

## VOLUNTEER/VISITOR Q&A

### **What is Camp Agape NW (CANW)?**

Camp Agape NW (CANW) is a six-day over-night camp provided at no cost for a child with cancer, their siblings, and their parents and/or legal guardians. CANW is a mission of the Greek Orthodox Philoptochos Society (women's philanthropic group). On average 17-20 families attend each summer. CANW gives children with cancer a chance to feel normal, siblings a chance to be special, and parents a time to be together. CANW provides delicious home cooked meals, family centered activities and entertainment, beautiful waterfront, "buddies" for each child, concierges for the parents, and a full-time 24 hour volunteer nursing staff. Through "Agape" and hard work, we give families a week of fun filled memories that they will cherish forever.

### **What is a typical day like at CANW?**

While CANW is a fun and rewarding experience it is also a very demanding experience. All volunteers' days begin with required morning meeting at 7:00am and end with a 9:30pm staff meeting to wrap up the day. Volunteers are expected to be flexible and may be asked to do multiple tasks, including but not limited to skits, helping to keep camp grounds clean, and serving in the dining room. Overnight volunteers sleep in tents during the week. Buddys and Buddys-in-training are expected to be with their assigned camper every day from 8:30am until 9:30pm. To give families the best week possible, the goal for each Buddy is to be with their child, doing what the child wants to do— which could be running up and down the hill all day, going swimming, arts and crafts, or just reading books among other things. Dining room crew is expected to be available for set up, to serve meals, and to help the kitchen staff as needed from 8:00am until 9:00pm.

### **What is the minimum age to apply as a volunteer?**

The minimum age to apply as a volunteer is 15, however buddies must be 18. There are a limited number of positions available for those under 18, if you have questions about this please contact us. In addition, There may be a change in our Youth Protection policy and as such overnight staff under the age of 18 may be required to be housed off campus at night. We will provide housing and transportation, and are currently working out the details, more info to come.

### **How do I apply?**

April 15 of each year is the due date for application submissions. Applications are available online in February and are due by midnight, April 15, Pacific Standard Time.

Please note that the medical staff application deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you wish to apply after this deadline please email us at [campagape@gmail.com](mailto:campagape@gmail.com) to see if space is still available.

You can apply using our online application system using the link on this page. Please note the following:

1. If you are under 18 years old you will need to apply with your parent present so that they can sign your application as your legal guardian.

2. There is \$20 non-refundable application fee which is paid with a VISA or Mastercard when you apply. If the fee poses a hardship for you please contact us at [campagape@gmail.com](mailto:campagape@gmail.com) for a “no questions asked” fee waiving coupon code.
3. You will need your vaccination dates, health insurance information, and social security number to apply. All medical information will be kept confidential. Volunteers reviewing applications must comply with HIPPA standards regarding confidentiality of Protected Health Information (PHI).
4. For the safety of our children, Camp Agape NW has made it policy to run background checks on every person who is on site during the week of camp. This applies to all volunteers and people over age 18 attending camp as part of a family. The background check is limited to offenses that indicate there may be potential harm to other campers. All information will be kept confidential.
5. **Once you start the application process you cannot save it and go back.** Therefore, please set aside enough time (under an hour) to complete the application. You do not pay until the end, so you can view the entire application prior to filling it out.
6. For security purposes, if you leave the application system idle for 30 minutes it will time you out and you will lose your work. If you are actively typing it will NOT time out.
7. If you were a minor and are now a legal adult (18+) you will need to create your own account and apply as an adult. This will require you to re-enter all your information.
8. To request a copy of your prior year’s application please email [campagape@gmail.com](mailto:campagape@gmail.com) and allow 7 business days.
9. New applicants will need to have two recommendation forms completed prior to April 15th.

### **How are volunteers selected?**

Selections are based out of the applications that are satisfactory and completed prior to the deadline (all questions answered sufficiently, form complete, medical and background check forms complete). Selections are based on specific needs for camp, regarding age, skills/gifts; gender, certifications etc. Selections are made based on needs and not on simply filling spots and numbers. For example, if a lifeguard is needed then priority is to accept a certified lifeguard. If a cook is needed, then priority is for those with cooking experience and food handler’s permits. If there’s a need for male Buddys or a Buddy with special needs skills, priority will be to those with those criteria or skills. Selections are based on willingness to serve, qualifications, experience, and camper demographics, and those whose availability matches the needs of camp.

Every application is read and considered. It is the intention to select the best possible volunteer crew and to give as many volunteers as possible exposure to CANW. The demographics of camp each year determine what volunteers are needed to best serve the families. To the best of our ability we will match the number of volunteers accepted to the number of predicted campers. Once this number is reached, potential volunteers will be placed on a wait list and if willing, may be put on an “on-call” status and some of these volunteers will be called as camp is closer.

It is our desire to find a spot for everyone who wants to serve at Camp Agape NW, however we are restricted by space at the campground facilities. Each year those needs fluctuate and there is flexibility to select likewise. There’s no way to predict if there will be a surplus, or deficit, or volunteers or campers ahead of time therefore the Volunteer Leadership Team has flexibility to address whatever situation arises and meet the needs of camp and our campers. Due to the space limitations preference for overnight volunteers is given to those volunteering the entire week and then on a space available basis. In some instances, based on space availability, you

Please note that prior experience does not guarantee acceptance. If you attended camp for multiple consecutive years you may be placed on the waiting list to allow others who have not, the opportunity to volunteer at CANW. This is not a reflection of your time as a volunteer. If you are placed on the wait list there is still a possibility that you may volunteer if others are unable to attend. It is our intention to select the best possible volunteer crew while providing as many volunteers as possible exposure to CANW.

The Volunteer Leadership Committee of CANW holds the right to select volunteers based on the needs of the camp and the families for each year.

**How are volunteer positions assigned and when will I know my position at camp?**

Because family attendance is not finalized until camp, and can often change up to the last minute based on a child's health, position assignments cannot be guaranteed. Volunteer assignments change based on the needs of camp and any position assignment can change at any time. Sometimes it is necessary to make changes during camp and/ or for a volunteer to perform several different roles at camp. Most volunteer positions are not assigned until camp. Your understanding and flexibility is appreciated.

Everyone will receive an email or phone call by May 15<sup>th</sup> (Medical staff by July 1) If you are selected as a volunteer your email will contain the remainder of the information you need to know such as what to pack, camp rules, and camp themes. We will also email you if you are placed on the wait list or if your application is not accepted or if space is not available.

**Who is the Volunteer Leadership Committee?**

Father Tom Tsagalakis, Christina Bradic, Jenn Doepping, Lauren Phillips, Georgia Steenis, and Brad Watamura make up the volunteer committee. The volunteer committee is appointed by the Camp Agape Board.

**Who do I contact with questions?**

For all questions, camp information, or to request a paper application please email [campagape@gmail.com](mailto:campagape@gmail.com)

This is the preferred and most efficient way to contact us.

For help with the online application system or to talk to someone in person:

Jenn Doepping 206-427-2553

Lauren Phillips 208-721-2312

Georgia Steenis 206-419-6867

Christina Bradic 425-971-8500

For Medical questions/concerns or if you get sick right before camp:

Head Nurse Brad Watamura 253-380-4765 [waterhammer99@gmail.com](mailto:waterhammer99@gmail.com)