



Physical Environmental Activities for Knowledge and Skills (PEAKS) Camp 2019 Volunteer Staff Application

TNOYS is seeking qualified volunteers for our 2019 PEAKS Adventure program. Specifically, TNOYS is seeking qualified volunteers to support a PEAKS camp program that will be offered at Camp Young Judaea in Wimberley, TX from March 9th through March 12th for youth in the state foster care system.

PEAKS is a therapeutic, experiential camp that provides opportunities for youth to learn important life skills, build resiliency, and enhance their feelings of self-worth. Youth attend camp with an adult sponsor, such as a CPS caseworker, who also benefits from professional skill-building and an experience that transforms the way they view working with youth.

For more than thirty years, TNOYS has relied on the time and talent of dedicated volunteers to provide this life-changing experience for campers. These volunteers help lead both the planning and facilitation of camp programming.

To volunteer in 2019 and support the PEAKS legacy, please submit this application and your resume to events@tnoys.org by Friday, December 21, 2018.

PEAKS Volunteer Qualifications:

- Must be at least 21 years of age (for peer leader positions, please see separate application).
- Must have relevant experience in experiential learning, recreation, and/or social services.
- Must be able to pass Criminal History and Child Abuse and Neglect background checks.
- Must participate in Virtual Meeting on Jan. 18th or watch recording by Feb. 8th, 2019.
- Must participate in one in-person training workshop or meeting. Options include Feb. 2nd and Feb. 23rd in Austin and Feb. 9th in Houston. (CEUs provided for social workers and LPCs.)
- Must be available to attend camp from March 9th through 12th, 2019.
- Must have the following personal qualities, which are critical for facilitating a strong PEAKS camp program: playful; high energy, endurance, and enthusiasm; commitment to and respect for youth; responsible and professional; sensitive and perceptive; supportive and encouraging; sense of humor and ability to laugh at oneself; positive attitude.

Other PEAKS Volunteer Expectations:

- Help create a positive, nurturing, non-judgmental environment
- Emphasize fun and play in a highly structured setting
- Present oneself as high energy, highly visible, and a strong role model
- Make the most of every opportunity to build the self-esteem of all participants
- Put aside personal beliefs that might interfere with camp goals
- Help provide and maintain an even platform for youth and adult campers



Stipends for PEAKS Volunteers:

TNOYS' PEAKS Camp program would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of our PEAKS volunteers. In recognition of the value of our volunteers' time and talent, and the expenses that volunteers may incur in order to plan and facilitate PEAKS, TNOYS offers modest stipends when funding permits. Those stipends are outlined, along with camp volunteer roles, on the following page. Please note that those who staff camp through an employer, such as the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, are not eligible for a stipend.

PEAKS Roles, Responsibilities, Expectations, and 2019 Compensation:

Group Leaders:

Group leaders co-lead a group of 15-20 campers through a highly structured camp experience. Group leaders are responsible for facilitating team building activities and leading group processing after each activity. This requires a combination of cheerleading, troubleshooting, initiative, confidence, a high level of physical stamina, and the ability to bring out these qualities in group members. Group leaders are expected to stay overnight for the entirety of camp. **2019 Group Leader stipend is \$400.**

Activity Leaders:

Activity Leaders are expected to lead group of 15-20 campers in a specific PEAKS activity. Activities are generally scheduled over a 2-3 day period and typically last 1.5 to 3 hours in length for each of four groups. Activity leaders will be given curriculum guidance and materials but will be expected to incorporate their own experience and adapt the curriculum as they see fit. Examples of activities include canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, tie dye, creative writing, and ropes course (low and high). Activity leaders must be able to demonstrate experience with the activity they apply to lead. Activity leaders are not required to stay overnight for the duration of camp but it is encouraged. **2019 Activity Leader stipend is \$250.**

Camp Director:

The Camp Director is responsible for overseeing the facilitation of camp. This includes working in partnership with TNOYS staff and volunteers prior to camp and on site. The camp director must have experience in a group leader or activity leader role at a past camp. The camp director must also be available to attend both in-person camp training meetings in Austin and for several phone calls or meetings with TNOYS staff prior to camp. The camp director will be responsible for working with TNOYS to ensure that all of the needed supplies will be available at camp. **2019 Camp Director stipend is \$700.**

If there are openings available, are you interested in, and qualified for, serving in the following roles for the 2019 TNOYS PEAKS Camp:

Group Leader: _____ Yes _____ No Camp Director or Co-Director: _____ Yes _____ No

Activity Leader: _____ Yes _____ No; if yes, activity(ies): _____



Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Current Employer: _____

Employer Address: _____

Position: _____ Supervisor Name: _____

Supervisor Phone: _____ May we contact supervisor for a reference? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you meet the PEAKS volunteer requirements and expectations? _____ Yes _____ No

Have you volunteered for TNOYS' PEAKS Camp program in the past? _____ Yes _____ No

Please add anything you would like to share regarding your interest or qualifications for volunteering for PEAKS camp that is not already included on this application or your resume:

Please list three professional and/or personal references:

1. Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Relationship: _____

2. Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Relationship: _____

3. Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Relationship: _____