

With our team of dedicated staff and volunteers, parents can rest assured that their child will be well cared for at camp. To learn more about becoming a camp volunteer, please review these helpful FAQs. We hope you will consider joining our camp team this summer.

About Camp Braveheart

Organized by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Camp Braveheart was founded in 1995 by Kathy and Roger Flynn in honor of their daughter Ansley. The camp continues today in her memory. A week-long, overnight camp for children and teens, ages 7 to 17, with congenital or acquired heart defects and heart transplant recipients, Camp Braveheart serves approximately 130 campers each summer. Made possible through the generous support of foundations, corporations and individuals, Camp Braveheart is offered at no cost to the camper family.

About Camp Independence

Camp Independence is a week-long summer camp for children and adolescents, age 8 to 18, who have been diagnosed with kidney disease, are on dialysis, or have received a life-saving organ transplant. Founded in 1977 by the National Kidney Foundation, Camp Independence has been organized by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta since 2012. Each summer, about 100 campers are able to experience camp, build friendships and make memories to last a lifetime. Made possible through the generous support of foundations, corporations and individuals, Camp Independence is offered at no cost to the camper family.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the camp dates?

A: [Camp Braveheart](#) will be held Sunday, May 26 to Friday, May 31.

[Camp Independence](#) will be held Sunday, July 21 to Friday, July 26.

Volunteers are expected to arrive to camp the Saturday evening before camp begins for a mandatory on-site meeting to prepare for camper arrival on Sunday. Volunteers will be dismissed Friday after closing ceremonies.

Q: Where will camp take place?

A: Camp will take place at [Camp Twin Lakes](#) in Rutledge, GA. Camp Twin Lakes provides fully-accessible and intentionally designed camp programs that teach campers to overcome obstacles while creating shared experiences with other children who face similar challenges. After spending every other day of the year adapting to the world around them, for one week, camp adapts to them. Camp Twin Lakes' expertise in therapeutic, adaptable programming, state-of-the-art camp sites, healthy and kid-friendly food services customized to each camper's dietary needs, and highly trained staff bring tremendous value to a long standing partnership with Children's camp programs.

Q: What is required of camp volunteers to participate?

- A:
- ✓ Complete online application
 - ✓ Participate in a video interview
 - ✓ Submit proof of required immunizations
 - ✓ Attend a Volunteer Orientation session
 - ✓ Complete a criminal background screening

Q: Why are immunization records and a criminal background check required?

A: For the protection and safety of everyone at camp, Children's camp volunteers must follow the volunteer standards and requirements established by the American Camp Association.

All volunteers are required to complete an electronic background screening each summer. Following the volunteer orientation session, you will receive an email with instructions on how to complete this quick, secure screening through our provider, S2Verify. Our camp covers the cost of this service.

All volunteers are required to have current immunizations or proof of immunity to the following.

- ✓ MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- ✓ Varicella (Chickenpox)
- ✓ TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, & Acellular Pertussis)
- ✓ TB (Tuberculosis) testing for new volunteers - Proof of negative TB test taken within one year of camp start date

Information on how to meet these requirements will be provided to volunteers who are lacking records or need further testing.

Q: What are the Volunteer Orientation requirements?

A: The orientation sessions will be presented in 3 parts. All 3 are mandatory for your acceptance as a camp volunteer.

- Pre-reading materials and quiz (at your own pace)
- Participate in a group training prior to the start of camp
- At-camp orientation on Saturday evening

Q: What are the different volunteer roles at camp?

A: All volunteers are responsible for creating a safe environment and enjoyable experience for campers by adhering to camp policies and promoting the Camp's mission and goals. Below is an overview of the various volunteer roles at camp. In an effort to provide campers with the best care, Cabin Counselors must be able to attend the full week of camp. While it is preferred that Activity staff and Medical staff volunteer for the full week, these positions may apply for part of the week. Acceptance of part time volunteers will be determined by Camp Director based on staffing needs.

Cabin Counselor – Cabin Counselors lead, supervise and care for an assigned group of campers throughout the week. Campers are assigned to a cabin group, separated by age and gender. There are typically 2 to 3 counselors and 8 to 10 campers per cabin. Counselors sleep in a cabin with their campers. During camper activities, counselors play an active role to support, encourage, and manage group dynamics. Counselors monitor camper health and safety, identify and respond to camper needs, and communicate with camp leadership and medical staff as needed. To help facilitate friendships, inclusion and a sense of belonging within the group, Counselors should expect to interact with and get to know each individual camper in their cabin.

Logistics/Activity Staff – Logistics staff assist with various activities and tasks throughout the day. Logistics team members may be assigned to help at a camper activity or do a behind-the-scenes task such as delivering mail, serving camper snack, or restocking the volunteer lounge. Logistics staff also help with all set-up and clean-up for camp-wide evening programs. These volunteers sleep in adult cabins. This is typically a very small team of returning volunteers.

