

Volunteer Staff FAQ's

1. What are volunteer weekends?

Most of you have been involved our summer camp program but you may not even be aware that Camp Anokijig operates year-round. In the off-season we rent the camp out to different groups or to family campers - there are also times when nobody is here when we do work projects. In order to do these things we ask camp supporters and people who are interested in becoming staff to help out. This program is open to anyone 14 or older.

2. What am I going to have to do?

On weekends when we have groups or families in camp we offer most of our program areas for their use and we need your help to run them (it's basically a weekend of the "free period" activities that you are familiar with).

On weekends when there is no group in camp we do work projects (putting up tents and piers, grooming the horses, maintaining equipment, cleaning buildings, putting things away for the winter, etc).

Of course there are always dishes that need to be washed but we try to make sure that nobody has to do that too much in one weekend.

3. What's in it for me?

- * First and foremost we hope that being at Camp Anokijig is fun for everybody involved - you included! Although these weekends are busy and require work, we try to give you as much opportunity to enjoy camp as possible and include special treats whenever possible.
- * Volunteer weekends are an opportunity for you to spend time with the "camp-friends" that you have made in the past and meet new people from all over.
- * Volunteer time at camp may fulfill the service hours required by many schools (some volunteers have even received high school credit). We are always willing to work with you to meet the requirements of your school.
- * Time spent at Camp Anokijig is valuable on your transcripts. Past staff members tell us that the volunteer hours they put in at camp were a factor in being accepted to many prestigious universities, receiving scholarships, and inclusion to national merit societies.
- * Finally, volunteer weekends are an opportunity for you to learn how to work as an Anokijig staff member; this is a chance for you to show us your potential as a future member of the summer staff.

4. When are these weekends?

Volunteer weekends begin as soon a camp is over in August and run until early November; in spring we start opening up in late March and run until the beginning of summer camp in June. We also do some volunteer functions periodically over the winter.

5. How long do they last?

Most of the weekends run from about 8:00 Friday evening until about 2:00 Sunday afternoon (Monday on 3-day holiday weekends). We also have longer volunteer periods during Spring and Fall school breaks.

6. Do I have to attend the whole weekend?

No, if you can't make it here for an entire weekend, it is usually OK to attend part (depending upon how much room we have). Contact the camp management so that we know when to expect you.

7. How do I sign-up?

Let us know that you are interested in the program - once you do this, we can begin contacting you (by phone or e-mail) for volunteer weekends. There are also sign-up forms available on the Anokijig website - www.anokijig.com under the "OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP" tab.

8. Can I bring a friend?

Yes, many of our best staff members have had their first experience with Camp Anokijig on a volunteer weekend. If you want to bring a friend you will need to make arrangements with the camp management in advance (we may not have room on some weekends). Anyone under the age of 18 will need to have their parents fill out a consent to volunteer form (contact camp for one).

9. How can I get to camp?

Many of the volunteers get their own rides but we do run a free van that makes stops in Lake Forest, Gurnee, Kenosha, Racine, and the Milwaukee area (transport from Madison, Beaver Dam and Fond du Lac may be available some weekends). Volunteers from outside these areas will need to find their own transportation but we will make every effort to help arrange car-pools.

10. Where will I stay?

Whenever possible you will be staying in one of the camp-staff buildings. On some busy weekends it may be necessary to house volunteers in tents.

11. What do I need to bring?

- * A sleeping bag or blankets and pillow.
- * Your personal toiletry items and a towel.
- * Clothing that you can work in – be prepared for the possibility of getting dirty or wet - don't bring good clothing and be sure to bring spares. You will usually spend most of the day outside so dress in layers - in the Spring and Fall don't forget a warm coat, hat, and gloves. **Clothing that portrays violent messages, profanity, sexual innuendo, references to drugs or alcohol use is not appropriate for Camp Anokijig (this also applies to such things as reading material, music, and videos).**
- * A pair of close-toed shoes is required – sandals are OK for off duty time but are not safe in the work areas in camp (a spare pair of shoes “just in case” is not a bad idea).
- * Not required but handy – flashlight, raincoat, work-gloves, insect repellent, sunglasses, sunscreen.

12. Do I need to bring money?

The volunteer program in itself does not cost you anything, but we do open the Trading Post or make trips to town for munchies – this is really the only thing that you would need money for.

13. Can I bring an I-pod, cell-phone, game-boy etc?

Yes, as long as you realize that these things are for use only during your time off, that they cannot disturb our guests, and that they must comply with Camp Anokijig standards (no violent messages, profanity, sexual innuendo, references to drug or alcohol use). **Camp Anokijig cannot assume any liability for the loss or damage of any personal items.**

DO NOT BRING: tobacco products, alcohol, illicit drugs, drug paraphernalia, pornographic material, bladed weapons, fireworks, firearms or ammunition - **possession of this material can result in your permanent expulsion from the Camp Anokijig staff program**
