



INFORMATION FOR AIDES

Thank you for assisting a student at ECOS Institute. This is an exciting opportunity for both of you to enjoy the outdoors and participate in the academic and recreational activities. The student's abilities will dictate the amount of assistance needed. Please review the expectations before you arrive to prepare yourself for a successful week.

Students are involved in activities from 6:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Students in wheelchairs, students who need assistance with eating, showering, dressing, etc., and students who have a full time aide at school will need an aide at ECOS Institute. If a student requires a high degree of assistance, more than one aide may be necessary. Students with special emotional needs, or that require behavior intervention, may also need an aide.

ECOS Institute staff are not certified to work with all special needs students and should not assist in areas such as pushing wheelchairs or assisting with bathing and personal hygiene.

Your duties on site:

- Meet with the student's instructor as soon as possible upon arrival to discuss the student's behavior and ECOS needs and expectations.
- Meet with ECOS Healthcare upon arrival to discuss any medical needs.
- Push the wheelchair (if used by the student).
- Assist the student with moving luggage, during cabin move-in, setting up bunk, clean-up, move-out, etc.
- Accompany and assist the student on all trails, hikes, and activities, including pushing the wheelchair (if used by the student).
- Assist during cabin time when playing games, working on skits, etc., as per instructor request.
- Sit at the table with the student during the first meal to assist the student. At subsequent meals, sit with or near the student, depending on amount of assistance your student requires when eating.
- Help the student with self-care skills (e.g., dressing, showering, personal hygiene, or moving about the cabin). This includes:
 - Bedtime from 8:30-9:00pm
 - Morning wake-up/shower time from 6:30-7:25am
- Though rare, overnight 1-1 supervision may be required. If so, you will sleep in the cabin with you student. If necessary, you and your student can be assigned to separate quarters, away from the other students.

ECOS Institute staff will:

- Provide science instruction.
- Select activities and games which include the student in the group as much as possible.
- Establish and implement behavior guidelines and safety policies.

You will need to provide yourself with an appropriate amount of rest and relaxation. Coordinate with the program director to find appropriate times for your own showers, breaks, etc. Typically, break times may include:

- During songs or Journal Time after trails.
- During rest time, after lunch.
- During the Astronomy and Night Hike introductions.
- During morning programs before breakfast.
- Any time your student's Instructor feels comfortable in camp without you (please ask the Instructor).
- Any time another aide or teacher assumes your supervision duties.