



# BE A SUMMER CAMP BUDDY

The Hamilton Area YMCA Summer Day Camp is **looking for volunteers for our Diverse Abilities Summer Camp**. Being a Buddy is a **great way to give back, make a positive impact** on someone's life, and **experience being a part of something special**.

## WHAT IS THE BUDDY PROGRAM?

The Buddy Program is designed to give selected individuals (minimum age of 13 or entering 8th grade) the opportunity to develop leadership skills and to experience the joy of helping others in need. The Buddy Program is for those students who are seriously interested in helping individuals with disabilities. The program consists of group training, weekly buddy wrap-up meetings, and hands on experience, under the supervision of a YMCA staff person, with a small group of campers that have disabilities. Maturity and a sincere desire to work with children are essential. Space is limited to the amount of Campers with diverse abilities who have registered. Participation in this program does not guarantee being hired as staff in the future. Volunteers can also earn hours for high school and college.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE CAMP BUDDY?

- The Camp Buddy is not a counselor. They will assist in daily activities with their assigned group and/or camper.
- The Camp Buddy will assist campers with activities such as: active games, water games, swimming, and crafts.
- The Camp Buddy will stay with their assigned group for the duration of the day/week unless assigned to another group by the Diverse Abilities Camp Coordinator.
- The Camp Buddy will not be responsible for any assistance needed in the restroom, feeding, and will not ever be alone with a camper(s).
- Camp Buddies that will be utilizing the bus will serve as bus aides and will sit with, or near, the campers (space may be limited on the bus).

## THE COMMITMENT

We are looking for Buddies that are available from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for one (or more) of the following weeks:

- June 27 – July 1
- July 5 – July 8
- August 15 – August 19
- August 22 – August 26

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ryan Young at [ryanyoung@hamiltonymca.org](mailto:ryanyoung@hamiltonymca.org).

