



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 2024 dates are Sunday, June 30 - Friday, July 5. All Camp Smiles volunteers must be 16+ years of age and submit proof of a negative COVID-19 test.



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 Ross McCann at RMcCann@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! There will be a virtual orientation taking place about two weeks before camp. This session is mandatory for new volunteers, and strongly encouraged for returning counselors.

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 visit www.eastersealshouston.org or contact Ross McCann at RMcCann@eastersealshouston.org or 713-838-9050 ext. 309