



Counselor

Rhianna Michaels - Registered Nurse

Rhianna serves as one of our lead nurses and we are grateful that she is coming back for her 6th year! She has a heart to serve our campers and make sure it is a wonderful experience for each of them. Enjoy reading her insight about her experience as a CHAMP Camp counselor!

How did you get involved in CHAMP Camp? I had the opportunity to be a counselor as a nursing student. Our pediatric professor was involved in the camp and asked if anyone would be willing to be a counselor because camp needed more volunteers. My name was put in a drawing with several others and I was one of the 3 lucky winners. I originally wanted to go because it would look good on my resume, but here I am about to attend my 6th year- and I have yet to add it to my resume.

After your first year, why did you come back? My first year, I left camp with a whole new perspective on life. Camp provided me with a positive outlook that lasted much longer than the few days I got to spend there. I got to be part of something that truly made a difference in others lives. I felt so blessed and happy to have had the opportunity. I also made connections with campers and counselors and camp is the only opportunity that I get to see them.

What is your favorite memory from CHAMP Camp? My favorite memory from camp is from my first year. I was in the pool with a camper who was also attending for their first time. The camper began to cry and I asked what was wrong. She told me that after she had her trach placed she never thought she would be able to swim again. She was crying because she was so happy to be in the pool. That was the first time I really saw the difference that camp made for the campers.

How does your week at camp impact the rest of your year? I have a much better outlook on life. These kiddos are so positive and uplifting. We are there to help them but they help us more than they probably realize. Not only do I get to enjoy my memories from camp but knowing that I will be going back gives me something to look forward to.

Why should someone in your profession consider being a counselor at CHAMP Camp? I think that most people who become nurses do so because they want to make a difference and help people. We set out with the best of intentions but being in the workforce can take away from that. We get caught up in policies, procedures, work overload and other things that make it difficult to achieve what we set out to do. At CHAMP Camp there is no shortage of feeling like you're helping someone or making a difference. It provides the opportunity to return to that state of mind and gives the motivation to do the same in our every day work. CHAMP Camp helps remind me that I can make a difference in the lives of the people I connect with and I am able to take that with me as I care for my patients for the rest of the year. It truly makes me a better nurse.

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You definitely make a difference, Rhianna! Glad you are part of the CC family!



2023