



CAMP NOAH

VOLUNTEER TO JOIN OUR TEAM





Thank You

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Camp Noah, a program of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's Disaster Services. By sharing your time and talents to support our camps, you will help children affected by disaster heal and build resiliency skills through creative activities and play.

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LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MINNESOTA

For more than 150 years, LSS has been committed to supporting neighbors through service that inspires hope, changes lives, and builds community. With 2,300 employees we are one of Minnesota's largest nonprofit social service organizations. We support communities across the U.S. through Camp Noah.

Our services ensure food and shelter, physical health and safety, and emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Volunteers are an essential part of our work that supports children, youth and families, people with disabilities and older adults.

We are a faith-based organization that serves and employs people of all cultures and faith traditions. This diversity brings strength to the services we provide and the organization.



CAMP NOAH

Camp Noah began as a response to the 1997 massive flooding in the Red River Valley in northern Minnesota and North Dakota. Since then, we have grown and served thousands of children across the country as an effective nationally-recognized program for children impacted by natural and human-caused disasters.

Each year our day camps, usually week-long, are held across the U.S. where they are needed most. Our camp curriculum is designed to help children process their experience with disaster and grief in a safe, supportive, and caring atmosphere. *Volunteering with Camp Noah can change the lives of children impacted by disaster – and your life too!*

What Happens at Camp Noah?

CHILDREN, LIKE ADULTS, NEED SPECIAL SUPPORT TO RECOVER FROM LOSSES FOLLOWING A DISASTER.

They may have lost their home, their personal treasures, a daily routine and friends who may have moved to another community.

- Camp Noah provides a safe and fun environment where elementary-age children build skills and process their disaster experience using a proven curriculum. During a week-long day camp, children share their stories and develop resiliency skills such as self-esteem, problem-solving, stress management and preparedness for the future. Camp activities include story sharing, skits, music, outdoor recreation, puppets and crafts.

Camp Noah Locations

CAMPS ARE TYPICALLY HELD IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES IN THE 6 TO 18 MONTHS AFTER A DISASTER HITS, BUT CAN ALSO BE ORGANIZED INDEPENDENT OF A DISASTER TO EQUIP CHILDREN WITH RESILIENCY AND PREPAREDNESS SKILLS.

Our staff partner with local communities to identify a need and coordinate the details. Volunteers often travel from all over the country to put on a camp.





Volunteers Roles & Details

GREAT VOLUNTEERS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF EVERY CAMP!

We rely on individuals, churches, students, and other groups from across the US. We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds, and are happy to help you complete service, education, and internship service requirements. You can join us in a variety of ways.

Opportunities for Individuals

CERTIFIED CAMP VOLUNTEER

OVERVIEW

- The primary focus for a Certified Camp Volunteer is presenting the curriculum to children during the camp week. You will lead small groups, tell stories, do craft projects, play games and lead children through other activities to help them build resiliency skills. You will also help with set-up and tear-down, logistics, and more.

REQUIREMENTS & TRAINING

- No prior knowledge is needed as each volunteer receives helpful online training that prepares them to lead the Camp Noah program with the children who attend. It is completed before camp begins with your Camp Team Leader. We provide the supplies and staff support needed to make sure your time at Camp Noah is fun, life-changing, and meaningful to you.

HOURS

- Camp hours vary, but are generally from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday- Friday, plus Sunday set-up from 2:00 - 5:00 pm before camp begins. Volunteers are usually free in the evenings, and can spend time in the community.

COST:

- To cover camp expenses and the volunteer trainings, background checks, and meals during camp, we ask that Certified Camp Volunteers contribute \$150 for a week at Camp Noah. Volunteers are responsible for their own evening meals and any travel expenses to and from camp. If you are interested in volunteering and have financial concerns, we encourage you to contact us to discuss options. Often Certified Camp Volunteers will work with their Camp Team Leader to cover costs via fundraising.

HOUSING

- Camp Noah staff work with the Camp Site Coordinator to discuss housing for volunteers. Accommodations depend on community availability and resources and vary by location; they range from sleeping on a cot, to staying with a host family, and less-frequently at hotels. Often housing is provided by local community members, churches, or community centers. There is always a place to eat and shower, though you may need to bring a sleeping bag.

MEALS

- Breakfast and lunch are provided to all volunteers at Camp Noah. Teams are responsible for their own dinners, and any meals on days before or after camp. Dietary restrictions can be accommodated if requested in advance.

