



## Frequently Asked Questions: Non-Medical Volunteer

### 1. Who makes up the Camp Mak-A-Dream staff?

Along with the Gold Creek facility, Camp Mak-A Dream has a main office located in Missoula, Montana. In addition to a board of directors, a team of year-round staff work in our foundation office and camp facility fundraising, bookkeeping, planning programs, managing rental groups and recruiting campers and staff for the season. During the off-season, the cook, facilities team and housekeeping staff maintain and work from the Gold Creek facility, while the rest of the staff works out of the Missoula office. Foundation staff members oversee the summer sessions and adult retreats and work closely with the volunteer staff that join us each session.

### 2. Who can be a volunteer at Camp?

If you would like to volunteer at a camp session as a cabin counselor, medical volunteer, dream team or program assistant you must be at least 18 years old. If you are under 18, we have other fundraising events and opportunities where you can participate throughout the year.

### 3. What are the main roles of volunteers at Camp?

*Our weekly volunteer positions include:*

**Cabin counselors** live and sleep in the cabins and help the Cabin Leader guide campers throughout the week. Each cabin will have a Cabin Leader, who is a full-time core staff member, and a supporting team of cabin counselors to assist in daily activities. We need both male and female volunteers for all summer sessions; the number of staff depends on the ages and needs of the population. Counselors will have the most interaction with campers and should be prepared to jump in and be a part of the fun.

**Medical volunteers** provide medical care at each Camp session. The medical staff distributes medication, tends to daily medical needs and makes sure that everyone receives the medical care they need during their stay. They work as a team and are an integral part of the community. The medical staff includes physicians, registered nurses, physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

**Dream team** work in the kitchen to provide nutritious meals for every Camp session. The dream team will assist the Camp chef with meal preparation, serving, and clean up. When they aren't helping out in the kitchen, they are encouraged to join in the activities happening all around campus.

**Program assistants** help in a variety of different areas around campus depending upon the needs of the session and the skills of the applicants. They may help in the art studio, office or with general program activities. Program assistants with special skills or talents may also be incorporated into the week's programming. There are a very limited number of these positions and only at select sessions. Please contact us for more information or with questions.

### 4. How many volunteers will be at camp each week?

The number of volunteers varies based on the session and the population at camp that week, but we typically have around 15-20 volunteers at camp each week.



## 5. How do I get to Camp Mak-A-Dream?

All volunteers should arrive on the first day of their assigned camp session and depart on the last day of the session.

If you are planning to fly to Camp, you will want to arrive at the airport in Missoula, Montana (MSO). Flights can be expensive, so we suggest researching your options as soon as possible. Please do not book a ticket before you have been selected as a volunteer and the dates have been confirmed, as there is specific information you will need in order to make your final arrangements. Upon your arrival in Missoula, camp staff will meet you at the airport and transport you the 65 miles to our facility in Gold Creek, Montana.

If you are driving, directions and information about when to arrive on campus is included in your confirmation packet. The camp facility is located 65 miles east of Missoula and about the same distance west of Butte and southwest of Helena. From Interstate 90 take exit #166 and head south for less than one mile. Take a right at the first dirt road and follow the signs to our facility. Parking is available in the lot toward the top of the hill on the left.

*Important note: Each volunteer is responsible for scheduling and financing their own travel plans.*

## 6. Will I participate in training when I arrive at Camp?

Yes. The first day of each session our leadership team will host a 1-2 hour orientation session to review important camp information, provide a campus orientation, discuss the schedule for the week, give an overview of what to expect each day and answer any questions.

Role specific training materials, a volunteer job description and a Camp Manual will also be sent to each volunteer in advance of their session. In addition, our Deputy Directors will be available throughout the week to answer questions and support the volunteer team.

## 7. What does a typical day look like for a volunteer?

Daily schedules vary based on your volunteer job role, but here is an example schedule:

| Time            | Activity                        | Examples  |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 7:30 – 8:30am   | Optional early morning activity | <i>Coffee bar, meditation, yoga</i>             |
| 8:30 – 9:30am   | Breakfast                       | <i>Eggs, bacon, pancakes, fruit</i>             |
| 10:00 – 12:45pm | Morning activities/workshop     | <i>High ropes, horseback riding, archery</i>    |
| 1:00 – 2:00pm   | Lunch                           | <i>Hamburgers, french fries, pasta salad</i>    |
| 2:00 – 3:00pm   | Quiet time                      | <i>Personal time to relax, read, nap</i>        |
| 3:00 – 5:00pm   | Afternoon activities/workshop   | <i>Mindfulness workshop, swimming, art</i>      |
| 5:00 – 6:00pm   | Cabin chat                      | <i>Optional small group discussion</i>          |
| 6:00 – 7:00pm   | Dinner                          | <i>Homemade pizzas, breadsticks, salad</i>      |
| 7:30 – 9:30pm   | All campus evening activities   | <i>Campfire, songs, s'mores, games</i>          |
| 12:00am*        | Campus closed                   | <i>*Activities end earlier at younger camps</i> |

Please review your volunteer job description sheet for additional details about the daily schedule.



## **8. Will I get a break during the day?**

Yes, you will get at least a one-hour break every day. In the morning, a schedule will be worked out as to when you will get your break. During the break feel free to relax, read, listen to music, sleep, or go for a walk.

## **9. What are the facilities like at Camp Mak-A-Dream?**

Camp Mak-A-Dream is located outside a small ranching community at the foot of the Flint Mountains. Although the Main Lodge is nestled in the hills amid incredible Montana scenery, it is not a rustic camp. We have beautiful modern cabins, an art studio, health center, wellness center and lodge. In addition, there is a swimming pool (seasonal), archery range, climbing wall, sports fields and a zip line. Camp Mak-A-Dream is a smoke-free facility.

Participants sleep in one of four large cabins, each of which sleeps 14-20 people comfortably, in two community sleeping rooms. Each cabin has a common area with a fireplace and kitchenette, and each sleeping room has a handicap-accessible bathroom (with two stalls and two showers). Like all of our facilities, the cabins are fully accessible and convenient for campers of all abilities.

## **10. Where will I be sleeping?**

Sleeping arrangements vary by job role. Volunteer Cabin Staff will sleep in their assigned cabin with their campers and Cabin Leader. Medical Volunteers will typically sleep in rooms in the Health Center. Program Assistants and Dream Team volunteers will typically sleep in rooms in the lower level of the Wellness Center.

## **11. What and where do we eat?**

Meals are provided in the Main Lodge at large, round tables in a community atmosphere. Food is abundant and nutritious. Snacks are also available as needed. For those who require dietary alternatives (example: food allergies or vegetarian diet), we ask you to outline those needs on your registration form so our kitchen staff can plan accordingly. Dietary restrictions can often be accommodated, however diet preferences may not. *Due to the continued impacts of COVID-19, our meal structure and group gatherings may be adjusted.*

## **12. What should I wear to camp?**

Everyone typically wears comfortable, casual clothing at camp (i.e., shorts and a T-shirt). Workout clothes including leggings are fine to wear as well. We aim for “neat and modest” attire.

## **13. Will my cell phone work at Camp?**

Yes, most major phone companies do have cell service at camp. There is also access to guest Wi-Fi. However, we do ask that staff and volunteers be mindful and limit cell phone use during camp activities and cabin time. At our younger camp sessions, campers are required to turn in their phones for the week to encourage participation and engagement.

## **14. Can I volunteer for more than one session of camp in a year?**

In an effort to allow the greatest number of people to come out to camp, we typically limit volunteers to attend one session per calendar year.