



## Physical Environmental Activities for Knowledge and Skills (PEAKS) Youth Empowerment Camp

### 2020 Volunteer Staff Application

TNOYS is seeking qualified volunteers for our 2020 PEAKS Youth Empowerment Camp program that will be offered at Stoney Creek Ranch in New Ulm, TX  
March 14<sup>th</sup> to March 17<sup>th</sup>

The PEAKS Empowerment Camp incorporates typical camp experiences such as ropes courses, swimming and water activities, creative arts and drama, nature hikes, canoeing, and archery with daily group processing activities and journal writing to help the participants appreciate the emotional impact of the daily activities and overall experience. The groups work together to promote team building, trust and relationships and develop a strong collective identity through shared challenges and achievements.

#### What makes PEAKS unique?

1. The PEAKS curriculum is based on research on youth development and experiential learning and draws from established theories on adventure-based counseling, group therapy, and youth-adult partnerships.
2. PEAKS camp continues a 30-year legacy of volunteer staff commitment and support. PEAKS is staffed by trained, experienced, and talented individuals with a variety of different backgrounds and youth services experience with a passion for the PEAKS model and for changing the lives of young people.
3. The positive PEAKS camp atmosphere fosters trust, self-reliance, youth/adult partnerships, and constant self-examination.
4. PEAKS is designed based on the belief that opportunities for structured experiential learning and positive interaction help develop skills that can be applied to daily life and ultimately improve life outcomes.
5. PEAKS is designed for young people who may lack other important developmental opportunities and a sense of normalcy. More often than not, PEAKS is the first and only camp young people will attend. Youth in foster care especially often miss opportunities that promote development, including extra-curricular activities, meaningful friendships, and life milestones.
6. Adult participants (mentors) receive in-depth hands-on training while attending camp. Through PEAKS, TNOYS couples training services with a direct service program for young people.

**We need you!** 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 2020 and support the PEAKS legacy, please submit this application and your resume to [support@tnoys.org](mailto:support@tnoys.org) by Friday, January 10, 2020.**

**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 Webinar Meeting on Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> or watch recording prior to Jan 31<sup>th</sup>
- Must participate in one in-person training workshop or meeting. Options include Feb. 1st in Austin and Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> in Houston. 11-3pm (CEUs provided for social workers and LPCs.)
- Must be available to attend entire PEAKS session, Mar 14-17
- 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

**PEAKS Roles, Responsibilities, Expectations:**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. CEUs Available

Activity Leaders:

Activity Leaders are expected to lead group of 15-20 campers in a specific PEAKS activity. Activities are generally scheduled over a 1-2day period and typically last 1 to 2 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, 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. CEUs Available

**Physical Environmental Activities for Knowledge and Skills (PEAKS)  
Youth Empowerment Camp**

**2020 Volunteer Staff Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Have you previously volunteered for PEAKS Camp? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No If yes, When? \_\_\_\_\_

You are interested in serving in the following roles for 2020 PEAKS Camp:

Group Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Activity Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Specify activity preference: \_\_\_\_\_

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:

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Please list three professional and/or personal references:

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_