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Counselors needed to make kids happy campers

PHILADELPHIA -- Are you interested in putting your special talents to good use at a summer camp in the Pocono Mountains? The Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is searching for volunteers who are eager to participate as counselors in an end-of-summer sleep away program at Camp Akiba for children aged 7 through 14 with sickle cell disease.



Sickle cell is a serious, chronic disease of the blood that can result in painful episodes, infection, and in rare instances, stroke. This disease can limit the children's ability to enjoy the pleasures of childhood such as camping without the proper medical supervision. This camp allows the children to have a safe, fun and memorable outdoor experience in an atmosphere of comfort and support.

Camp facilities and equipment are donated annually by Howard and Susan Gordon, the owners of Camp Akiba. Other expenses are met by donations in kind from area merchants.

Medical training is not necessary for participation. An on-site infirmary will handle any medical emergencies that may occur. The camp will be supervised by several members of the Children's Hospital staff, including Kwaku Ohene-Frempong, M.D., Director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center. Volunteers will undergo training to learn more about sickle cell disease and supervising the children, but will mainly act as instructors, friends and mentors to the nearly 100 children who will participate.

If you enjoy working with children and would like to learn more about this camp, please call Charles Adams, MSW, Social Worker, at (215) 590-4164.