

## **Volunteer Position Description for 4-H Camp**

### **Purpose of Position:**

- Ensure the well being and safety of 4-H'ers while at summer 4-H camp
- Work together with other leaders (Hamblen county and other counties) along with camp staff to ensure a positive, memorable experience for campers
- Ensure that the top Four Priorities of camp are met – Safety, Health, Education and FUN!
- Provide an opportunity for youth to learn and develop core life skills
- Volunteer selection is based on the ratio of campers by gender (1:16)

### **Time Commitment:**

- The camp week is a full week commitment from 7:45 AM on Monday morning until the last camper is picked up or Mrs. Elizabeth dismisses you on Friday morning (usually by 11:30 AM).
- Must obtain a minimum of 6 hours of training prior to camp with a portion if not all of that being in a face to face planned leader training
- Must attend the Parent/Camper night (approximately 3 hours including setup)

### **Requirements:**

- Must complete the Volunteer Application process including a background check and be approved by the County Extension Office.
- Complete online 4-H volunteer leader training and provide documentation of completion to Mrs. Elizabeth.
- Attend camp 4-H volunteer leader training.
- Must adhere to 4-H rules and procedures.

### **Qualifications:**

- You must like kids! You have to care about helping others have a good experience! You must be willing to put the needs of others before your own needs.
- A willingness to become familiar with and work within the philosophy and guidelines of the University of Tennessee Extension, 4-H Youth Development program and the county 4-H program.
- Camp leaders must get their “fun” from seeing others have good experiences, and observing campers who are doing new things, learning new knowledge and making new friends.
- The ability to teach and motivate youth while nurturing positive self-esteem, decision making, responsibility, leadership and citizenship.
- The ability to work and communicate effectively.
- The ability to work with minimal supervision from professional staff.
- A sincere interest in sharing knowledge, experiences and skills with youth and adults in an informal educational setting.
- Access to e-mail, internet and text messaging – desirable but optional

## **Responsibilities:**

- Camp leaders are responsible for the lives of 10-12 campers in cabins, 15-20 in a teaching session, 380 in camp. Not just for a few hours – 24 hours a day for five days!
- Camp leaders must make a significant role and attitude change from youthful participant to responsible adult leader where “self” suddenly becomes secondary to the joys of helping others succeed.
- Camp leaders must continually consider the four priorities – safety, health, education and fun.
- Camp leaders must always be observant for the needs of campers – drinking enough water, socializing with others, taking medications, helping injured or sick, acting inappropriately
- Assist 4-H Agent with county specific responsibilities during the camp week – party supervision, side porch crafts, special programs
- Assist Camp Staff in requested areas by signing up as available – wood shop, airbrush, craft house, lake assistant, concession stand
- Assist in all areas – meal server, sit by pool & watch swimmers, ropes course, special programs
- Camp leaders should uphold the Six Basic Areas of Responsibility as a Camp Leader as listed on page 16-17 of the “Success Guide for Camp Leaders”
- Camp leaders must create a caring, supportive “camp family” atmosphere encouraging all campers to have a positive experience. Guidelines for the cabins can be found in Cabin Leader Roles and Responsibilities of the “Success Guide for Camp Leaders” (pages 20-21).
- Be dedicated to youth and sensitive to their abilities and needs.
- Communicate openly with 4-H Agent.
- Recognize and celebrate camper progress.
- Follow all 4-H guidelines and policies of Tennessee, Extension and the 4-H Youth Development Department. Read and review the “Success Guide for Camp Leaders”.
- Keep informed by reading all correspondence sent by the 4-H agent – email, text or Remind.
- Request additional training and/or assistance as needed.
- Be a good role model for 4-H’ers.

## **Tennessee Extension, 4-H Youth Development agrees to:**

- Provide training opportunities – online training, county leader group training.
- Provide a copy of the “Success Guide for Camp Leaders”.
- Provide leader liability coverage for registered volunteers.

## **Benefits:**

- This is not a paid position; leaders are rewarded by making a difference in a youth’s life.
- Opportunity to work with youth and make a difference.
- Opportunity to further develop leadership skills, talents and interest.
- Expenses incurred and miles driven are tax deductible.
- Develop friendships with families county, region, and statewide.
- Gain knowledge and skills in the specific subject matter.
- Networking with other participants across the county, region, and state.
- Great investment of your time and effort.... an investment in the future.

## **Contact Information:**

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