruction as needed in a music and drama program.
- Ability to observe camper and staff behaviour, identify potential safety risks, and apply appropriate behaviour support, intervention, and safety techniques.
- Physical ability to respond quickly and appropriately to emergencies requiring first aid, rescue, or evacuation; must possess the strength and stamina to maintain supervision of campers and assist in emergency situations.
- Able to manage physical activity such as standing, bending, reaching, and lifting throughout the day.

**Minimum Requirements**

Minimum age: 18 years.

- Preference given to those with art education or experience.
- Previous camp experience an asset.
- Strong leadership, communication, and collaboration.
- Organized and enthusiastic.
- 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 activities where possible, while balancing leadership responsibilities and program oversight.

- 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.