EASTER SEALS ONTARIO - RECREATION DEPARTMENT
JOB DESCRIPTION

Sports & Games Counsellor

Number of positions: 3
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 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 Sports & Games Counsellor is responsible for designing and facilitating a high quality, accessible sports & games program covering a wide range of sports and activities. The Sports & Games Counsellor will engage campers to expand their knowledge of sports and improve physical literacy.

Summary of Essential Job Functions

- Design and deliver inclusive sports and recreation programming that aligns with Easter Seals Ontario's mission and camp goals, focusing on teamwork, skill development, and accessible physical activity for all campers.
- Introduce accessible and alternative activities like boccia, seated volleyball, or wheelchair basketball to expand recreational opportunities.
- Incorporate skill-building and teamwork into each activity to help campers develop confidence, coordination, and endurance.
- Develop and implement a risk management plan tailored to sports and games activities, including safety checks for equipment, surfaces, and adaptive gear, while ensuring all activities meet OCA and camp safety standards.
- Maintain an organized inventory of all sports and recreation equipment (balls, nets, adaptive gear, etc.) at the start and end of the season, ensuring items are in good repair and safely stored.
- Introduce and train staff on the purpose and structure of the sports and games program, including safety expectations, rules of play, and inclusive adaptation strategies for various ability levels.
- Work with the Adventure Counsellor to facilitate archery programming.

- Work collaboratively with counsellors to engage campers in physical activities, providing adaptations, encouragement, and hands-on support to promote inclusion and success for every camper.
- Support campers with lifting and transferring when necessary to ensure safe and comfortable participation in sports and recreation programs. Training is provided during pre-camp orientation.
- 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

- Preference given to those with sports instruction and adaptive program education or experience.
- 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.