

CAMP OASIS VOLUNTEER FAQs



We ask that all volunteers meet the following qualifications:

- Be at least 19 years old (younger for sites with Junior Counselors)
- Demonstrate empathy for the physical and psychosocial aspects of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
- Interview with the designated camp personnel
- Submit all the required paperwork by the specified deadlines
- Pass Criminal Background, Sex Offender, and Reference Checks
- Attend entire staff orientation. Dates vary by site, and it is typically held one day before camp. (Not required for medical volunteers)
- Meet the specific qualifications, duties, and requirements of their assigned role
- Stay the entire duration of camp (not mandatory for medical volunteers)
- Abide by all the rules and policies of the Foundation and the host site
- Embody the mission and guiding principles of Camp Oasis
- Model standards for behavior that promote respect for health and welfare of the entire camp community
- Be physically able to stand for extended periods of time, walk long distances, carry equipment/supplies, etc., often times in inclement weather

How long must I be on-site at camp?

That depends on both your role and camp location. Cabin counselor and activity specialist arrive a day or two before the campers for training. This means you will be at camp 7-8 days. These volunteers must stay on-site the entirety of camp and typically leave after all campers have gone home and cabins are cleaned up.

Medical volunteers may volunteer for a shorter period, but we ask for at least 48 hours at camp. Those who can only help for a short time may consider contacting us to volunteer during the check-in process. Please email:

efligor@crohnscolitisfoundation.org.

What training is provided for volunteers?

A volunteer manual outlining policies, processes, and best practices is provided to every volunteer. In addition, we host a virtual volunteer meeting a few weeks before camp for each camp location. This will give your leadership team the opportunity to review key details and for the team to get to know each other. An orientation session is held prior to camper arrival for all cabin counselors. This session will dive deeper into your role and provide your first glimpse of your camper profiles and any special needs they may have. Medical volunteers receive additional instructions around policy and process both prior to camp and upon arrival.

What are the sleeping accommodations like?

Cabin counselors and program staff sleep in assigned cabins with up to 10 campers. Not all cabins are climate-controlled so please ask your Camp Director so you can be prepared. Bath facilities are typically within the cabin or nearby. Volunteers should bring all bedding and personal care items to camp. Medical staff typically sleep in group cabins or smaller rooms in dorm-style accommodations.

I am a medical professional who practices in a different state than my regional camp location. Do you assist with medical licenses?

Each state has different requirements and length of time for the licensing process. The Foundation will reimburse medical professionals who are confirmed to be a volunteer at Camp Oasis. To discuss your situation, please email:

efligor@crohnscolitisfoundation.org.

What is a typical day at camp like?

First, there is no typical day at camp! However, most camps have an early breakfast (around 8 am), then, after some cabin clean up, counselors move through the day with meals, medication distribution, and activity sessions with their campers. The evening usually offers an all-camp activity like a dance or team competition. Bedtimes vary by camp and age but usually start around 9-9:30 pm. Showers and cabin chats are fit in the schedule as well.

Medical volunteers keep the health center staffed throughout the day, tending to various needs, and preparing for the next medication distribution. They often attend camper activities and help keep everyone hydrated.

I don't have records for all my immunizations.

Once hired, volunteers are asked to provide immunization and other health information to Camp Oasis. Volunteers can complete an immunization exemption form to document any/all immunizations they may be missing for our required list. The only exception is the Georgia camp where the host site only offers a narrow medical exemption. Please email camp@crohnscolitisfoundation.org for more information.

Can I bring my cell phone to camp?

For cabin counselors, this varies by site. Some Camp Directors prefer the use of walkie-talkies and only allow use of cell phones during break times. Medical volunteers are allowed to have cell phones. Please note that cell service is very limited at many of our sites as well as the Wi-Fi.

Can I bring a camera to camp?

Yes, but we ask that you do not post any camper photos on your personal social media. Some parents have not consented for their child's likeness being used and we need to respect these boundaries.

I see in some pictures that volunteers and campers wear costumes or fun accessories. Will I know what to bring for my camp?

Some camps have weekly or daily themes. This is a great way for volunteers to ramp up the fun for the campers. Your Camp Director or Foundation staff representative will let you know about any themes at your camp.

Can I bring my children to camp?

Unfortunately, the Foundation's insurance would not cover any non-registered visitors. In addition, we ask our volunteers to give 100% of their attention to our campers for the week. For these reasons, volunteer cannot bring their children to camp.

Can I volunteer at camp while my child is attending as a camper?

One of the most important outcomes that campers experience at Camp Oasis is an increased sense of independence. To foster that outcome, the Foundation does not allow parents of campers to serve as camp counselors at the same location their children are attending.

Do you allow international campers/volunteers?

We accept international applications at all camp locations; however, precedence will be given to those who live in the camp's territory. After you have applied, please contact the National Camp Office (camp@crohnscolitisfoundation.org) to inform them of your circumstance. Like all volunteers, if accepted, you will be responsible for getting yourself to and from camp, but your accommodations during the camp session will be covered.