



Counselor

Phil Flory- Registered Nurse

We were so excited to have Phil join our CHAMP Camp family! He brings a quiet confident vibe to his cabin and loves making camp a fun experience for all of our campers!

How did you get involved with camp? I first learned about camp from Dr. Angulo Parker (one of CHAMP Camp's camp physicians) when I joined the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation team. I have always enjoyed being outside in nature and love helping children. This seemed like a good opportunity to enjoy doing both at the same time.

As a returning nurse in our younger boys cabin, what unique skills do you bring to the cabin? As a returning nurse in the younger boys cabin, I bring the knowledge of my previous years at camp, energy and excitement, a knowledge of nursing with an eagerness to be involved, and a strong desire to help all of the campers have one of the best weeks of their lives!

In addition to being a valued part of our medical team, you really seem to embrace the camp life. Why do you think summer camp is important for this amazing population of kids? I feel like summer camp is very important for this amazing population of kids because it truly helps them push beyond their preconceptions of their abilities. They are not only able to experience new activities in a setting typically unavailable to them due to safety or other limitations, but they are assisted as they push beyond things they previously felt were unobtainable. It would be very difficult and rare to find situations in their typical lives that encourage such experiences and behaviors.

What impact does camp have on your personal and professional life? Camp has a great impact on my personal and professional life. When at work, it helps me remember to keep it fun and to find ways to support this amazing population in other types of activities at home and in their communities that can be done safely. Because camp is all about helping the kids have the best experience possible, it forces me out of my comfort zone too. This helps me in both my personal and professional life as I learn to push myself outside of my comfort zone in these settings.

What advice would you give a new counselor their first year of camp?? I would tell new counselors that you will have more opportunities to make an impact on the lives of these amazing kids than you will likely have on anyone else in your lifetime. The experience is what you make of it. Are you going to have fun? Yes! But the camp is for the kids and it is important to keep that focus in mind. Push yourself to go beyond your comfort zone to truly help them have the best experience they can. You will never regret the time you were able to spend with them.

Phil always makes sure the experience of the campers comes first!



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