

SHOW UP.
SPARK POSSIBILITY.

VOLUNTEER AT IGNITE FAMILY WHEELCHAIR CAMP

Find your place at camp

Your step-by-step guide to getting started

THE VOLUNTEER EDITION

chrisnortonfoundation.org

CHRIS NORTON FOUNDATION

WELCOME TO IGNITE

Bring your week to life

Friendship is at the heart of the camp experience. Your presence helps make it possible.



At Ignite Family Wheelchair Camp, volunteers welcome families, prepare activities, support participation, and help relationships grow. The activities create opportunities to connect. The conversations, shared meals, games, and everyday moments help people feel they belong.

Camp is for the whole family. Parents, caregivers, siblings, and the person who uses a wheelchair are all valued members of the Ignite community. Your assignment may look different from someone else's, but every role helps create a safe, respectful, welcoming week.

WHAT YOU BRING

Dependability. A willingness to listen. Patience when plans change. Encouragement that respects a person's choices. You do not need to know every answer; you do need to ask for guidance and follow through on your responsibilities.

WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD EXPERIENCE

A warm welcome, clear information, accessible opportunities, respect for privacy, and support without assumptions. Help create room for adventure, friendship, laughter, and rest without pressuring anyone to participate.

INSIDE YOUR VOLUNTEER EDITION

02 Find your role

03 Know the commitment and costs

04 Apply and complete screening

05 Complete forms and prepare

06 Arrive and settle in

This magazine introduces the opportunity and key expectations from the CN Volunteer Playbook 2026. It complements the full playbook, required training, and your session confirmation packet; read all three before serving.

FIND YOUR ROLE

Where will you connect

The camp team matches assignments to camp needs, qualifications, availability, and completed requirements.



CAMPFIRE BUDDIES

Be a consistent, positive presence for assigned campers or families. Learn names and interests, attend scheduled gatherings, support transitions, and encourage participation without pressure. Great buddies listen well, remain patient, work with the team, and commit to the full week.

FAMILY HOSTS

Help families feel welcomed, informed, and connected. Greet arrivals, explain locations and schedules, help families become familiar with camp, and connect questions with the right leader. Include parents, caregivers, and siblings without intruding on private family time.

ACTIVITY SUPPORT

Prepare supplies and activity spaces, keep accessible paths clear, support participant flow, and help return equipment. Learn the safety rules and follow the trained activity leader's instructions. Report damaged equipment, shortages, or concerns.

HOSPITALITY AND BEHIND THE SCENES

Registration, dining, transportation flow, signage, supplies, and facility readiness help camp run smoothly. Technology and media roles support approved communications and camp systems. Only authorized volunteers may photograph, record, publish, or share camp content.

QUALIFIED SPECIALIST ROLES

Medical, accessibility, and mobility support assignments depend on credentials, training, and authorization. General volunteers do not diagnose, provide treatment, administer medication, transfer participants, or operate mobility equipment unless specifically authorized and trained for the assignment.

EVERY VOLUNTEER SHOULD KNOW who supervises the role, where to report, how to raise a concern, who can change an assignment, and who leads during an emergency.

BEFORE YOU COMMIT

A full week of showing up

Consistency helps relationships grow and gives families and teammates someone they can count on.



PLAN FOR THE ENTIRE SESSION

Volunteers are asked to attend camp for the full week. Consistent participation reduces disruptions, supports staffing and communication, and strengthens relationships. Discuss any availability concern before accepting an assignment.

UNDERSTAND THE FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Volunteer tuition is $500, with a separate $10 application fee per person. The application fee does not count toward tuition. Tuition covers volunteer camp expenses and partially contributes to a camper's expenses so campers can attend at no cost.

Confirm the fees for your upcoming session, payment instructions, and payment deadlines with the camp team before applying or paying. Ask about any questions concerning payment; this magazine does not establish payment or refund terms.

