

ABOUT FRIENDSHIP VENTURES

Friendship Ventures is a private nonprofit organization that provides a full range of year-round support, recreation and leisure services to children and adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and their families. We operate three Minnesota locations: Eden Wood Center in Eden Prairie, Camp Friendship, near Annandale and Camp New Hope near McGregor.

Our participants also may have physical disabilities, visual or hearing impairments, challenging behaviors and medical conditions, including diabetes, epilepsy or heart conditions. Individuals vary in age from 5 year-old children to adults well into their 60s. Nearly 3,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities are served each year in a variety of programs. Our core programs include summer and winter resident camps, respite care and support for travel services through a separate company, Ventures Travel LLC. Additional services include retreat and conference rental and team building challenge course workshops.



*“I fell in love
with camp last
summer.
I had a great time
getting to know the
participants and
I loved meeting and
working with people
from all over the
world.”*

*Laura Koppes
FV Staff Member*

Three Friendship Ventures Locations



EDEN WOOD CENTER
located in Eden Prairie, a southwest suburb of the Twin Cities.

CAMP FRIENDSHIP
located on Clearwater Lake near Annandale.

CAMP NEW HOPE
near McGregor, nestled in the heart of the Savanna State Forest on Glacier Lake.

Detailed maps and directions are available at www.friendshipventures.org



Where new friends and new experiences enrich lives
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jobs@friendshipventures.org • www.friendshipventures.org

Friendship Ventures does not permit discrimination because of race, color, age, national origin, gender, religion, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

*Many jobs are easier.
Few give back so much.*



*Friendship Ventures,
where new friends
and new experiences
enrich lives*



Friendship Ventures



What It's All About

Experience for life... Working at Friendship Ventures is a life-changing experience that will prepare you to be a better professional, better parent and, most importantly, a better and more interesting human being. It is one of the most rewarding jobs you could have and one you'll never forget.

You'll have fun in beautiful outdoor settings, learn about yourself and others, make new friendships, encounter new and challenging experiences, and—most of all—you will make a positive impact on the children and adults with disabilities who use our services. You'll develop a greater understanding of them and learn more about yourself than you ever thought possible.

Making a difference... Our staff is the single most important factor in the experiences our participants have! You'll play a critical and very personal role in making life better for Friendship Ventures participants, and they will remember you forever.

Being valued... Our diverse staff brings their education, background, culture, and varied experiences to our programs. Many have traveled from across the United States and several from foreign countries, each bringing unique skills, strengths and personality to Friendship Ventures.

We get to know our staff and volunteers individually, and encourage and foster both their personal and professional development. Because the work is challenging, we encourage staff to make time for physical, mental, emotional and spiritual renewal.

You can add teaching, lesson development, problem solving, leadership skills, behavior management, team player and more to your resume. Often, our staff can apply their work toward college credit, service hours or internships in various fields. These experiences are arranged individually with the agency and school by the student. Interested students should contact our main office for more information.



Job Basics

General qualifications

The primary responsibility of our staff is to provide an exciting and safe experience for the children and adults who participate in our programs. Specialized experience or academic training is not a prerequisite for counselor positions. However, most program leaders and healthcare staff require experience in an appropriate field. You must be at least 18 years old to hold a direct care position, but candidates as young as 16 years old may qualify as a counselor in training.

These are the personal attributes we look for in all staff:

- Must enjoy working with children and adults
- Willing to learn and enjoy new challenges
- Responsible and mentally alert
- Desire to work as a team member
- Able to communicate effectively
- For most positions, should be capable of lifting 50 lbs.

Training

We prepare staff members to work successfully with participants and their special needs by providing a comprehensive training and orientation program. Opportunities for continuing education or specialized training may also be available for certain positions.

Benefits

For a majority of seasonal positions, in addition to a salary and the chance to be part of something good, we provide free lodging, meals and internet access. Seasonal staff are eligible to apply for several academic scholarships that are given at the end of the summer. Specific salary and benefits are based on length of staff agreement, experience and position.



Programs & Job Opportunities

Resident Camp Services

Eden Wood Center, Camp Friendship and Camp New Hope sites offer summer resident camp programs for children and adults with disabilities. Camp activities include boating, sports and games, hiking, swimming and much more. Available employment opportunities include counselor, activity specialist, leadership, food services, housekeeping and healthcare positions.

Team Quest Challenge Course

This program uses a series of unique obstacles to challenge individuals and groups. Staff members create innovative situations that encourage clear communication, effective planning and committed action. Those with developmental disabilities, church and school groups, college students and others use Team Quest courses. Challenge Course Facilitators are hired throughout the year.

Creative Options Respite Care

This service offers year-round, short-term respite care in a home-like setting. The unique settings of Eden Wood Center and Camp Friendship allow children and adults many options for recreation and community activities. Weekend opportunities for counselors are available throughout the year.

How to apply

If you are interested in a job that gives you much more than a place to be and a paycheck, please write or call:

Friendship Ventures

Twin Cities metro phone (952) 852-0101
(800) 450-8376 • Fax (952) 852-0123
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