Merriwood CHRISTIAN CAMP

FINDING & PURSUING LIFE IN JESUS

2027 MERRIWOOD SERVE WEEK INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in applying for an MCC Serve Week. Below are some details about how you can be involved in the volunteer ministry of MCC. All applications must be completed online through our registration portal. You can find a link to the application on our website, www.campmerriwood.net, under "Join or Team" or by clicking on this link: 2027 Serve Week Application. There is a $25 non-refundable processing fee per camper.

Q: WHY SERVE AT MERRIWOOD?

A: Serve Team is an opportunity to connect with MCC's program and mission and be challenged to grow in your faith. You'll learn how to be a relational team player and learn how service can be an act of worship (whether being a Counselor in Training with day campers, serving at the canteen, or setting up or cleaning up the dining hall). You'll have a blast! And you will get to learn about the potential of spending a full summer in paid ministry at Merriwood in the future!

Q: WHAT IS THE "SERVE WEEK" CRITERIA?

*A: **First**, we accept volunteers that are rising 9th graders or older. **Second**, an individual must be registered for a week of camp at MCC (not be a volunteer **instead** of attending a week of camp). For this reason, we will not be able to confirm your volunteer week until you are officially registered to attend a summer camp week with us. Signing up and then cancelling your camp session may also result in us having to cancel your serve team week. (Exceptions might be made to allow Day Camp helpers, depending on volunteer need.) **Third**, consideration may be given according to age and experience, past performance in the volunteer role at Merriwood Christian Camp, and reference checks.*

Q: WHAT AGE GROUP AM I ELIGIBLE TO WORK WITH?

A: If you are a rising 9th grader, you may only serve during day camps. If you are rising 10th grade or older, you are eligible to volunteer during day camp, junior, and/or middle school weeks. Rising 11th and older are eligible to serve Early Teen Week.

Q: WHAT DOES SERVE WEEK ENTAIL FOR DAY CAMP WEEKS?

*A: Our greatest need for Day Camp Volunteers is in the role of Counselor Helpers (i.e., helping a college-aged counselor with their group of guys or girls). Our goal is to have 16 guys and 16 girls serving as Counselors in Training. Other roles are Paddle boat Assistants and Craft Helpers. **There is a Day Camp Serve Team meeting tentatively scheduled for Sat., May 29, 2027, 9:30 am-1:00 pm (including lunch). More details to come with confirmations. Please make every effort to attend.***

Q: WHAT DO "SERVE WEEK" RESPONSIBILITIES ENTAIL FOR AN OVERNIGHT WEEK?

A: Serve Week members work "behind the scenes" in the dining hall (setting tables, putting out food, cleaning up after meals, putting dishes away, sweeping, and mopping at night); and at canteen (serving campers at the afternoon and evening).

Q: HOW MANY "SERVE WEEK" VOLUNTEERS HELP AT MCC EACH SUMMER?

A: Throughout the summer, we will fill about 140 volunteer slots, about 8 per overnight week, and about 35 per day camp week. Volunteers come for one-week segments. They arrive and depart at the same basic time as campers and do not stay over on weekends. Please keep in mind that only a certain number of volunteers are needed each week.

Q: WHAT DOES MCC PROVIDE DURING A SERVE WEEK?

A: For Overnight Weeks, we provide housing and meals and one free poured soda at each canteen. For Day Camp weeks, we provide a serve team shirt, morning snack, lunch, and a free drink at the afternoon canteen. (No financial compensation or free week of camp is exchanged for volunteering. Scholarships are available for summer camp attendance if financial assistance is needed.) MCC is happy to sign Crosby Scholars or community service forms for our volunteers. Please plan ahead and allow 7 business days for this if you need verification.

Q: HOW MANY WEEKS CAN I SERVE THIS SUMMER?

*A: If accepted, rising 9th graders are allowed to serve one or both day camp weeks. Rising 10th and above are allowed to volunteer one overnight week out of the summer plus one or two Day Camp Weeks (if interested and there is need). **Volunteers should plan to volunteer for complete sessions.** Please check your calendar closely so you may volunteer a week you do not have conflicting school, sports, or work obligations. We do not have housing or supervision available for volunteers on weekends. Even if volunteers are volunteering two weeks back to back, they still must leave after the first week and return at the designated time for their second week.*

Q: WHAT ARE THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES FOR SERVE WEEKS?

