

REHOBOTH CAMP MINISTRY VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK



Genesis 26:22 " "Rehoboth: For now, the Lord has made room for us, and we shall FLOURISH in the land."

Volunteering for Rehoboth Camp Ministry

Welcome to Camp! Thank you for volunteering. Without you, we would not be able to provide this vacation experience for people with developmental disabilities. We trust your time volunteering for Rehoboth Camp Ministry will be rewarding and full of opportunities to grow, show God's love to others, learn, and contribute. This handbook will outline expectations and hopefully answer all your questions.

The Purpose of Camp

1. To share the gospel and show the love of Jesus.
2. Provide a week of fellowship, growth and sharing for campers and volunteers.
3. Provide a true summer camp experience.
4. To provide parents, guardians, or caregivers with "time off" for one week.

About Camp

Five separate weeks of Camp allow campers per week to enjoy nature, each other, and various activities. Each camper is assigned a volunteer counselor or counselor in training for the week, ideally on a one-to-one basis. Camp activities include such things as: swimming, archery, wide games, disc golf, crafts, and sports.

Each day the Bible Leader shares a Bible Lesson with the Campers and Volunteers encouraging crowd participation.

One of the highlights of camp is Talent Night, where the campers and volunteers show their musical, acting, or artistic talents to an audience of parents, community members and each other.

We value...

Respect – for everyone, campers and volunteers

Integrity – honest and ethical behaviour as the basis of trust and respect

Trust – that is earned and honored by all

Equity – ensuring that every person, camper and volunteer, is treated with dignity and respect

Responsibility & Accountability – we are efficient and effective stewards of the resources with which we have been entrusted.

What You Can Expect

Position Description

Your volunteer position description will describe the qualifications and duties to be carried out during your week at camp.

Orientation

You will be given an orientation to the camp program on the day you arrive.

Supervision

There will be two Directors at camp for the entire week. They will provide leadership and guidance. All volunteers will be divided into teams, and there will be a Team Leader for each group who will provide support and mentorship.

Recognition

Rehoboth Christian Ministries acknowledges the contribution volunteers make in dedicating a week of their summer to volunteer at Rehoboth Camp. Volunteers will receive recognition.

Confidentiality

As a volunteer you have access to personal information about campers. All people have the right to have their confidentiality respected. No information about campers or volunteers, including their identity, should be given without permission to any person outside of Rehoboth Camp unless there is a legal requirement to do so. Volunteers should not, whether during their week at camp or after leaving, use or disclose any confidential information about their camper or volunteers.

Photos of campers and other volunteers are permitted for personal use only and **may not** be shared publicly, including via social media outlets.

Electronic Devices

You can use your electronic devices during your breaks or away from events with your camper or other volunteers.

Appearance/Dress Code

As volunteers, we need to model examples of appropriate clothing. Mainly you will need summer clothes. For your safety and appropriate witness, we recommend that shorts be mid- thigh, tank tops are at least three fingers of strap, and that the midriff is covered. Swimsuits should be one piece or modest for girls and no Speedo's for boys. Clothing must be free of profanity and inappropriate content.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in any of the buildings. It should be restricted to, only around the fire pit (all butts should be thrown in the fire-pit). Smoking should be at appropriate times- rest time, bedtime- not during regular day activities- at the discretion of the Camp Director.

Alcohol & Drugs

There is no alcohol or illegal drugs at camp.

What to Bring

Please see the suggested packing list.

Q & A

Do I have to volunteer all summer long?

Each camp runs for one week only. We require volunteers to make a commitment for one week starting on a Saturday and ending the following Friday, depending on the week.

What if I am a little nervous about working with people with developmental disabilities?

It is normal to have some fear when doing something different for the first time. Don't let nervousness hold you back from coming and experiencing what is for many people a life -changing week! Many campers have been coming for years and are very familiar with the routines and expectations. They are excited and looking forward to making new friends each year. Like you and me, they are happy and looking forward to their vacation. Your Director and other volunteers will help mentor you.

Will I be looking after a Camper all by myself?

Volunteers and campers will be matched based on experience of the volunteer. All counselors are divided into teams to provide support and help whenever necessary. If you are under 16, you will be working side by side with an experienced volunteer who will assist you throughout the week.

