



2021 MERRIWOOD SERVE WEEK INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in applying for an MCC Serve Week. Below are some details about how you may be involved in the volunteer ministry of MCC. All applications must be completed online through our registration portal. You can find a link to the application on our website, www.campmerriwood.net, under "Join or Team" or by clicking on this link: [2021 Serve Week Application](#). There is a \$15 non-refundable processing fee per camper.

Q: WHAT IS THE "SERVE WEEK" CRITERIA?

A: **First**, we accept volunteers that are rising 9th graders or older. **Second**, an individual must be registered for a week of camp at MCC (not be a volunteer **instead** of attending a week of camp) For this reason, we will not be able to confirm your volunteer week until you are officially registered to attend a summer camp week with us. (Some exceptions will be made to allow Day Camp helpers, depending on volunteer need.) **Third**, consideration may be given according to age and experience, past performance in the volunteer role at Merriwood Christian Camp, and how highly the applicants are viewed by their volunteer references.

Q: WHAT AGE GROUP AM I ELIGIBLE TO WORK WITH?

A: If you are a rising 9th grader, you may only volunteer for day camps. If you are going into 10th grade or older, you are eligible to volunteer during day camp, junior, and/or middle school weeks. For Teen Week, we only accept volunteers who are college age.

Q: WHAT DOES DAY CAMP "SERVE WEEK" ENTAIL?

A: Our greatest need for Day Camp Volunteers is in the role of Counselor Helpers (i.e. helping a college-aged counselor with their group of guys or girls). We will need up to eight guy and eight girl Counselor Helpers. Other roles are Paddle boat Assistants (who also help at the afternoon Canteen & as Lunchroom Assistant) as well as Craft helpers.

Q: WHAT DO "SERVE WEEK" RESPONSIBILITIES ENTAIL FOR AN OVERNIGHT WEEK?

A: The role of a MCC volunteer is a serving/behind the scenes position. If volunteering for one of our seven Overnight Weeks, the volunteers assist in the dining hall (setting tables, putting out food, cleaning up after meals, putting dishes away, sweeping, and mopping at night). They also serve the campers at the afternoon and evening canteen each day.

Q: HOW MANY "SERVE WEEK" VOLUNTEERS HELP AT MCC EACH SUMMER?

A: Throughout the summer, we will fill about 100 volunteer slots. Volunteers come for one-week segments. They arrive and depart at the same basic time as campers and do not stay over on weekends. Please keep in mind that only a certain number of volunteers are needed each week. For Overnight Weeks, we usually have five or six volunteers. For our Day Camp Week, we use as many as 25 volunteers per week.

Q: WHAT DOES MCC PROVIDE FOR VOLUNTEERS?

A: For Overnight Week volunteers, we provide housing and meals and one free poured soda at each canteen. For Day Camp week volunteers, we provide a morning snack, lunch, and a complimentary soda at the afternoon canteen. (No financial compensation or free week of camp is exchanged for volunteering. Scholarships are available for summer camp attendance if financial assistance is needed.) MCC is happy to complete Crosby Scholars forms or other volunteer paperwork for our volunteers.

Q: HOW MANY WEEKS CAN I SERVE THIS SUMMER?

A: If accepted, rising 9th graders are allowed to serve one or both day camp weeks. Rising 10th and above are allowed to volunteer one overnight week out of the summer plus one or two Day Camp Weeks (if interested and there is need). **Volunteers should plan to volunteer for complete sessions.** Even if volunteers are volunteering two weeks back to back, they still must leave after the first week and return at the designated time for their second week. We do not have housing or supervision available for volunteers on weekends. For this reason, please check your calendar closely so you may volunteer a week you do not have conflicting school, sports, or work obligations.

Q: WHAT ARE THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES FOR SERVE WEEKS?

