

Adult Volunteer Guide



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Welcome to IAWAH!

We're excited that you have chosen to spend some time with us this season. Being an adult volunteer poses unique challenges and opportunities. Once you've read this guide we hope you will be better prepared, as you seek to serve God at IAWAH along side our staff team. Take a moment to read over this material, there are a lot of good nuggets of wisdom in it, that will help you begin to prepare for your time with us.

Why Do We Seek Out Adult Volunteers?

There are many reasons why adult volunteers are important to IAWAH; here are a few main ones.

- There are some jobs that 17-24 year olds are just not qualified for (like driving campers places).
- Adults bring wisdom and a parental feel to a week at IAWAH
- Adults have developed certain skills that make them very valuable (wood working, construction, public speaking, teaching highly specialized programs, being a parental figure)
- Adults have a different perspective on life, Christianity and why IAWAH is important

Roles that Adult Volunteers Fulfil

Storyteller (speaker)
Bible Study leaders (for staff and YDLP)
Food Service
Maintenance (lawn mowing, construction and renovation projects etc.)
Activity Instructors
Jump Start Directors
Cabin Leaders
Transportation needs
Registration and De-registration help
Medical Staff
Bridge Camp Staff
Cleaners
Sewing projects (usually done at home)
Woodworking project (usually done at home)



Story Tellers and Bible Study Leaders: Your main role is to explore God's truths using the Biblical tools of storytelling. This should be done through interactive methods, as well as reading/telling good old stories straight from the Bible. Be careful though not to gloss over the humanity of the characters. Tell it like it was! ie. David was a great king but he was human too... He sinned like the rest of us; one of his sins was adultery.

Be flexible in the way you tell stories, altering them for the audience, time of day and size of group.

You will be interacting with the campers in large groups, medium groups (villages), small groups (cabins) and individually. Camp is a setting where relationships are intensified and spirituality is incubated. Being part of the staff/volunteer team that interacts directly with the campers is a huge responsibility... We work hard to help campers grow organically, in spite of the setting. We don't push denominational

views, or capitalize on their emotions or tired state. We're not looking for mountain top experiences, we're looking for escalator moments. It is not our intention to cultivate a bunch of campers who feel that they can only interact with God, while in the greenhouse of Camp IAWAH. We want to give them the tools to be Jesus followers, wherever they are... not IAWAH followers. This means that we tend to shy away from "alter call" type moments; instead we train our staff to help campers on an individual basis to understand what is being said in PrimeTime. This helps campers take steps towards or alongside Jesus at a comfortable pace for them, without peer pressure, or the emotions of the moment affecting them.



Your secondary role is to interact with the campers during their activities, meals etc. Working in conjunction with the program director and DONs to make camp an even better place to be, filled with memories and encounters with Jesus.

Key moments include:

- how you introduce yourself - be authentic and connect your story as best you can to your audience;
- how you handle mis-behaviour - others are watching and will take their cues from how you treat their friends/other campers;
- what you do with Scripture - your respect or disrespect for Truth will be evident quickly including the more difficult parts of Scripture. Does the Word of God stand whether you understand it or not? Or, do you disregard Scripture that you don't "get" and pass it off as not important because you don't understand it? When you don't know - admit it! Children and youth today are seeking identity and belonging first and foremost - not polished theology.
- how you handle the "decision factor" - it is clear from Scripture that there is "belief" and "unbelief". Different denominations have different language around being a Believer in Jesus and living under the grace and forgiveness of God. Your "exclusiveness" of being a Christian is found in the centrality of Jesus the Messiah - "I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me." Moments of decision occur and we celebrate that! Not all Believers are able to articulate a singular moment of belief - don't judge their status before God based on this exclusive moment. The ability to believe and have faith comes from God, not you or I. Be careful to not cross the line into emotional or spiritual "abuse". Avoid threats, talking down about other religions and making campers feel excluded.
- the time you spend with campers outside of Prime Time and the formal story telling/teaching times.
- your own relationship with God - your ability to hear and obey the voice of God and respond to the leading of the Spirit is critical.

Note: Storytellers are the main large group communicator for campers. Bible Study leaders are teachers for smaller groups of YDLP (CREW and ROOTs) and staff.

Food Service Volunteers

Your main role is to serve at IAWAH through the preparation of food in the kitchen. You will be guided by a cook and/or a kitchen shift leader, and will work alongside other volunteers and summer staff members. Serving in the kitchen is a lot of fun if you work as a part of the team.

