

FAQs

What should I know before working at camp? Am I adequately prepared?

Your nursing knowledge provides a solid base. Then ask the camp director to show you last year's Health Center log. You'll see why people sought healthcare. Can you handle those things? Consider brushing up on topics such as first aid, asthma care, and allergy management (including anaphylaxis response).

What orientation will the camp provide?

This is a great question to ask prospective camp directors! You'll need information such as the camp schedule and how it interfaces with Health Center practices, when and how to conduct Opening Day screening, how medications are handled, and what's your responsibility with parent communication.

What's the Health Center Like?

The Health Center should provide an office area, an exam area, storage, a bathroom, and beds for campers/staff who may need to lay down. Ask to see an inventory of the medications and supplies kept in the Health Center, and ask about communication – is there a phone? How about a computer with internet access?

What are camp nurses typically paid? What other benefits are there?

Camp nurse jobs vary; some are volunteer positions and others have a salary. You generally will not make a lot of money being a camp nurse but you may benefit in other ways. For example, some camps allow the nurse's child(ren) to attend tuition free or at a staff discount. Some camps will provide the nurse with a membership in the Association of Camp Nurses (ACN). Like other camp staff, the nurse also has "time off." Ask prospective employers about the nurse's benefits package.

How hard does a camp nurse work?

Sometimes – like Opening Day – the nurse is really busy. And then there are other days when you wonder where everyone went. If a camp has thorough policies and a strong risk management program, the nurse's day is typically quite manageable – and fun! Go to camp with time management skills.

Who can I talk to when I have questions?

Your camp director is typically the go-to person for questions. ACN members can also call the ACN office (502-232-2945). Sometimes there are nurses at near-by camps who can be a resource too!

