



Camp Smiles Frequently Asked Questions



1. What is Camp Smiles?

Camp Smiles is a week-long overnight camp for children ages 6-15 with cerebral palsy or similar neurological disorders. Volunteers work one on one with a camper and act as their buddy and personal care giver for the week. Each day campers participate in awesome outdoor camp activities such as rock climbing, fishing, paint ball, karaoke, swimming, and many more activities that have all been adapted to fit the needs of each camper. We host about 40-45 campers during the week at Camp For All, an adapted camping facility in Burton, TX. Camp Smiles is only offered for one session during the summer; the 2022 dates are July 2nd-8th for volunteers. All volunteers must be 16+ years of age and vaccinated against COVID-19 to volunteer at Camp Smiles.



2. How do I apply to volunteer for Camp Smiles?

- Fill out an online application through the ACTIVE website. Applications can be found on the Camps & Recreation page of the Easter Seals website or by contacting Kenzie Richard at MRichard@eastersealshouston.org.
- *If you are over the age of 18*, you must complete a background check.
- A virtual interview will be required for all new volunteers.
- All volunteers will receive an e-mail confirming their acceptance, denial, or waitlisted spot as a volunteer for Camp Smiles.

3. Is there an orientation for volunteers?



Yes! The first part of orientation is a training/Meet & Greet session, taking place about two weeks before camp starts on a Saturday in Houston. This session is mandatory for new volunteers, and strongly encouraged for returning counselors. This orientation will help prepare you for Camp Smiles and your responsibilities during the week; the Meet & Greet portion is an opportunity to meet your “buddy” and their family! On July 2nd, we will meet again at Camp For All and have a day of training before the campers arrive on Sunday.

If you would like more opportunities to volunteer or work with individuals with disabilities prior to camp, please consider volunteering with one of our other programs!

4. Do volunteers get paired one to one with a camper? What is a buddy?

Yes, most volunteers will get paired one to one with a camper. Each volunteer will have the opportunity to review their camper's application and will gain an understanding of their needs before camp starts. Volunteers should be prepared to assist their camper with feeding, bathing, toileting, and other needs. "Buddies" are the pair between 1 camper and 1 counselor. There will be up to 7 campers and 8 counselors (including one head counselor) in each cabin, and there should always be enough hands to help out!



5. Can I receive service hours for volunteering with Camp Smiles?

Yes! Camp Smiles is 135 hours of service for the week. Easter Seals will provide service hour verification forms at the end of camp. Volunteers are welcome to bring/send other forms to be signed by the camp director.



For more information or questions regarding Camp Smiles or the application process, please contact Kenzie Richard at 713.208.0543 or MRichard@eastersealshouston.org Fax: 281-768-6556

www.eastersealshouston.org