What to expect: your shift will be 7-8 hours in length with breaks included. The kitchen is a hot place to work in the summer, so remember to dress appropriately. The IAWAH kitchen prepares three meals and a snack for 200 people, daily, everything we prepare is on a large scale. Generally speaking, there are two kitchen shift options, an early morning shift or an afternoon/evening shift. Although we cannot guarantee that you will receive the shift that you prefer we will try our hardest to accommodate. It is no fun for anyone to have a person who hates mornings working alongside them at 6am!

Additional items to bring:

- Comfortable closed toed shoes good for standing in for a long period of time, that you don't mind spilling spaghetti sauce on.
- Clothes that are cool, clean and comfortable
- Closed toed shoes (shoes that will not slip on wet surfaces and will protect your foot if you spill hot sauce or drop a knife, ballet flats and crocs are not appropriate)
- A hat, bandanna, or hair net.

Maintenance Volunteers

Working with our ops staff you will be helping maintain and develop the IAWAH buildings and grounds further. You may be working independently or alongside a team of staff or volunteers.

What to expect: Generally, your shift will begin after breakfast and finish before supper, with a break for lunch. Most of IAWAH's maintenance during the summer happens outside in many different types of weather. Volunteers perform a variety of different tasks; lawn mowing, construction, carpentry, woods maintenance, painting and renovations. Please let IAWAH know of your specific skills and interests so that we can best place you during your time of service.

Additional items to bring:

- Steel toed boots/shoes
- Appropriate clothes for getting dirty during volunteer shifts.

Transportation Volunteers

Our trips vary from a trip to Perth (40 min) to a trip to the Madawaska river (3.5 hours) or farther. Sometimes drivers just drive our F150 truck, sometimes the truck is pulling a canoe trailer, or sometimes they drive a minivan full of kids. Either way it is a fun way to see a bit of Ontario or Quebec, and a neat way to connect with staff and campers.

What to expect: our transportation staff drive IAWAH's vehicles. The vehicles are maintained regularly and kept in good working order. IAWAH will provide you with documents regarding campers, and paper maps*. To volunteer to drive you need to have a "drivers abstract" completed and, be 25 years of age.

Additional items to bring:

- Your drivers license
- *GPS, if you don't like paper maps

Medical Staff

Each week of summer the IAWAH campers are cared for by a medically trained professional (nurse, doctor, paramedic?) Volunteers who serve in this capacity work well independently, have a gentle disposition and are able to make decisions quickly.

What to expect: This volunteer is responsible for meeting with the parents and campers, collecting and distributing meds to campers who require them. And providing other medical attention (assessing colds, dressing minor wounds) and subsequent documentation. The Medical Staff, will be on-call via two way radio at all times, and is required to respond promptly to calls.

Additional items to bring:

- There is nothing specific for Medical staff to bring.



Activity Leaders

IAWAH's Senior aged campers have some instructional activities that are highly focused in that area. Each camper spends two plus hours a day at that activity developing their skills. We seek Adult volunteers to aid in teaching some of these activities.

What to expect: Focus activity leaders work with IAWAH staff to develop the curriculum of the camp week. Together they work within a budget to gather materials needed to make the Focus activity a success. These volunteers can expect to work in their area for 4-6 hours a day. They may be called on to fulfil other small roles at IAWAH should the need arise.

Additional items to bring:

Gear specific to the camp (ie. if you're volunteering in Wilderness Skills camp, you may want to bring hiking shoes, and bug spray)

Cabin Leaders and Bridge Camp Staff

Once in a while we seek adult volunteers (or students age 18+) to volunteer directly with the campers in the cabins. Typically this is a volunteer that has served with us in subsequent seasons. These volunteers either cabin lead for a week or serve from Saturday morning to early Sunday afternoon with one of our bridge camps. Bridge camp staff will be responsible for providing great care to the campers who stay over between camps as well as help the campers enjoy the weekend, while getting some much needed rest. These volunteers have a lot of energy, enjoy working directly with campers and take initiative to make the week or weekend fantastic, safe and memorable for the camper.

What to expect: Jam packed days full of leading campers. Helping out in different activity areas around IAWAH. Sleeping in cabins/tabins alongside the campers and/or other staff members.

Additional items to bring:

Bedding appropriate for cabin life

Registration and de-registration

Arrival and Departure are a huge deal at IAWAH; it is the first experience that campers have and the last experience they have with IAWAH. In addition, it is usually the only interaction parents have with IAWAH. Because of this IAWAH seeks friendly, welcoming, accommodating volunteers to help with registration (Sunday afternoon) and de-registration (Saturday morning).

