Volunteer Camp Assistants Program

If you enjoy working with younger children, like to be creative, and want to enrich your leadership skills, our Camp Assistant program may be for you!

Benefits of Being a Camp Assistant

- Spend your summer outdoors exploring our 100+ acre urban nature preserve
- Share your love of nature with campers ages 4-8 years old
- Develop your teaching and leadership skills
- Make new friends
- Earn community service hours and/or experience you can list on a future resume or job application

Who are Camp Assistants?

Camp Assistants are volunteers between the ages of 12 and 17 years old. They actively contribute to the camp activities happening at the Preserve. Camp Assistants are energetic, interested in nature and learning more about it, able to follow directions well, responsible, and enjoy spending time with younger children.

Camp Assistant Responsibilities

You will be part of our team working closely with our camp staff, which includes professional environmental educators and Calvin University students also gaining valuable teaching and leadership experiences. As a Camp Assistant, you will have the opportunity to help us with the following activities:

- helping set-up/cleanup activities
- assisting the campers with making their art project
- preparing snacks
- being a character in one of our puppet shows
- bathroom runs
- engaging the campers in the activities
- keeping track of campers during outdoor explorations
- reinforcing the rules and help us keep campers safe
- carrying and gathering supplies
- feeding and caring for our teaching animals
Mandatory Training for All Camp Assistants
Thursday, June 4 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm

This mandatory training prepares our summer camp team for a great summer. You will learn our expectations and general information about the program, get to meet the leadership team and other camp assistants, learn important safety information, practice the games we will play with campers in the summer, and become familiar with the space. Dinner will be provided.

Volunteer Schedule: Things to Consider

- If you are assigned a MORNING Session (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A), you need to arrive by 8:30 am and can leave by 12:30 pm.
- If you are assigned an AFTERNOON Session (1B 2B, 3B, 4B), you need to arrive by 1:00 and can leave by 5:00 pm.
- FAMILY NIGHT (Sessions 1 to 5B) - These special events take place on Thursday nights of each camp week from 6:30 to 8 pm. You are encouraged to attend this event but are not required.

Frequently Asked Questions

How are assignments determined?
Assignments will be made based on best fit and availability.

Can I volunteer for more than one week?
New camp assistants will be assigned to 1 week of camp. They may be offered additional weeks based on coverage needs and his or her performance. Returning camp assistants may request to volunteer for 2 weeks of camp, which need not be consecutive.

Can I volunteer with a friend?
You can indicate your friend’s name on the application form. We try to honor these requests but are not always able, for a variety of reasons.

Apply Today

To join our Camp Assistant team, please complete the application online: https://forms.gle/CPzsSMiA2M7UnKcx5

Applications need to be submitted by April 15 with assignments to be emailed to you by May 15. Applications submitted after this date will be considered on a rolling basis until we have filled all the available slots.

Still have questions? Contact Jeanette Henderson, Camp Director at jmh46@calvin.edu.