LOCAL SUPPORT VOLUNTEER

- In this role you may cook, provide transportation for campers, help with registration, or provide or coordinate housing for other volunteers. Local Support Volunteers are usually recruited by the Camp Site Coordinator.

CAMP TEAM LEADER

- Each camp team of 15 - 25 volunteers is led by a Camp Team Leader and a stipend available for this position. This person helps recruit their team of volunteers, assists with training before camp, and leads the fundraising for the team. Camp Noah National Staff will provide the Team Leader with direction and support. A stipend is provided for serving in this position.

CAMP SITE COORDINATOR

- This volunteer oversees the event locally, recruits campers, and manages logistics including food, transportation, and housing for the Certified Volunteer Team. The Camp Site Coordinator works in partnership with Camp Noah National Staff and the Camp Team Leader to ensure a positive week of camp for all participants. A stipend is provided for serving in this position.

MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

- This volunteer is a licensed professional who is trained in providing mental health services. Their role at Camp Noah is to support campers and volunteers during the week. They may provide one-on-one support to children or volunteers, work to identify campers with specific needs, or work with the volunteers to debrief their experience. The Mental Health Professional also may make referrals for individual children after camp. A stipend is provided for serving in this position.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS & SERVICE HOURS

- We offer many opportunities for students, supporting our national office. Students with any major may be accepted, though we most often work with students studying mental health/psychology/counseling, education/youth development, and emergency/disaster management. Internships can be tailored to fit your personal needs and strengths, as well as the particular requirements of your institution.
- *Office Intern:* Group or individual internships can provide 50 hours of volunteer hours in a week and class credits. Office volunteers help with program administration, clean, pack supplies, and do inventory.
- *Intern at a camp:* You may work at a camp, including as the Camp Team Leader position listed above, with 30 plus hours of training and end-of camp work.

Opportunities for Corporations, Churches, Schools & Civic Groups

Camp Noah provides groups with a unique and meaningful opportunity to work together on a shared project for community good. Groups may come to a camp and volunteer, assist with fundraising, or help with projects in our office.

TRAVELING TO A CAMP OR VOLUNTEERING AT A LOCAL CAMP

- Camp Noah is a great way for groups to positively impact children who may not otherwise receive spiritual or emotional care following a disaster. If your group volunteers at a camp, see the individual volunteer roles on Pages 6 and 7 for how they will support Camp Noah. Volunteering at a nearby camp builds powerful connections within your team. Often groups will travel together to camp location where volunteers are needed. We work with each group to utilize its particular resources and fill in any gaps. Please contact us for additional details.

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT A CAMP

- Camp Noah is provided free of charge to children impacted by disaster and we rely largely on donations to make it successful. The cost of our camps is shared by many partners, including national, regional, and local organizations, Certified Camp Staff teams, foundations, and church partners, as well as individual donations. The cost per camp is \$25,000, so we encourage teams to contribute what they can. Contributions may include providing a building, funding, volunteers, blankets, or other items.

HOSTING A CAMP

- Often groups request that we hold a Camp Noah in their community. If your community has been impacted by disaster and you are interested in hosting a camp, please contact us.

How to Get Started Today

**READY TO HELP CAMP NOAH BUILD RESILIENCY,
RESTORE HOPE AND CHANGE LIVES? WE WOULD
LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!**

To get started please call us at 1.800.987.0061 or send us a message via our [website form](#).

A Camp Noah Staff member will soon be in touch to answer questions, help you with the application process and online training, and confirm your assignment.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

All Camp Noah volunteers, whether applying on their own or as part of a group, must: be 16 or older, pass a background check, and complete our online training.

APPLICATION PROCESS

First, each person interested in volunteering will fill out an application. A basic background check will be conducted for anyone who will be working directly with campers. Camp Noah National Staff will let you know if you are approved, and you will then complete our online training.

We work in partnership with each community in need and their unique timelines, so it could take a few weeks or months to confirm your particular camp dates and location. As soon as an assignment that fits your needs is available, we will be in touch to confirm that it works for you and discuss next steps.



Thank You!

Thank you for your interest in volunteering!

We look forward to partnering with you soon to change lives of children impacted by disaster.



CAMP NOAH

Find out more about Camp Noah

www.campnoah.org

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