



Typical Questions Prospective Nursing Assistants Ask About Working at Lions Camp

- 1. What are the benefits to working as a nursing assistant 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. You will gain clinical experience with children and 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 at least 18 and enrolled in college or other training with a future goal of a health-related profession. A valid nursing assistant certification is a bonus but is not required. Adult and Child CPR and First Aid is required.
- 3. How long do I have to commit to working?**

The nursing assistant positions are full summer commitments that require you to live onsite all summer. The camp schedule generally works with most university and school schedules so that you can end school and get back to school on time. If there is a minor degree of scheduling conflict, accommodations can sometimes be made with the Camp Operations Manager and Healthcare Supervisor.
- 4. What is the salary?**

Nursing Assistants are paid \$300/week plus room and board. If you are a graduate nurse, you will be paid the nursing assistant salary until you pass your NCLEX exam, at which time you will be upgraded to an RN salary.
- 5. Where will I stay?**

Two full time nursing assistants live onsite in the Health Lodge and have separate private rooms. If you are working part time as a nursing assistant and part time as program staff, you will be lodged in a cabin with campers.
- 6. Are meals provided?**

Yes! Three meals a day are provided in our renovated, air conditioned dining facility. If you are on duty in the Health Lodge, your meal is brought to you from the kitchen.
- 7. 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 other uniform!
- 8. Is there any special training that I have to go through?**

You must attend the staff training week prior to the onset of camp. Dates for that week will be given to you in the interview. You will attend some sessions with the regular staff and some with the Healthcare Supervisor for specialized healthcare training.
- 9. 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 (NPs, RNs, LPNs), are generally scheduled to work on registration days. Nursing assistants are responsible for assisting with the registration process, performing head checks on camper (to check for lice) and other responsibilities as directed by the Healthcare Supervisor. Those days are busy and you will be scheduled to work from 10:00am – 9:00pm or later if needed. After that, you will be scheduled for approximately 8-10 hours work per day in the Health Lodge.
- 10. Is there any night call responsibilities?**

If you are a full time nursing assistant, you will be responsible for night call on an alternate night basis with the other nursing assistant living in the Health Lodge. This means that campers or staff who are ill or have emergency needs will contact you by telephone during the night if they need assistance. You will respond to the call and determine if the on call nurse needs to be awakened to handle the situation.

11. 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 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.

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

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

13. Will I be giving medications and other treatments?

Yes. Under the direct supervision of a licensed nurse or physician, you will have the opportunity to learn and do many new nursing skills and give medications.

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. Occasionally you will be assigned to drive a camper or staff member to the doctor or hospital for outside medical care or to drive into Stevens Point to pick up prescriptions or other medical supplies that may be needed.

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

Campers go home on the assigned departure day (generally a Friday morning with a few exceptions). The nursing staff is 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. After all campers go home, the healthcare staff is responsible for cleaning up the Health Lodge and preparing for the next week’s campers to arrive. There is also a staff meeting at the end of the day to wrap up the camp week.

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 nursing assistant has at camp?

You will be required to perform other activities such as cleaning sick beds, changing linens, and washing laundry in the Health Lodge in addition to caring for the campers. Keeping the Health Lodge clean and stocked with supplies is a team effort in the Health Lodge as well. You will also have the opportunity to do some health education activities with campers and staff as part of your job.

21. What do I do on my “off time”?

On your “off” time, playing with the kids is always encouraged. In addition, relaxing and rejuvenating so that you maintain some balance in your life is necessary to prevent errors and keep you feeling well while at camp. There are plenty of opportunities for fresh air and exercise to keep you fit.