$500 VOLUNTEER TUITION

$10 SEPARATE APPLICATION FEE per person

KNOW WHERE YOU WILL STAY

Volunteer lodging includes air-conditioned, gender-specific cabins with bunk beds and shared bathrooms. Arrangements may vary by site and assignment. Confirm what bedding and personal items you need to bring, meal arrangements, and any accommodation needs before travel.

CONFIRM THE SESSION BEFORE BOOKING TRAVEL

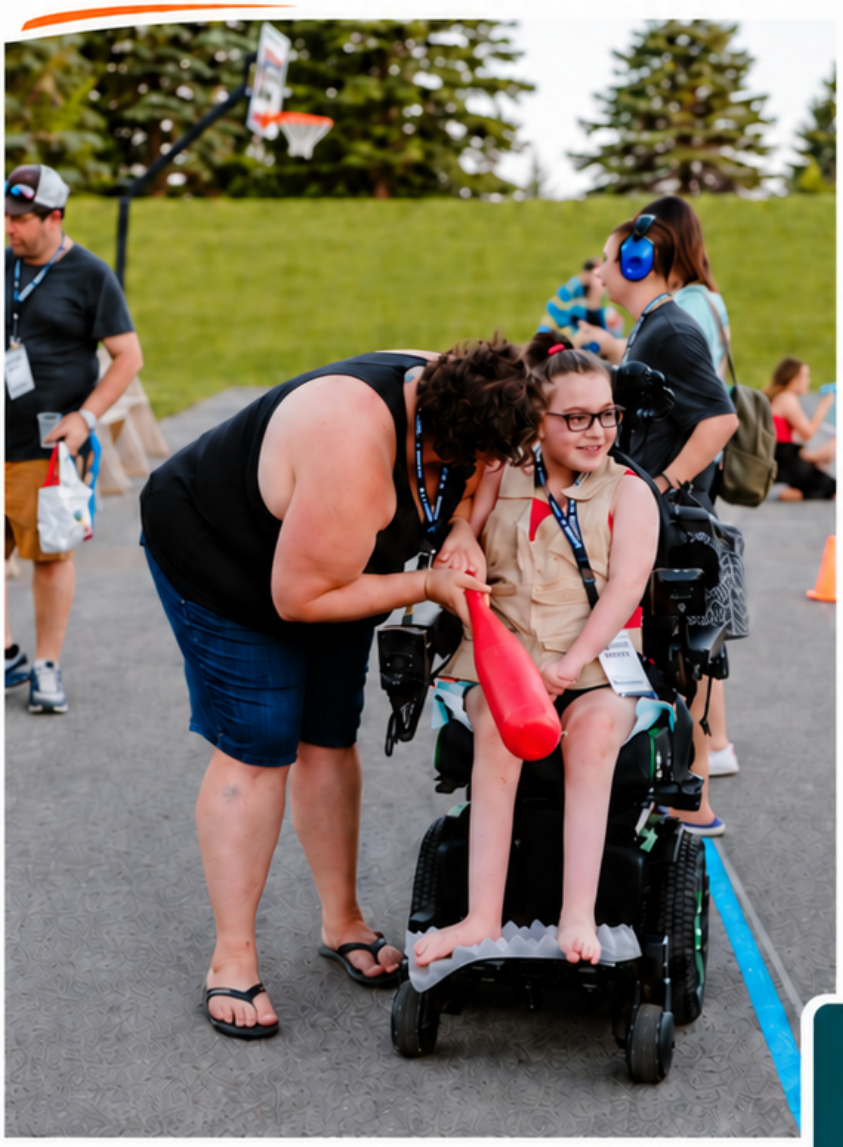
Request the current dates, location, volunteer arrival and departure times, training schedule, lodging information, and role expectations. Use your session confirmation packet for the final camp address, lodging information, and travel details.

YOUR PLANNING CHECKLIST: full-week availability, current fees, travel responsibilities, lodging, meals, required training, and any support you need to participate.

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS

Apply and meet the team

Start with the current online volunteer application and complete each instruction by its deadline.