What if I have no experience working with people with Developmental Disabilities?

No previous experience with people with disabilities is necessary to be a volunteer at Camp Rehoboth.

Is any training provided?

The first day of Camp is spent in training sessions and team building exercises. You will meet all the other volunteers and Camp Program staff who will make your stay at Camp very comfortable. You also get to meet your camper by reviewing their file and will have a pretty good understanding of your Camper before they arrive.

What will I be doing with my Camper?

Camp is filled with many activities and events, as well as relaxation time. You will accompany your Camper to the activities planned. You will ensure that your camper is ready to participate in these events, as they choose. You will also make sure they have all of the supplies they need for the activities. On the camp site you also will accompany your camper to mealtimes, chapel time, and will be a support and companion (buddy) for the week.

Am I always with my Camper?

Although you are assigned a camper to spend the week with, you will have some down time. Campers have a rest-time during the day and go to bed between 9:30 and 10:00. You have these times to relax and enjoy the company of other volunteers. If you are feeling overwhelmed and need a break you should talk to the Team Leader.

Do I need to bring anything else to Camp?

You will be assigned a bunk and have access to shower facilities. You do not need to bring food or snacks as we have cooks preparing 3 meals a day and a fridge full of snacks. You may want to bring some spending money for our Tuck Shop. You can use your cell phone or electronics at times when it does not interfere with the care of your Camper, or participation in meetings or other camp events.

What if I have medication that I take on a regular basis?

Each week of Camp is staffed by medical personnel. You will meet with the medical staff who will become familiar with your medications and will dispense them. Medical staff will also dispense first aid and medications as required.

Which Camp should I apply for?

All our camps follow the same basic schedule of activities and events. Each week of camp serves a different type of Camper. You are welcome to apply for any of our weeks listed with some exceptions in our Independent Camp week (volunteers must be 16 and older).

Where is Camp located?

Our beautiful facility is located near Lacombe in Central Alberta.

Testimonials from Past Volunteers

"This summer I had the opportunity to serve at Rehoboth as a first-time volunteer in helping the campers. The experience was a positive one and better in many ways than I had originally expected. One of the many blessings I came away with was to see life through a different perspective and be reminded of lessons that we all tend to forget in the busy schedules of life. Volunteering at Rehoboth was a fulfilling and enjoyable opportunity to serve the Lord by serving others and certainly one that I would volunteer for again."

~Hannah E.

"I thought Rehoboth was a great learning experience. I met a lot of people, and it was really neat to see people working together, helping each other and have lots of fun doing it. It was really encouraging and a fun change; I wouldn't want to miss it!"

~Elisabeth B.

"Camp Rehoboth is the highlight of my year. I was apprehensive when I went the first time, but it turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life, and I knew before the end of the week that I would be back. I have returned every year since."

~Jason V.

Rehoboth's Foundational Statement of Faith

As a Christian organization, Rehoboth Christian Ministries openly supports and nurtures a unifying Christian philosophy to which all staff are committed. The Rehoboth Board of Directors and our Society Members identify with and are dedicated to orthodox Christianity as expressed in this official Statement of Faith.

What we believe:

1. We believe that our God is the one true and triune God. He makes Himself known to us through the Bible as Father, Son and Saviour, and Holy Spirit.
2. We accept the Bible as the ultimate authority to guide us in our lives and in our decision making. As the inspired Word of God, the Bible is to be believed in all that it teaches and obeyed in all that it requires.
3. We believe all individuals are unique and are created in the image of God. Therefore, we believe we are all inter-dependent; in need of relationships that are mutually supportive and encourage growth in each other. Our Creator is the centre of our connection to each other and is the reason we treat each other with respect and appreciation.
4. We believe our natural inclination is to be self-centered, selfish, and judgmental, resulting in disrespect, abuse, and exclusion of one another; contrary to the will of our God. We depend on God the Father, His Son, and His Spirit to provide us with the desire and ability to be compassionate, caring and supportive of one another, and do so by committing to and demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit: love; joy; peace; forbearance; kindness; goodness; faithfulness; gentleness; and self-control.
5. In response to the mandate we receive from our triune God, we are committed to work with and for persons who live with disabilities and their families by making room for them in society, so they have every opportunity to flourish and contribute meaningfully to society.