Camp Spark Volunteer: Camp Spark Position

Northwest Association for Blind Athletes provides life-changing opportunities through sports and physical activity to individuals who are blind and visually impaired. To learn more about our organization, visit www.nwaba.org.

Position Description

Reporting to Camp Spark leadership or a designated Camp Spark team member, Camp Spark Volunteers support campers who are blind or visually impaired through sports, recreation, mentorship, and other aspects of the camp experience.

Volunteer assignments vary based on individual skills, experience, interests, availability, and the needs of Camp Spark. Volunteers may provide general camp support, assist counselors and activity leaders, work one-on-one with campers who benefit from additional support, or contribute specialized skills such as tandem bike captaining or guide running.

Camp Spark Volunteers may serve during morning, afternoon, or full-day shifts and are an important part of creating a safe, inclusive, active, and memorable experience for campers.

Responsibilities

Depending on the volunteer's assigned role, responsibilities may include:

- Support counselors, group leaders, specialists, and other Camp Spark team members with camper activities and programming.
- Float between camper groups, activities, or program areas to provide additional support where needed.
- Provide one-on-one support to campers who may benefit from additional time, encouragement, instruction, or assistance participating in activities and camp routines.
- Assist with sports, recreation, and other Camp Spark activities through individual or small-group support.
- Serve as a tandem bike captain for campers when appropriately trained and assigned.
- Serve as a guide runner or provide other sport-specific support when appropriately trained and assigned.

- Assist campers with transitions between activities and navigation throughout the camp environment.
- Encourage camper participation, independence, confidence, and self-advocacy.
- Assist with the setup, use, transport, and care of adaptive sports and recreation equipment.
- Provide encouragement and positive mentorship to campers.
- Follow the direction of Camp Spark leadership and assigned team members.
- Communicate relevant camper needs, concerns, or safety issues promptly to the appropriate Camp Spark team member.
- Communicate respectfully and professionally with campers, families, and fellow Camp Spark team members.
- Participate in required training or orientation appropriate to the volunteer assignment.
- Complete other duties appropriate to the volunteer assignment as directed by Camp Spark leadership.

Required Expectations

- Be committed to creating a safe, welcoming, inclusive, and camper-centered environment.
- Set a positive example through respectful, responsible, and professional behavior.
- Follow Camp Spark policies, procedures, safety expectations, and standards of conduct.
- Arrive on time and remain available for the full volunteer shift or commitment selected.
- Understand that Camp Spark is an active environment and be prepared to participate in the activities associated with the assigned volunteer role.
- Be able to perform the essential functions of the assigned volunteer role, with or without reasonable accommodation.
- Follow instructions from Camp Spark leadership and communicate when additional guidance or support is needed.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries and confidentiality when working with campers.

- Demonstrate patience, flexibility, reliability, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn.
- Receive, respond to, and implement feedback professionally.
- Refrain from possessing or using alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, or illegal recreational drugs while volunteering at Camp Spark.
- Successfully complete any required screening or background checks applicable to the volunteer assignment.
- Complete any required training before participating in assigned activities.

Specialized Volunteer Assignments

Some Camp Spark volunteer opportunities require additional skills, experience, or training. These may include:

Tandem Bike Captains

- Be able to ride a bicycle safely and confidently.
- Have experience captaining a tandem bicycle or successfully complete required tandem captain training before supporting campers.
- Be able to safely follow Camp Spark cycling procedures and instructions.

Guide Runners

- Be comfortable running the distance and pace required for the assigned activity.
- Be able to learn and use appropriate guide-running techniques.
- Communicate clearly and consistently with the athlete being guided.

One-on-One Camper Support

- Be comfortable working closely with an individual camper who may benefit from additional time, encouragement, instruction, or support.
- Follow guidance from the camper's counselor, specialists, and Camp Spark leadership regarding appropriate strategies and support.
- Encourage independence and participation rather than completing tasks for the camper whenever appropriate.

Additional specialized volunteer opportunities may be available based on Camp Spark programming and annual needs.

Desired Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Experience working with children or youth is preferred but not required for all volunteer assignments.
- Experience working with individuals who are blind or visually impaired or with individuals with other disabilities is helpful but not required for all assignments.
- Experience with sports, recreation, outdoor activities, camps, education, mentoring, or youth programs is helpful.
- Experience with tandem biking, running, swimming, track and field, goalball, or other Camp Spark activities may be beneficial for specific assignments.
- Willingness to learn about blindness, visual impairment, adaptive sports, and strategies that promote camper independence.
- Current First Aid and CPR certification is helpful but not required for all volunteer assignments.

Volunteer Commitment

Camp Spark Volunteers may participate based on their availability and the needs of camp. Opportunities may include:

- **Morning shifts**
- **Afternoon shifts**
- **Full-day shifts**
- **Multiple days**
- **Specialized activity or program assignments**

Volunteers are expected to commit to the full duration of the shift or assignment for which they are scheduled.

Because volunteers may not participate in the full Camp Spark team orientation, additional role-specific training or orientation may be required before beginning a volunteer assignment.

Specific volunteer opportunities, schedules, arrival instructions, training requirements, and other logistics will be communicated before the volunteer's scheduled service.

Compensation and Support

- Camp Spark Volunteer positions are unpaid.

- Training and support appropriate to the volunteer's assignment will be provided.
- Meals may be provided when appropriate based on the volunteer's scheduled shift and Camp Spark arrangements.
- Any applicable travel or mileage reimbursement information will be communicated before the volunteer assignment.

Application

- Complete the Camp Spark volunteer application or registration.
- Identify areas of interest, relevant experience, skills, and availability.
- Complete any required screening or background checks based on the volunteer assignment.
- Complete required orientation or role-specific training before volunteering.
- Additional information or a conversation with Camp Spark leadership may be required for specialized volunteer assignments.

Questions: Camp Spark Team, campspark@nwaba.org