Day Camp Week Serve Team *will be needed Monday through Friday.* ***Monday check in time and briefing is approximately 8:15 am.*** *Tuesday through Friday arrival is 8:30-8:45 am. Departure is 4:30 pm. Exact times and final details will be provided as the camp week nears. There is no overnight stay for volunteers during the Day Camp Week. There is an optional THURSDAY night overnight stay for campers. Some volunteers might be invited to stay over THURSDAY night, depending on need, space available, and volunteer's performance. If the volunteer is invited to stay overnight, they will get an overnight invitation by Tuesday of that week; would need to return the form by Wednesday. He/she would then continue with serving through the day Friday and be done like normal on Friday at 4:30 pm (like campers).* ***Junior and Middle School Week Serve Team*** *should arrive at the camp Monday morning by 10:30 am to move into their housing.* ***Junior Week Serve Team pick up is 5:00 pm on Friday night. Middle School & Early Teen Week Serve Team pick up is Saturday, 9:30 am, same as campers.*** *For overnight weeks, volunteers will be expected to stay overnight the entire week. ** If you aren't able to arrive or leave at the scheduled time, please contact Jenn Key (jenn@campmerriwood.net)*

Q: CAN I DO A "SERVE WEEK" WITH A FRIEND?

A: There is a place on the Serve Week application to indicate one friend you would like to volunteer with. Please keep in mind that this friend should also be attending Merriwood as a camper this summer. Your friend MUST indicate you as their friend on their form, as well as choose the same available weeks for volunteering and should apply before the deadline as well. We will try to match you with your friend listed, but it's not always possible. Also keep in mind that you will be working as a "team" with the other volunteers. Our hope is that our volunteers will keep an open mind toward developing new friendships, as well as remembering their purpose for being at MCC for a week.

Q: WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SERVE TEAM? IS THERE A "SERVE WEEK" TRAINING SESSION?

A: Volunteers will be under the direct authority of the Summer Serve Team Coordinator as well as any department leaders their role falls under. Ultimately, Serve Team will answer to the Executive Director and Camp Director. ***For day camp weeks****, we'll have a briefing at 8:00 am on the Monday of that week.* ***For overnight weeks****, there will be a briefing meeting for all volunteers around 11:00 am on the first day of camp explaining our purposes, responsibilities, and initial training. The Serve Team Coordinator will work alongside them and be available to them throughout the week.*

Q: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE RULES/REGULATIONS FOR MCC SERVE WEEKS?

A: Some of the Serve Team roles are behind the scenes. Serve Team are expected to support our philosophy that "camp is for the camper."

- *Serve Team are often viewed as "staff" to the campers attending. For this reason, our volunteers must maintain high standards in terms of attitude, dress, and language.*
- *Same general bedtime as campers unless exceptions are made.*
- *Never alone in a private area with a camper or staff member.*
- *Unless for expressed purposes, not allowed to ride in camp or staff vehicles around the MCC grounds.*
- *Expected to stay at MCC throughout the duration of their serve week unless prior arrangements have been made.*
- *Should support our dress code philosophy and adhere to it. Clothing should not be a distraction. Support the principle of modesty. No short-shorts. No spaghetti strap shirts. No T-shirts with improper advertising. Swimsuits should be modest. - More information about responsibilities and expectations will be sent by email once the volunteer has been accepted, and it will be reiterated the first day of camp in the briefing meeting. Volunteers not adhering to the general camp rules and serve team regulations may be relieved of their responsibilities early and may not be accepted as a volunteer in the future.*

Q: WHAT IS THE "SERVE WEEK" APPLICATION PROCESS?

A: Potential volunteers should complete a Serve Team application online. There is a $25 non-refundable processing fee. Serve Team Applications deadline is ***January 31****. We'll begin making volunteer decisions and try to be in touch with you concerning what our needs may be by the* ***end of February.*** *If requesting to volunteer with a friend, please make sure both volunteer applications arrive by the deadline. We cannot hold volunteer spaces for a potential candidate if we do not have their application in hand. Remember: It's a prerequisite for overnight volunteers to also attend a camp week. You will be directed to indicate on the serve team application what week you are registered for as camper.*

If you have further questions, please contact Jenn Key at jenn@campmerriwood.net. Again, thank you for your interest in serving at Merriwood Christian Camp. We realize that these ministries are mostly behind the scenes and sometimes unglamorous. MCC appreciates your willingness to consider helping in this way. We're looking forward to a great summer!

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