

CAMP JIM COUNSELOR VOLUNTEERS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Where is camp?

A: Pillager, MN (right outside of Brainerd/Baxter, about 2 hours north on 169.

Q: Who runs camp?

A: Camp is hosted by the Northwoods Baptist Association (NWBA.net) which is the local association that our church belongs to along with 17 other churches. The Camp Director works closely with the churches to provide counseling, curriculum, activities, worship, and fellowship that are God-centered, fun and age appropriate. Counselors are approved by their church pastors and must have a current criminal background check on file. The camp nurse and lifeguard are certified.

Q: Who goes to camp?

A: Kids going into third grade – twelfth grade from the churches in the NWBA and any friends they invite. Camp has proven to be a great community outreach tool where many families are encouraging extended family and friends to come learn about Jesus and his gift of salvation.

Q: Why is it important we volunteer for camp?

A: Last year, we had to turn away campers because we didn't have enough staff to keep more kids safe. We want to ensure that we can continue to support the camp experience to every kid possible!

Q: How long do I need to be at camp, what if I can't stay the whole week?

A: We prefer counselors to stay July 30th (2pm) – Aug 4th (2pm) but we can work with you to coordinate a counselor job sharing if you can only commit to half the week

Q: Will I be a counselor for my own kids that are attending camp?

A: We try to accommodate your personal preferences and work with you to either be with your kids or be separate from your kids depending on what is best for your family

Q: What ages would I counsel?

A: If you have a particular preference, we can work with you to do our best to accommodate

Q: Do I stay with the campers in their cabin?

A: Yes, the counselors get a double bed bottom bunk in each cabin and stay with their campers for the week. Each camper cabin is air conditioned and has a private bathroom/shower

Q: What is a typical day like?

A: 7am Counselor meeting, 830am get kids up and to breakfast, 10am Worship, 11am crafts, 12pm Lunch, Afternoon: swimming, recreation, games, bible study, quiet time in cabins, 530pm Dinner, All area games, 8pm Campfire lesson and worship, 9pm snack, 10pm lights out.

Q: Is there coffee???

A: YES! We keep the coffee freshly brewed day and night. ☺

Q: Do you accommodate dietary restrictions/limitations?

A: We have gluten free and vegetarian options but these and further needs should be detailed on your registration comments section so that we can best accommodate you. If you have extreme restrictions, please work with us ahead of time so that we have the right things available to cook for you.

Q: Do I have to plan activities or curriculum?

A: No, the curriculum and activities are planned by other camp volunteers. Your role is to bring your campers to the various activities and help to shepherd them through the day.

Q: What else is my role as a counselor?

A: Be a role model. Be prepared. Be prepared to pray with and for the campers. Be prepared to look and listen for opportunities to redirect thoughts, actions, and conversations toward Christ when the campers have lost focus. Provide comfort for those homesick. Be prepared to provide counseling and discipleship for those that are feeling convicted or expressing questions about coming to Christ as a result of the sermons, curriculum and bible studies at camp. Be prepared with a simple devotional before lights out (ask Amy Valentini or look online for ideas). Be prepared to shepherd.

Q: Do I get any breaks or help?

A: We try to pair co-counselors together for each group, depending on the size (preferably about 6-8 kids per cabin) so that the counselors can trade off watching the kids at different parts of the day.

Q: What advice have other counselors offered?

A: If you have a particular needy camper share this info with your Camp Director and the staff early on and get help providing comfort and attention for this camper so that you can also help all your campers. Get help providing some tactics with the camper on helping them deal with being homesick.

A: Bring something to help the kids identify with their cabin. Ideas in the past have been some cheap matching bandanas from Walmart, matching wacky socks, or rubber bracelets that they can all wear to be part of their pack.

A: Bring some/prepare some simple cabin "games" like a deck of cards, nail polish, 20 questions, uno, jump rope, etc. ask Amy Valentini for a list if you want more ideas.

A: Bring a stash of gum, tootsie rolls, dum dums for cleaning/good behavior prizes

A: If you find you are in need of something while at camp (toiletries, supplies, etc.) let the Camp Director and kitchen staff know asap, someone is usually always running into town

A: Bring a portable fan, running it on high in the room helps provide white noise that buffers a whole bunch of sounds of rustling kids that find it hard to sleep away from home

A: Don't forget your Bible, bug spray, sun screen, extra beach towels, a water bottle, a coffee thermos, a lightweight back pack or drawstring bag you can wear around camp

Q: Can I bring non-camper age kids with me and how does that work?

A: Yes, there is a camp program for kids ages 0-7 called Cutie Pies. Cutie Pies is ran by volunteers and provides care for the kids from after breakfast (8am) until dinner (530pm). They also have activities and utilize some VBS curriculum to keep the kids entertained. The Cutie Pie cabin has a play area/living room and full kitchen as well as a place for naps and gated outdoor playground. Counselors keep their little one with them in their camper cabin during the night. In the past, Counselors have successfully had a little one or two, depending on ages, with them for the week but it depends on age, individual personalities, flexibility, and endurance of your little one. Contact Amy Valentini for more concrete information and examples. WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH CUTIE PIES – this is an excellent camp role to fill as well. Cutie Pie volunteers stay in the Cutie Pie private cabin mentioned above which also include private bathrooms and bedrooms for your family in the evening.