- Day Camp Week volunteers will be needed Monday through Friday. **Monday check in time and briefing is 8:15 am.** Tuesday through Friday arrival is 8:30-8:45 am. Departure is 4:30 pm. These are the same hours as the campers. There is no overnight stay for volunteers during the Day Camp Week. There is an optional Friday night overnight stay for campers. Some volunteers might be invited to stay over Friday night, depending on need, space available, and volunteer's performance. If the volunteer is invited to stay overnight, they will get an overnight invitation by Wednesday of that week; would need to return the form by Thursday, and he/she would need to be picked up Saturday at 9:00 am.
 - Junior and Middle School Week volunteers should arrive at the camp Monday morning by 10:30 am. Volunteers will be done with their responsibilities, and need to be picked up by 9:30 am on Saturday for all overnight weeks (same as campers). For overnight weeks, volunteers will be expected to stay overnight the entire week.
- ** Volunteers may arrive along with their church group, if applicable. If this is necessary, please let Jenn Key know, so she can plan for you if your arrival time will be after the normal volunteer arrival time.

Q: CAN I DO A "SERVE WEEK" WITH A FRIEND?

A: There is a place on the Serve Week application to indicate one friend you would like to volunteer with. Please keep in mind that this friend should also be attending Merriwood as a camper this summer. Your friend **MUST** indicate you as their friend on their form, as well as choose the same available weeks for volunteering and should apply before the deadline as well. We will try to match you with your friend listed, but it's not always possible. Also keep in mind that you will be working as a "team" with the other volunteers. Our hope is that our volunteers will keep an open mind toward developing new friendships, as well as remembering their purpose for being at MCC for a week.

Q: WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VOLUNTEERS? IS THERE A "SERVE WEEK" TRAINING SESSION?

A: Volunteers will be under the direct authority of the Volunteer Coordinator as well as any department leaders their role falls under. Ultimately, volunteers will answer to the Camp Administrator and Camp Director. For day camp weeks, we'll have a briefing at 8:15 am on the Monday of that week. For overnight weeks, there will be a briefing meeting for all volunteers around 11:00 am on the first day of camp explaining our purposes, responsibilities and brief training. A Volunteer Coordinator will work alongside them and be available to them throughout the week.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE RULES/REGULATIONS FOR MCC SERVE WEEKS?

A: The volunteer role is a behind the scene position. Volunteers are expected to support our philosophy that "camp is for the camper."

- Volunteers are often viewed as "staff" to the campers attending. For this reason, our volunteers must maintain high standards in terms of attitude, dress, and language.
- Volunteers will have the same general bedtime as campers unless exceptions are made.
- Volunteers will not be alone in a private area with a camper.
- Volunteers will not be allowed to ride in camp or staff vehicles around the MCC grounds.
- Volunteers are expected to stay on the MCC grounds throughout the duration of their volunteering time unless prior arrangements are made.
- Volunteers should support our dress code philosophy and adhere to it. Their dress should not be a distraction. They should support the principle of modesty. No short-shorts. **All shorts must be at least mid-thigh length, no more than a dollar bill above the knee.** No spaghetti strap shirts. No T-shirts with improper advertising. Swimsuits should be modest.
- More information about responsibilities and expectations will be sent by email once the volunteer has been accepted, and it will be reviewed the first day of camp in the briefing meeting. Volunteers not adhering to the regulations may be relieved of their responsibilities early and may not be accepted as a volunteer in the future.

Q. WHAT IS THE "SERVE WEEK" APPLICATION PROCESS?

A: Potential volunteers should complete a volunteer application online. There is a \$15 non-refundable processing fee. Applications should be submitted by **Sunday, January 31, 2021**. We'll begin making volunteer decisions and try to be in touch with you concerning what our needs may be by the end of February. If requesting to volunteer with a friend, please make sure both volunteer applications arrive by the deadline. We cannot hold volunteer spaces for a potential candidate if we do not have their application in hand. Also, since it's a prerequisite for overnight volunteers to also attend a camp week, please indicate on the application what week you are registered for.

If you have further questions, please contact Jenn Key at jenn@campmerriwood.net. Again, thank you for your interest in volunteering at Merriwood Christian Camp. We realize that these ministries are mostly behind the scenes and sometimes unglamorous. MCC appreciates your willingness to consider helping in this way. We're looking forward to a great summer!