What to expect: Volunteers serving in registration and de-registration, need to be able to interact in a professional, friendly and informative manor with all guests to IAWAH. Some volunteers will aid IAWAH staff in helping move luggage.

Additional items to bring:

- Appropriate clothing for being outside in all types of summer weather

Cleaners, Woodworkers, Sewers

Every once in a while IAWAH seeks people to complete special projects; some on-site, like cleaning, and other projects completed within the home. Adult Volunteers who serve at IAWAH in this capacity can expect to be liaising with an IAWAH staff member about the project details.

What to Expect: A few times a year we set aside a day or weekend to do deep cleans, and work on small carpentry and sewing projects on-site. These are typically held in the early spring and early fall. Volunteers serving during these times can expect a fun time of rejuvenating the site while, enjoying the company of others and some great food cooked by the IAWAH staff.

Additional items to bring:

- Items specific to the task you've been assigned to by the IAWAH staff member.
- Comfortable clothes



General Information for All Volunteers

Clothing: Staff and Volunteers are role models to campers while at IAWAH (and beyond). The clothing we wear is a powerful way we can show Christ's impact on our life while expressing the personality He's given us. Consider the following as you pack:

Respect Others: We live and serve in close community at IAWAH. Be aware of the impact your clothes may have on your neighbours.

Everybody: Do not bring clothing with questionable or suggestive slogans, designs or logos. Avoid articles that are too tight, revealing or see-through. Pack with respect in mind and dress appropriately for an outdoor, active lifestyle. Modest attire is needed for both work and leisure.

Men: Avoid shorts that ride low or become see-through when wet. Leave your Speedos at home. Remember that you are a representative of IAWAH, make sure your clothing is clean and presentable.

Women: One-piece bathing suits or modest two-piece tankinis are acceptable. Leave bikinis at home. Avoid ultra low-rise jeans, short shorts (shorter than a 4 inch inseam). Some fashions include: low necklines, large arm holes, and crop tops. If you choose to bring this type of clothing make sure you also bring a shirt to wear under them that covers your undergarments and body. Consider leaving most of your make-up at home; you don't need it at camp.

Accommodation: Adult Volunteers are housed in ensuite style rooms in a few different buildings. Each room is equipped with a double bed, bunk bed and mini ensuite (shower, toilet, sink). None of IAWAH's accommodation is air-conditioned, some buildings can get warm during the heat of the summer.

Personal Vehicle: If you are bringing your vehicle to IAWAH parking is available on site. A note about the camp road: The camp road, as you will notice is quite fun to drive on. It can also be a very dangerous road as there are often no shoulders, tight corners and hills. Please obey all Ontario driving laws and be respectful that there are other people traveling the road as well.

Laundry: laundry can be difficult to do on-site, there is access to a washer and dryer that is shared with all of the on-site staff. IAWAH will provide laundry detergent.

Meals: Volunteers can expect three hearty meals a day and one snack while serving with us. As IAWAH serves over 200 people a day you (and your family) will be requested to eat at a certain meal seating, so that we can accommodate everyone and staff and campers can stay on schedule. If you are in need of a snack outside of a meal time there is always fruit and hot/cold drinks available in the dining room, and the Tuck shop supplies a variety of snacks.

Special Dietary Needs: If you have special dietary needs please inform the camping coordinator (camping@iawah.com) before your arrival so the kitchen has time to make accommodation. We easily accommodate: vegetarian, vegan, lactose free, gluten free, celiac and other allergies.

Communication: (phone, email, wifi) IAWAH is equipped with wifi in most buildings, although it will be restricted from allowing online gaming and streaming, you will be able to check email and complete other general tasks. IAWAH does not provide public computers. Should you need to make a call and are not getting reception on your cell phone, you can inquire at the office to use one of the phones there. This is for emergency calls only.

Unauthorized areas: There are a few areas of camp that are off limits to non-authorized individuals. (Kitchen, Workshop, Ropes Areas). If you need to access an area please seek permission from the IAWAH staff member responsible.

Police Checks and Basic Personal Info: As a volunteer you are required to submit a current Police Records Check, along with a simple information form. Please visit the Accepted Staff page of our website www.iawah.com to find out more about police record check options. Please also submit the form emailed out, that collects your basic info for our HR records.

Further Questions? email Lindsey at: camping@iawah.com

