

VOLUNTEERING AS A NURSE, DOCTOR OR PARAMEDIC



Who are we?

Over The Wall is a UK charity, and part of the SeriousFun Children's Network. Paul Newman started the first camp in the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps in Connecticut, USA in 1988. Over the years, he expanded that vision by helping to establish camps in all over the world. To date, these camps have served over 100,000 children with chronic and life-threatening illness from 31 countries, and Paul Newman's vision lives on in the SeriousFun Children's Network. Over The Wall provides these children and their families with an empowering, renewing experience completely free of charge, at sites in England and Scotland. There are weeklong programs in the summer for children age 8-17 years, as well as weekend camps for the entire family.

Having a dynamic, experienced team of medical professionals at camp provides peace of mind to the campers and families who attend so they can enjoy the experience to the fullest.

Who do we need?

We need the help of nurses (child, adult and learning disabilities) and doctors (paediatricians, GPs, A&E) and paramedics who are registered to practice with the relevant professional body, and have indemnity insurance. You do not need to be an expert in a particular medical condition to participate.

Who are our campers?

We accept children aged 8 to 17, with a huge range of serious illnesses; from diabetes to cancer, from epilepsy to arthritis. To date, we have served campers with over 100 diagnoses.

What is my role?

Camp could not happen without the generosity of nurses and doctors giving up their time to be on the 'Beach Patrol', our camp medical team. The Beach Patrol's role is giving 'home away from home' care which normally involves giving medications, overnight NG/PEG feeds, dressing changes, blood sugar monitoring etc. (You don't need to know how to do all of these things before you come...we will teach you!) And when we aren't busy with that, we can join our group for activities like swimming, kayaking, fishing, climbing, drama... Some of our campers may never have had the chance to do these things because of their illness.

Who will I be working with?

Each team will include a combination of returning Beach Patrol volunteers, and first timers. For Serious Illness camp, we usually have a team of 10 (generally 4 doctors and 6 nurses) for 50-60 campers. For Sibling camp, we have 3 Beach Patrol volunteers for around 60 children. The OTW Nursing Director or Nursing Co-ordinator will attend camp to provide leadership and guidance.

“The single most rewarding experience of my life.”

-a doctor talking about his first camp

What is the commitment?

Serious Illness camp lasts 7 days, Sibling camp lasts 6 days and Family camp lasts 3 days. In order to give continuity to our campers and ensure there is enough time to prepare for campers arriving, we ask that you commit to a full session and we cannot accept late arrivals.

Is there an orientation?

For summer sessions, nurses and doctors arrival 2 days before campers for orientation. You will also receive a handbook via email 6 weeks prior to your session.

How do I get to camp?

We will reimburse reasonable public transport expenses or mileage (at public transport rate) by prior negotiation. Unfortunately we cannot pay for taxis.

What do I wear?

Comfortable/casual clothes and footwear! You will be provided with Over The Wall t-shirts, which you will need to wear at all times.

Where will I sleep at camp? What about meals?

Beach Patrol volunteers usually have their own room or share with other Beach Patrol volunteers in dormitory style accommodation. All meals are provided. There are vegetarian options available at each meal, and we can cater for special diets by prior arrangement.