01 FILL OUT APPLICATION

Go to **https://chrisnortonfoundation.org/volunteer**

Review eligibility, dates, requirements, and the separate application fee before submitting.

02 TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Complete the application honestly and accurately. Share your availability, interests, relevant experience, and qualifications. Ask reference contacts for permission before listing them, and let the team know about accommodations or schedule concerns early.

03 PARTICIPATE IN FOLLOW UP

The camp team reviews your experience, interests, and availability. An interview or follow-up conversation may be requested, and reference checks may be required. Ask about the work, supervision, and expectations so you can make an informed commitment.

04 COMPLETE BACKGROUND SCREENING

Follow the designated screening process and provide the required authorization. Submit sensitive information through the approved process. Respond to requests for missing information and complete all requirements by the stated deadlines.

APPLY ONLINE AT
https://chrisnortonfoundation.org/volunteer

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Submitting an application does not guarantee placement. Assignments depend on camp needs, qualifications, availability, successful screening, and completed requirements. Wait for the team's written instructions and confirmation before assuming you have an assignment.

Save your coordinator's contact information and check your inbox regularly. Tell the team promptly if your availability changes or you decide to withdraw.

FROM APPLICATION TO READINESS

Prepare with confidence



The camp team provides instructions. Your part is to complete them, ask questions, and keep the team informed.



05 COMPLETE THE REQUIRED FORMS

Documents may include the volunteer application, background-check authorization, emergency contact, health or accommodation information, liability waiver, confidentiality agreement, media release, code of conduct, transportation authorization when applicable, and volunteer acknowledgment. Follow the checklist sent for your assignment.

06 COMPLETE TRAINING AND ORIENTATION

Training may cover the Foundation mission, roles and communication, disability awareness, participant-directed assistance, boundaries, privacy and media, emergency and incident procedures, reporting responsibilities, activity safety, host-site rules, and daily operations. Attend required sessions and ask whenever an expectation is unclear.

07 CONFIRM YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Review the confirmation packet outlining your role and camp specifics. Confirm the session, supervisor, reporting location, arrival time, departure time, and remaining requirements. Ask how the $500 tuition listed in the playbook applies to your session and when payment is due.

08 MAKE YOUR ARRIVAL PLAN

Read the packet before traveling. Save the camp address, arrival contact, and schedule. Confirm lodging and meals, arrange travel as instructed, and pack for the actual site and assigned activities. Notify leadership immediately if delays will affect your arrival.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

Have your forms, screening, training, assignment, and any required payment completed or resolved according to the team's instructions. Confirm you are approved to serve. Bring your questions to the coordinator before departure.

BE PART OF OUR STORY

Your next chapter starts here.

Bring your encouragement.
Build real friendships.
Help families experience a week of belonging, adventure, and possibility.





READY TO APPLY?

01 START ONLINE

Visit chrisnortonfoundation.org/volunteer. Review current dates, eligibility, full-week expectations, requirements, and fees before applying.

02 SHARE YOUR STORY

Complete the application with your availability, interests, experience, and qualifications. Follow the instructions for screening and required forms.

03 CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM

A Foundation representative will contact you about orientation and training, next steps, and any remaining requirements. Check your inbox and respond promptly. Wait for written confirmation before making final camp plans.

OUR MISSION

Empowering everyone to live life without limits.

The Chris Norton Foundation helps individuals living with spinal cord injuries and mobility disabilities, and the families beside them, experience connection, independence, and hope through Ignite Family Wheelchair Camp and grants for equipment and therapies.

The Chris Norton Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

LET'S CONNECT

Matthew Van Dixon
Director of Development & Programs
Matthew@chrisnortonfoundation.org
Chris Norton Foundation
2003 14th St SW • Altoona, IA 50009
chrisnortonfoundation.org

YOU HAVE A PLACE IN THIS STORY.

Your time, dependability, and willingness to connect can help make camp unforgettable. Take the first step today.

We look forward to connecting with you soon!

APPLY TO VOLUNTEER

chrisnortonfoundation.org/volunteer

Learn more: chrisnortonfoundation.org