

Wanted:

Assistant Cabin Counselor

For a week of learning, inspiration and fun!



and



**Camping
for All**

are looking for Bilingual males (fluent in ASL and English communication) to volunteer as assistant cabin counselors for our eighth annual Sign Language Camp July 17- July 22, 2016. The program joins Deaf and hard of hearing children with their hearing peers for a week of sharing of ASL and deaf culture, along with typical camp activities.

If you're interested in helping at camp that week, please contact Deb Shapiro of **Camping for All** at camping4all@earthlink.net or 434-806-8835.

Brethren Woods Sign Language Program 2015

Program and Participants:

The program is held in two of the eight family groups at Brethren Woods- one for 3rd-5th graders and one for children who have completed 6th-8th grade. The family groups consist of about 12 children (half girls, half boys) and two to three staff members. We have about 4 deaf or hard of hearing children per group. Camper participants must have sufficient communication skills (in Sign Language or English) to follow directions and express their needs in case of emergency or illness. In addition, they need to be physically capable of and interested in participating in the entire camp program.

Living groups are staffed by Brethren Woods summer staff members or volunteers who are interested in working with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. We have volunteers who are conversant in sign in various roles at camp.

Campers in the program learn Sign Language through lessons as well as informal learning opportunities. Campers also participate in standard camp activities like swimming and arts and crafts. Since this camp is sponsored by the Church of the Brethren, campers are involved in Bible study and devotional and worship times as well.

The entire camp participates in the program as sign is taught at all camp activities such as meals and Morning Watch. We also bring in deaf adults to share with the camp and do some silent activities to help children understand the barriers faced by deaf people.

The Site:

Brethren Woods is north east of Harrisonburg, VA. It is a typical camp setting with gravel paths and lots of trees. The family group for younger children lives in cabins with electricity and bunk beds. They are centrally located and use the toilets and showers in the main bath house. The older children live in hogans which have platform beds and no electricity. They are further from the main camp area and have an outhouse in their living area.

Job Description: Assistant Cabin Counselor

Position Purpose: To provide leadership for a small group of campers. In addition, this staff member will be expected to help facilitate communication between Deaf campers and their hearing peers and staff during the times when campers are in their cabins. Interpreters are available at all other times.

Essential Job Functions include:

1. Working with co-counselors to provide supervision to campers assigned to your group to insure their safety and that they have a positive camp experience.
2. Sharing leadership responsibilities for a family group (usually coed) of 12-16 campers with co-counselors.
3. Helping implement group schedule and plan additional activities with your co-counselors and campers.
4. Guiding campers' participation in individual, group, and all-camp activities.
5. Practicing good group building methods.
6. Preparing daily devotions for your group with your co-counselors
7. Assisting Brethren Woods staff and hearing campers in communicating with deaf campers when interpreters are not available
8. Assisting campers in finding ways to communicate with each other
9. Encouraging practice of signs learned throughout the day.

Other Job Duties:

As this position is part of a camp community, the assistant cabin counselor is expected to participate in the general life of camp. This may include dressing up for theme days such as twin day, assisting with all-camp activities such as water carnivals and assisting with opening and closing days.

Relationships:

The cabin counselor is responsible to Brethren Woods' head counselor and the Sign Language Camp program coordinator.

Qualifications:**Candidates must be able to:**

1. Communicate with both Deaf and hearing people, at times without interpreter support
2. Collaborate with people from a variety of backgrounds
3. Work within the physical demands of a camp setting.
4. Work flexibly in a situation that changes frequently

Candidates must be willing to:

1. Live in a cabin or hogan with approximately six children and a staff member
2. Work lengthy days.(Expect to work from about 6:30am-10pm with a two hour break).
3. Participate in all aspects of camp life including theme days (example twin day) and evening activities

Candidates must have the following qualifications/experience:

1. Attended or worked in some capacity at a residential camp or equivalent setting.
2. A love of working with children