

## A CAREGIVERS'S ROLE AT CAMP

Some campers bring a caregiver with them if they need assistance. Campers are required to eat, bath, dress, and toilet themselves. If they need assistance with these tasks they are required to bring a caregiver. Additionally, they must be able to make all of their own medical care decisions and with orientation be able to get themselves out of their building should a fire alarm sound in that building. If a camper requires assistance with these needs, they will be required to have a caregiver to accompany them to camp. That caregiver's role is to assist the camper with those needs and also to be the camper's companion during their stay at camp. There are different types of caregivers. If the camper has a required caregiver, then they are required to accompany each other at all times. If the camper signs up for an off campus trip, the required caregiver is required to accompany the camper. A counselor will still be assigned to assist that camper and caregiver in the same ways you would assist any other camper.

Some of our campers have legal guardians and are required to be accompanied by that legal guardian or by a caregiver authorized by the legal guardian to make decisions, medical and otherwise, for the camper. That legal guardian or authorized caregiver would help the camper with eating, bathing, dressing, and toileting if needed and also be the camper's companion during their stay at camp. If the camper signs up for an off campus trip, the legal guardian/caregiver would be required to accompany that camper. A counselor will still be assigned to assist that camper and legal guardian/caregiver in the same ways you would assist any other camper.

The following is a "Guide for Caregivers at Camp Dogwood". This information given to all caregivers attending camp. This outlines what we expect from a caregiver while at camp.

A caregiver's role here at camp is a critical one. In many instances when a camper has a caregiver, he or she would likely not be able to come to camp without the presence of that caregiver. **Your role or job, here at camp, is to ensure that the camper you are accompanying gets the most out of the program at camp, and has the least difficult time achieving that goal. Each caregiver's duties at camp will be different, as each camper's needs are different. As a general rule, your job is to do anything that the camper you are accompanying needs. Examples of these responsibilities are: assisting camper with medication or any medical needs when the nurse is not available, help with toileting, bathing, grooming, dressing, getting around, helping at meals and other times. A legal guardian caregiver's role or job at camp is the same as a caregiver, but also they are responsible for making any and all decisions, medical and otherwise, for the camper they are accompanying. A caregiver should basically be with the camper they are accompanying at all times. If at any time campers leave Camp Dogwood, caregivers must accompany them. Caregivers must share a room with**

the camper they are accompanying. If you have any questions about what you should do, opposed to what your counselor should do, please don't hesitate to ask.

Caregivers are not responsible for duties covered by camp staff. For example, at mealtime, a caregiver need not get food, drinks, etc. for a camper unless prior permission has been obtained from the camp director. This is one of the primary responsibilities of the counselors. A caregiver is not responsible for doing anything for the camper they are accompanying that the housekeeping staff would do for all other campers. Changing or laundering of soiled bed linens, anything pertaining to the maintenance of the camper's living quarters, etc.

## Guide for Caregivers at Camp Dogwood

This document is designed to give you, as a caregiver, an idea of what is expected as you accompany a camper to Camp Dogwood. Please read over this document, to help insure everyone has the best time possible at camp. If you have any questions, please contact Keisha Ramseur, Camp & Retreat Director at Camp Dogwood, at 828-478-2135 ext. 229. It is recommended that you go over this sheet as well as the rules and regulations with the camper you will be assisting.

A caregiver's role here at camp is an important one. In many instances when a camper needs a caregiver, he/she would not be able to come to camp otherwise. Your role is to ensure that the camper you are accompanying gets the most out of the program. Each caregiver's duties at camp will be different, because each camper is different. As a general rule, your role is to provide whatever assistance your camper needs. Examples are: medication administration, personal care assistance (i.e. toileting, bathing, grooming, dressing, and eating), mobility, etc. A legal guardian caregiver's role is the same as a caregiver with the additional responsibility of making any and all decisions, medical and otherwise for their camper. A caregiver should be with their camper at all times. If campers leave Camp Dogwood, caregivers must accompany them (i.e. shopping, bowling, etc.). Caregivers will be assigned a room with their camper. If you have any questions about your responsibilities, versus counselor/staff responsibilities, please ask us.

Caregivers are not responsible for meal service. This is provided by the staff. A caregiver is not responsible for doing anything for their camper that the housekeeping staff would do for any other campers. For example, changing and laundering of soiled bed linens, trash disposal, or any maintenance of the camper's living quarters.

Many people who attend as caregivers are friends or family of the campers, and find their week here very enjoyable. The opportunity to spend quality one on one time with your friend or family member is a valuable one. The Lions motto is "We Serve". This sentiment is integral to our program and we hope you will take it to heart when you accompany a camper to Camp Dogwood. We hope you will enjoy your stay at with us and return again and again.

