



Sibshops Volunteer Position Description

Care Partners Mission:

Care Partners lends a hand when a child's medical journey leads to University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital and its Journey Clinic. Care Partners is a volunteer-driven, quality-of-life program that provides non-medical support to families and patients being treated for pediatric blood and marrow transplantation, pediatric cancers, and blood diseases.

Purpose of Sibshops Volunteer Role:

Volunteers provide assistance to Sibshops facilitators in running the Saturday Sibshops events. Sibshops events celebrate the siblings of children with healthcare needs, using a lively format of activities, crafts, games, special guests and fieldtrips. Events recognize the contributions made by brothers and sisters of kids with special medical needs and provide siblings opportunities for peer support. Brothers and sisters get a chance to meet other siblings, discuss joys and concerns with their peers, learn how to handle common experiences, learn more about what it means to be a sibling of someone with special medical needs and also share a meal with other kids to grow social skills. Volunteers provide assistance under the direction of the Sibshops-Certified Child Family Life staff, who lead the event.

Responsibilities:

1. Provide assistance to Sibshops facilitators in running activities, such as active games, art projects, and group mixers.
2. Provide 1:1 support for participants who need extra help or are having a difficult time staying focused in the group.
3. Arrive promptly to Sibshops events – no later than 8:30 am, so staff can discuss the plan for the day and assign particular tasks.
4. Arrive energized and ready for an action-packed morning of playing with, encouraging, and empowering Sibshops participants.
5. Practice one of UMMCH's guiding principles to "embrace the spirit of children" by engaging with children in a playful, friendly, and creative manner.
6. Stay engaged and maintain your awareness with the group and activities. You are an important piece of the Sibshops group and should always model what the kids should be doing.
7. For everyone's safety and protection stay with the "whole group." Never put yourself in a situation where you are alone with a child.
8. Feel free to give High Fives or Fist bumps, but refrain from holding a child, picking a child up, or having a child sit in your lap.
9. Model Sibshops PACT behaviors: Be respectful – Confidentiality – Have fun
10. Communicate thoughts and ideas to the Sibshops leaders at the end of the session or via email.

Qualifications:

A successful volunteer will have/be:

1. Cheerful, positive attitude.
2. Comfortable and confident with children.
3. Good communication and problem solving skills in order to relate to families who are under stressful and emotional situations.
4. Accepting of diverse lifestyles, cultures, and values.
5. Ability to appreciate constructive support and supervision.
6. Ability to maintain confidentiality
7. Understand and follow safety and infection control procedures.
8. Maintain appropriate personal and professional boundaries.
9. Act independently, yet work as part of team.
10. Self-motivated.

Sibshops Volunteers must be 21 years of age or older, with preference given to applicants who have a child development background or previous experience with children.

Commitments:

1. Complete online training, 1:1 training with Care Partners staff and shadow/hands-on training with Child Family Life Staff during a Sibshops event.
2. Commit to at least one year of assisting with Sibshops events.
3. Maintain program requirements for immunizations and required learning.

Training:

Provided by Care Partners staff and Child Family Life Staff

Supervisory Plan:

Will report to Care Partners staff regarding volunteer policies or questions.

Will report to Child Family Life specialist for questions regarding Sibshops events.

I have participated in Care Partners Orientation and Training, read the training manual and am responsible for the contents contained therein.

I accept any risks associated with volunteering at University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital.

It is my intention to volunteer and meet or exceed all standards and expectations outlined in training and orientation and as stated in the position description.

Volunteer _____ Date _____