EASTER SEALS ONTARIO - RECREATION DEPARTMENT
JOB DESCRIPTION

Camp Life & Special Events Counsellor

Number of Positions: 2
Reports To: Program Coordinator
Location: Camp Woodeden (London, ON); Camp Merrywood (Perth, ON)
Employment Dates and Compensation:
June 4, 2027 – August 30, 2027. $110/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 awesome 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 Camp Life & Special Events Counsellor plays a key role in fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and positive camp culture. They will take the lead in planning and implementing camp-wide spirit activities, special events, and staff appreciation initiatives that build community, morale, and connection. The Camp Life & Special Events Counsellor will be responsible for planning and delivering one theme day per session and one staff appreciation event per session. They will support the planning and delivery of special events at camp including talent show, banquet, and evening programs and will work with the programming and counselling team to identify opportunities for personal programming initiatives for campers. They will contribute to care in cabins and support other program areas as needed.

Essential Job Functions:

- Plan and lead camp-wide spirit activities and initiatives that promote an inclusive, welcoming, and engaging camp culture for campers and staff.
- Plan and deliver one theme day per session, coordinating activities, materials, decorations, communication, and involvement from other camp departments.
- Announce theme days in advance, allowing campers and staff time to prepare participatory materials.
- Plan and facilitate one staff appreciation event per session that recognizes staff contributions and supports positive morale and connection within the camp community.
- Support the planning and delivery of camp-wide special events, including talent shows, banquets, evening programs, celebrations, and other special programming throughout the summer.

- Collaborate with the Programming and Counselling teams to identify and facilitate personalized programming opportunities that reflect individual campers' interests, goals, abilities, and desired camp experiences.
- Maintain accurate inventories, program notes, and supply lists for both camp life and special events equipment and supplies.
- Submit order requests for necessary supplies at least two weeks in advance, using appropriate ordering processes and staying within the supply budget.
- Participate actively in evening programs, special events, and camp-wide traditions as a positive and enthusiastic role model.
- Adhere to and promote all camp policies, procedures, and values as outlined in the Camp Resource Manual.
- Contribute to the overall care and support of campers, including assisting within cabins and other program areas as needed, while promoting camper choice, participation, independence, inclusion, and belonging.
- 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 additional duties as assigned by the Recreation Supervisor.

Physical Aspects of the Position

- 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-management techniques, enforce appropriate safety regulations and 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, some bending, stooping, and stretching as well as daily exposure to the sun and heat and varying environmental conditions.

Minimum Requirements

Minimum age: 18 years old

- Previous camp experience preferred.
- Preference given to applicants with education or experience in adaptive recreation, event planning, child and youth studies, or a related field.
- Excellent leadership, interpersonal, and group management skills.
- Current Standard First Aid/CPR-C desirable.
- 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.