



Typical Questions Prospective Nurses Ask About Working at Lions Camp

- 1. What are the benefits to working as a nurse at Wisconsin Lions camp?**

Working at Lions Camp is a tremendous learning experience in the issues and challenges faced by children and adults with special needs. Depending upon what week or weeks you are hired for, you will gain experience with children and/or adults who are blind and visually impaired, deaf and hard of hearing, diabetic, and have mild cognitive disabilities. Many of our campers have multiple disabilities or secondary disabilities such as seizure disorders, metabolic disorders, and a host of others. In addition to the experience you gain, you will work in a casual environment geared for fun and learning and get to know a lot of fantastic campers and college aged staff. You will also have full access to the beautiful 440 acre camp complete with private lake to enjoy on your off-work time.
- 2. What educational requirements and/or certifications do I need to have?**

You must be an RN, LPN, NP, or MD licensed in the state of Wisconsin who possesses a valid Wisconsin or a reciprocal-multi state nursing license. Training and/or experience in pediatrics, emergency room, urgent care, or other setting involving work with children or special needs adults is a plus but is not necessary.
- 3. How long do I have to commit to work?**

Some nurses, especially those who live locally will come in and work 1-2 shifts per week. Others come and stay for a week or more at a time, live on-site, and gain the full camp experience. Nurses may commit to one week only or for whatever period of time they want to work as long as it is approved by the Healthcare Supervisor.
- 4. What is the Salary?**

If you are hired by the week, salary rates are \$625/week for RNs, \$550/week for LPNs. Hourly rates are \$19/hour for RNs and \$17/hour for LPNs. NP and MD salaries are by individual quote only.
- 5. Can I volunteer my time?**

Absolutely! We love, welcome, and encourage volunteer health professional support.
- 6. Where will I stay?**

Nursing staff who need overnight accommodations or who are working for a week or more are generally housed in a cabin that is designated for staff only. On occasion, you may be housed in the Health Lodge or other facility. All cabins are air conditioned and have handicap accessible bathrooms and showers.
- 7. Are meals provided?**

Yes! Three meals a day are provided in our renovated, air conditioned dining facility. If you are on duty, your meal is brought to you from the kitchen.
- 8. What do I wear when I am working?**

You will be provided a Wisconsin Lions Camp shirt that is worn only on registration and departure days. Your own shorts, t-shirts, and other comfortable casual clothing is our only uniform!
- 9. Is there any special training that I have to go through?**

Nurses new to Lions Camp must go through nursing training prior to working. There is a lot to know about the camp, how it runs, our medical standing orders, our computerized database, and much more. In the early spring, the Healthcare Supervisor conducts a new nurse training weekend which you must attend prior to working. You will be notified of the dates in your interview. If you cannot attend, let us know and we will try if at all possible to provide alternate arrangements for you.
- 10. What is the staffing like in the Health Lodge? What are the usual shifts and scheduling?**

In order to handle the influx of new campers, six or more nurses are generally scheduled to work on registration days. Those days are busy and you will be scheduled to work from 11:00am – 7:00pm or later if needed. After that, each licensed nurse is scheduled to work a daily shift with a nursing assistant. Shifts are generally 7am-3:30pm and 3:00pm-10:30pm. You would be scheduled for 1 shift per day only. Day or evening shift preferences are honored as possible by the Healthcare Supervisor.

11. Is there any night call responsibilities?

If you work for a week, you will be responsible for night call on an alternating night basis. Nurses are only awakened for medical situations with which the nursing assistants need professional guidance or assistance. Otherwise, they take care of most of the minor complaints so that you may sleep!

12. Is there a physician onsite?

No. Our camp physician, Dr. William Benn, practices family medicine in Stevens Point. He is responsible for overseeing and approving our healthcare program, for approving our standing orders, and for seeing campers and staff when possible. On occasion we may have a visiting physician or a resident physician onsite. Back up medical support and advice is available to you 24 hours a day if needed through Dr. Benn or another on call physician. In addition, the Healthcare Supervisor is always on call to assist you.

13. Do we have medical protocols that we work under?

Absolutely! Nursing staff practice under standing orders updated and approved yearly by Dr. Benn.

14. Tell me about Sunday registration.

We bring in up to 160 new special needs campers each week. They generally arrive with a parent or guardian or by bus and are assigned an arrival time. Consequently, registration days are busy days that involve inputting camper medical data into the computer system, organizing and filling medications, and communicating a host of medical needs to the counseling staff about each camper. Registration generally starts about 11am and ends by 5pm with some exceptions.

15. What are Monday “health checks”?

“Health checks” are head to toe physical assessments that are conducted on each camper within 24 hours of their arrival to camp. Usually done on Mondays, these quick exams are conducted by the healthcare staff and provide us with a wealth of information about possibly infectious conditions that campers bring to camp. We also intervene to help campers with new or chronic problems that may need attention or may worsen in the camp setting.

16. What is a typical day like after Monday?

You will work your assigned shift. Medications and treatments are given at certain standard times (generally 8am, 12pm, 3:45pm, 5:00pm, and 8:00pm) and other times as needed. Campers and staff with injuries, illnesses, and other medical needs come in around the clock.

17. When do the campers go home and what are the nurse’s responsibilities at departure?

Campers go home on the assigned departure day (generally a Friday morning with a few exceptions). The nurses are responsible for ensuring that each camper goes home with all medications they brought with them to camp and that a full report is given to the parent/guardian at the time of pick up.

18. How accessible is medical and emergency care if a camper or staff member needs outside medical services?

Dr Benn practices in Stevens Point, a 25 minute drive from camp, 5 days a week and will see our patients by priority when he is in his office. On other occasions when he is not available, campers are sent to Stevens Point to St. Michael’s Hospital urgent care or emergency room. They are generally transported for care in a camp van driven by a nursing assistant or other staff member. In the event of an emergency, EMS first responders are often onsite at camp and ambulance arrival time is approximately 20 minutes.

19. Do we also take care of the camp staff?

Yes. Occupational health for our approximately 50 member summer staff is also a part of what we do.

20. Are there any other responsibilities that the nurse has at camp?

You will be required to help out in some non-nursing responsibilities at times, such as cleaning sick beds, changing linens, and throwing in a load of laundry in the Health Lodge. Your primary job, however, will be nursing care of campers and staff.

21. Can I bring pets with me to camp?

No. Personal pets are not allowed on camp property.

22. Can I bring my own children with me to camp?

Your children may attend only on special arrangement with the Healthcare Supervisor and Camp Operations Manager. Certain camp weeks have such high census that we have no room to add any additional children.