



Counselor

Haliee Danks - Super Counselor

Hailee fits into the category that we often refer to as “others”. These counselors are not doctors, nurses or respiratory therapists but still an important part of the medical team. They have the opportunity to provide care for mental, social, and spiritual health by providing a fun camp experience!

How did you get involved with camp? I was invited to attend the Silver Sneaker ball in 2017 which compelled me to sign up for camp that year!

What inspired you to keep come back after your first year? My first year I was in a cabin with a camper with autism. As someone that had very little knowledge in the medical field, I felt I was able to contribute greatly that year with my experience with autism spectrum disorder. Each year there has been a camper that I was able to contribute to differently than the medical staff; whether it be a camper with augmentative alternative communication or a camper that was nervous about camp and needed someone to cling to. Camp is able to offer new experiences for these kids that would not typically be available to someone with their medical needs. Seeing the pure joy in a child with muscular dystrophy going down a zipline for the first time or being able to float in a pool with a ventilator or kayaking with a ventilator or encountering other children with similar needs to them for the first time. These kinds of moments are what makes you want to keep coming back.

What are the strengths you bring to camp as someone who is not a nurse or RT? How are you able to participate in the medical care that happens in the cabin?

In my professional life, I am a behavior analyst working with kids with autism spectrum disorder; therefore, I had zero experience with tracheostomies and respiratory technology prior to camp. I am an asset to camp through my willingness to try and do anything. All the medical staff, and even the campers themselves, will teach you anything you need to know to assist in the care of the campers.

What does attending camp do for you both personally and professionally?

Personally, camp is like a year reset where it really puts your priorities in life into question and truly restores my faith in humanity. I value the relationships that camp fosters with campers and counselors alike. Professionally, I have learned quite a bit about g-tubes, different feeding pumps, nebulizers, etc. that I have been able to put to use in my career as some of my clients do have those needs in their daily care.

Why should someone apply as a counselor to come to CHAMP Camp?

You should apply to camp not only to contribute to the positive change that camp provides for these campers, but also to promote growth within yourself. The experiences that camp has to offer to campers, and anyone that is involved in camp, is unmatched.

Camp benefits from a variety of skill sets!



2017 - 2023