Leader-in-Training (LIT) – LITs are previous campers between the ages of 18 and 20 who wish to become camp volunteers. The LIT program is designed to grow and develop leadership and life skills that can be applied in many different settings. During camp, LITs will assist cabin counselors with daily activities, provide support for junior campers, and participate in LIT sessions. LITs are

transitioning out of the camper role with increased responsibilities under the supervision of counselors and camp staff. LITs are expected to attend the full week of camp. LITs will sleep in LIT cabins or adult cabins; LITs do not sleep in camper cabins.

Medical staff – Medical staff provide around-the-clock, on-site medical care for the entire week of camp. The team may include physicians, pharmacists, nurses, nurse practitioners, nutritionists, respiratory therapists, child life specialists and social workers. There is at least 1 nurse for every 1 to 2 cabins. The medical staff is responsible for ensuring the health, safety and well-being of campers. Medical staff attends to all illnesses and injuries that may arise at camp. Nurses are responsible for administering medications and treatments to the campers. Nurses or pharmacists will oversee all medications – campers will not access or administer their own medications during the week of camp. Medical staff will primarily sleep in adult cabins or med lodge housing, depending on their assigned role and staffing needs. Medical staff serving in a dual role as cabin counselor will sleep in a camper cabin.

Nursing Student (if applicable) – At camp, students have the opportunity to participate in camp activities and observe pediatric patients outside of the hospital setting. Typically, nursing students rotate their time between helping in the Medical Lodge and serving as a Day Helper. As a Day Helper, students will be assigned to a cabin to help supervise and care for campers in their daily activities. In the Med Lodge, students will help triage campers, document injuries and treatments, take daily vitals for transplant recipients, and observe medical treatments. Nursing students will sleep in adult cabins or camper cabins, depending on staffing needs.

Q: What does a typical day at camp consist of?

A: Campers participate in a variety of activities such as horseback riding, swimming, boating, fishing, biking, a climbing wall, arts & crafts, archery, ceramics, cooking, music and many others during the day. To meet the unique needs of adolescents, teen specific programming is offered at camp to promote socialization and peer support. In the evening, campers participate in camp-wide activities such as a talent show, dance, pool party, and a game or movie night. Campers are very active during the day so we allow a rest period after lunch for napping or a quiet activity, such as reading, journaling or drawing/coloring. Speaking of lunch! There are 3 meals and 2 snacks served daily. Plus, a camper pantry and volunteer snack room available anytime.

Q: What is the process and next steps for volunteering at camp?

A: ✓ After submitting a complete volunteer application, you will receive emails with the following:

- o Instructions for signing up for a video interview. You will have 10 days to complete the interview after accepting the invitation
- o Information on immunization requirements and how to obtain records or testing

✓ Following Camp Director review of your video interview, you will receive communication via email about your acceptance and/or next steps

✓ Acceptance will be pending attendance at a Volunteer Orientation session, submission of complete immunization requirements, and completion of a background screening

✓ Instructions for completing the online background screening will be sent after you complete the Webex orientation session

✓ Approximately 2 weeks before camp, you will receive an official confirmation packet by email with your volunteer assignment and any final details for the camp week

✓ If at any point during this process, we are missing required information, documentation or you have missed a step – our camp staff will reach out to you directly

✓ Incomplete applications or failure to complete any of these requirements by the application deadline will result in the withdrawal of your application. Extenuating circumstances or additional time needed to obtain records should be previously discussed and agreed upon by the Camp Director

Q: What else should I know about being at camp?

A: Be prepared to spend time outdoors, trying new things and having fun with your campers! Here are a few other things to know to help you be comfortable for the week:

- Cabins/housing: all cabins and buildings at camp are air conditioned. Housing is separated by male and female occupants. Beds are twin sized.
- Meals: All meals and snacks are provided at camp. You do not need to bring any food or money for food. The kitchen can easily accommodate any food allergy or special diet if these needs are indicated and explained in your application. If you have further questions about food at camp, please contact us.
- Clothing/ what to pack: you will get a full packing list with your confirmation packet. In general, plan on wearing casual t-shirts and shorts, and comfortable shoes. You will need to bring your own sheets (twin size), blankets, pillow, and towels. Scrubs are not required for medical staff at camp.
- Phone/ Wi-Fi: You can bring your phone, but please only use it during your break time, away from campers. Campers are not allowed to bring phones. There is Wi-Fi available in some of the common areas at camp, but not in the cabins. You may bring a laptop if you need it for school/work, for use during breaks. Volunteers are responsible for their own valuables.

We'll cover even more details and you'll be able to ask questions during Volunteer Orientation. If you have any specific questions about your needs at camp, please contact us.

Q: What does your commitment to volunteering at camp mean?

A: By submitting a volunteer application, you are committing to attend camp. It is extremely difficult to fill volunteer roles at the last minute. For this reason, if your plans change and you will not be attending or you will be attending on different dates than originally indicated in your application, please let the Camp Director know as soon as possible. Our campers are counting on you to ensure that they have a safe and fun camp experience.

Questions?

Contact Camp Braveheart

Email | campbraveheart@choa.org
Phone | 404-785-6735 or 404-785-4247

Contact Camp Independence

Email | campindependence@choa.org
Phone | 404-785-4247