

# FAQs for Nursing Assistants or Graduate Nurses

## 1. What are the benefits to working as a nurse assistant or graduate nurse (GN) 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 or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, have mild cognitive disabilities, and youth with diabetes. Many of our campers have multiple disabilities or secondary disabilities such as seizure disorders and metabolic disorders. 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 certifications are required.

## 3. How long do I have to commit to work?

The nursing assistant positions are full summer commitments that require you to live on-site when campers are in Camp all summer. The Camp schedule generally works with most school schedules. If there is a minor degree of scheduling conflict, accommodations can sometimes be made with the Camp Director and Healthcare Supervisor.

## 4. What is the salary?

Nursing Assistants are paid \$340/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 and have a WI nursing license, at which time you will be upgraded to an RN salary.

## 5. Where will I stay?

Four full time nursing assistants or GNs live on-site. Two are housed in private rooms in the Health Lodge and two are housed in private rooms in the crafts building.

## 6. Are meals provided?

Yes! Three meals a day are provided in our dining facility. All healthcare staff are required to eat in the dining hall unless they are taking care of an ill camper or staff.

## 7. What do I wear when I am working?

You will be provided a Wisconsin Lions Camp scrub top that is worn on Sundays and a Wisconsin Lions Camp staff shirt for departure days. Your own shorts, t-shirts, and other comfortable casual clothing is our camp uniform!

## 8. Is there any special training that I have to go through?

You must attend nursing assistant training prior to the start of staff training. You must also attend the staff training week at the beginning of Camp. 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 (LPNs, RNs, NPs), are generally scheduled to work on registration days. Nursing assistants are responsible for assisting with the registration process, performing head checks on campers (to check for lice), health checks, and other responsibilities as directed by the Healthcare Supervisor. Those days are busy and you will be scheduled to work from 10:00am – 10:00pm or later if needed. After that, you will be scheduled for approximately 8 hours work per day in the Health Lodge and 6 hours per day with campers as a unit pal.

## 10. Is there any night call responsibilities?

You will be responsible for night call on an alternate night basis with the other nursing assistants. This means that campers or staff who are ill or have emergency needs will contact you by phone or radio 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 on-site?

No. Our Camp physician is Dr. Tillotson, the emergency room director at St. Michaels Hospital in Stevens Point. He is responsible for overseeing and approving our healthcare program, for approving our Standing Orders. On occasion we may have a visiting physician or a resident physician on-site. Back up medical support and advice is available 24 hours a day if needed through Dr. Tillotson 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! Healthcare staff practice under Standing Orders updated and approved yearly by Dr. Tillotson.

**13. Tell me about Sunday registration.**

We bring in up to 150 new special needs campers each week. They generally arrive with a parent, guardian, or by bus and are assigned an arrival time. 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 around noon and ends by 5pm, with some exceptions.

**14. What are “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 Sundays, 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.

**15. What is a typical day like after Sunday?**

You will work your assigned shift. Medications and treatments are given at certain standard times (generally 8am, 12pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, and 8:30pm) 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.

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

Campers go home on the assigned departure day (Friday morning). The healthcare staff is responsible for ensuring that each camper goes home with all medications they brought 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 next week’s campers to arrive. There is also a staff meeting at the end of the day to wrap up the Camp week.

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

Campers and staff are sent to Stevens Point to St. Michael’s Hospital urgent care or emergency room. They are generally transported for care in a Camp vehicle driven by a nursing assistant. In the event of an emergency, EMS first responders are often on-site at Camp and ambulance arrival time is approximately 20 minutes.

**18. Do we also take care of the Camp staff?**

Yes. Occupational health for our seasonal summer staff (55-65 people) is also a part of our positions.

**19. 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.

**20. What do I do on my “off time”?**

On your “off” time 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.