



Dear Interested Junior Counselor and Family,

We are excited to welcome you to the application process for the Junior Counselor program with Irons Oaks. This summer promises to be an exciting one filled with learning, growth and new experiences!

In this packet there are several forms that need to be filled out and returned before you'll be considered for this volunteer-based program. It is important that you, the applicant, fill out all the forms. Feel free to have a family member assist you, if you'd like.

- **Application:** All volunteers fill out this form – it is the basis for your interview. Any supervisors or teachers could be references.
- **Availability Agreement:** List what days you are typically available to volunteer. Junior Counselors must be available for a full day from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
- **Skills Assessment:** Don't feel overwhelmed by the number of skills listed. Answer these honestly and realistically. This gives us a place to build off of while you're volunteering with the Oaks.
- **Warning of Risk Waiver:** This must be returned, signed by your parent/legal guardian or you will not be allowed to participate.

You will also need to submit a 250-word minimum essay stating why you want to be an Irons Oaks Junior Counselor and anything else important that we should know about you.

Once you have been selected for summer participation in our Junior Counselor program, there will be a questions and answer meeting with parents, applicants, myself and our Camp Director. If you have any questions that you need answered prior to this meeting don't hesitate to contact me.

We are very excited to have your interest in this program and I look forward to meeting you for a more formal interview!

Sincerely,

Cheryl Vargo
Manager of Irons Oaks
cvargo@hfparks.com

Skills Assessment

Name _____

This survey is a guide to assist Irons Oaks in staff scheduling and special project assignments.

Please rate the following as:

- 1 - Knowledgeable in subject matter and comfortable leading program
- 2 - Some knowledge and able to assist program
- 3 - Little or no knowledge but willing to learn
- 4 - No interest in learning or teaching topic

Environmental/Science Topics

- _____ Tree ID
- _____ Habitats
- _____ Animal tracks
- _____ Entomology (insects)
- _____ Animal classification
- _____ Plant ID
- _____ Weather
- _____ Water cycle
- _____ Astronomy
- _____ Geology
- _____ Archaeology
- _____ Restoration
- _____ Native plants
- _____ Pond ecology
- _____ Recycling
- _____ Other: _____
- _____ Other: _____

Crafts

- _____ Painting
- _____ Drawing
- _____ Woodworking
- _____ Needlecrafts
- _____ Weaving
- _____ Graphic design
- _____ Poster design
- _____ Sculpting
- _____ Nature crafts
- _____ Recycled crafts
- _____ Other: _____
- _____ Other: _____

Cultural Studies

- _____ Illinois history
- _____ Native American study
- _____ African American study
- _____ Other: _____
- _____ Other: _____

Recreation

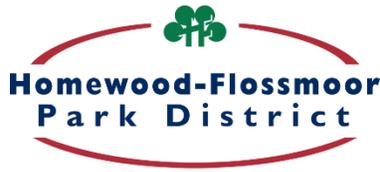
- _____ Bird watching
- _____ Hiking
- _____ Camping
- _____ Backpacking
- _____ Packing a backpack
- _____ Fire building
- _____ Tent set-up
- _____ Natural shelter building
- _____ Tarp shelter building
- _____ Cross country skiing
- _____ Canoeing
- _____ GPS/Way finding
- _____ Orienteering/Compass
- _____ Teambuilding
- _____ Outdoor cooking
- _____ Camp songs
- _____ Leave No Trace
- _____ Gardening
- _____ Nature games
- _____ Knot tying
- _____ Other: _____
- _____ Other: _____

Performing Arts

- _____ Puppetry
- _____ Dance
- _____ Storytelling
- _____ Improvisation
- _____ Other: _____
- _____ Other: _____

Audience Groups

- _____ PreK
- _____ 1st-5th
- _____ 6th-8th
- _____ High school
- _____ Adults
- _____ Seniors



VOLUNTEER WAIVER & RELEASE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Homewood-Flossmoor Park District is committed to conducting its recreation programs and activities in a safe manner and holds the safety of volunteers in high regard. The H-F Park District continually strives to reduce such risks and asks that all volunteers follow safety rules and instructions that are designed to protect the volunteer's safety. However, volunteers must recognize that there is an inherent risk of injury when choosing to volunteer for any activity or program.

Please recognize that the H-F Park District carries only limited medical accident coverage for volunteers; therefore, it is strongly urged that all volunteers review their own health insurance policy for coverage. Additionally, each volunteer is solely responsible for determining if he/she is physically fit and/or properly skilled for any volunteer activity. It is always advisable, especially if the volunteer is pregnant, disabled in any way or recently suffered an illness, injury or impairment, to consult a physician before undertaking any physical activity.

WARNING OF RISK

Despite careful and proper preparation, instruction, medical advice, conditioning and equipment, there is still a risk of serious injury when providing volunteer services. Understandably, not all hazards and dangers can be foreseen. Volunteers must understand that depending upon the volunteer services, certain risks, dangers and injuries due to acts of God, inclement weather, slip and falls, inadequate or defective equipment, failure in supervision or instruction, premises defects, horseplay, carelessness, lack of skill or technique, and all other circumstances inherent to the particular volunteer services exist. In this regard, it must be recognized that it is impossible for the H-F Park District to guarantee absolute safety.

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Please read this form carefully and be aware that in consideration for providing volunteer services, you will be expressly assuming the risk and legal liability and waiving and releasing all claims for injuries, damages or loss which you may sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with and associated with your volunteer services (including transportation services/vehicle operations, when provided).

As a volunteer, I recognize and acknowledge that there are certain risks of physical injury to volunteers in this program/activity, and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of any and all injuries, damages or loss, regardless of severity, that I may sustain as a result of my volunteer services. I further agree to waive and relinquish all claims I may have (or accrue to me) as a result of my volunteer services against the H-F Park District, including its officers, officials, agents, volunteers and employees (hereinafter collectively referred as "Parties").

I do hereby fully release and forever discharge the Parties from any and all claims for injuries, damages, or loss that I may have or which may accrue to me and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with my volunteer services.

Have you been convicted of a felony within the last 7 years? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Have you ever been convicted of or found to be a child sex offender? Yes No

I have read and fully understand the above important information, warning of risk, assumption of risk and waiver and release of all claims. If registering on-line or via fax, my on-line or facsimile signature shall substitute for and have the same legal effect as an original form signature.

PLEASE PRINT

Volunteer's Name _____ Date _____

Volunteer's Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if volunteer is under the age of 18) _____

**PARTICIPATION WILL BE DENIED
If the signature of the volunteer and date are not on this waiver.**