



Hospital Buddy Program Volunteer

Thank you for your interest in applying to volunteer in StudentsCare's Hospital Buddy Program. If selected for this role, you will be serving children in long-term hospital care to provide fun, friendship, and support to patients and their families. We hope you will find this to be a meaningful experience.

Selected students will spend a minimum of 3 hours visiting children in long-term hospital care (oncology, dialysis, bone marrow transplant, etc.) You will have an opportunity to engage children in hospital playrooms, infusion rooms, and at bedside in activities like arts and crafts, movies, reading, and more. As a group, students will organize events in the hospital playroom to help children celebrate birthdays, end-of-treatment and holidays. You will also provide support to parents and siblings. Overall, as a StudentsCare volunteer, you will help offer seriously ill children and families a temporary reprieve from the physical and emotional demands of hospitalization.

Please note the application process is competitive, in order to offer high quality support to patients and families. Students should be flexible, dependable, and have the ability to remain calm in high intensity situations. Students should be prepared to cope with emotionally tasking events, as they will be working with children with life-threatening illnesses. Students should be prepared to fully commit to this service during their time in college, as these children will look forward to your visits each week. Priority will be given to Sophomores and Juniors who can stay with the program for 2+ years.

Selected volunteers in the Hospital Buddy Program should be prepared to meet the following requirements:

- Students will commit to at least one full academic year as a volunteer in the program. Priority will be given to Sophomores and Juniors who are willing to stay with the program for 2+ years.
- As students will be working with long-term patients, they must commit to a minimum of 3 hours/week in the hospital. Excessive absences may lead to dismissal from the program. Students are expected to value this opportunity and make it a top priority in their college years.
- Students should be flexible, dependable, and have the ability to remain calm in high intensity situations. Students should be prepared to cope with



emotionally taxing events, as they will be working with children with life-threatening illnesses.

- Selected students will be required to participate in StudentsCare's mandatory training session, monthly volunteer meetings, and complete all hospital volunteer requirements. There will be a one-time \$30 on-boarding fee for StudentsCare, in addition to any hospital requirements. Students will be required to submit weekly volunteer logs in a timely manner.

You will receive many benefits as a part of this program. First and foremost, you will have the opportunity to serve children who will become your heroes. As you volunteer each week, you will become more comfortable in the hospital setting as well as in your interactions with patients and their families. You will learn more about childhood illnesses and the psychosocial impact on patients and their family members. It is our hope that you will gain a better understanding of empathy and how to express it more fully with others.

The volunteer role has been designed to give you a greater understanding of the needs of hospitalized children and provide in order for you to better be able to support those needs. StudentsCare does so in the following ways:

- Our program offers training around the developmental needs of children and offers ideas for connecting with patients and their families
- We provide information about childhood illnesses so that you have a better understanding of what patients and families are experiencing.
- We have collected many resources for you to refer to for play/activity ideas, how to better connect with your buddy, how to practice self-care, how to practice empathy to provide optimal support to patients and families, and many more topics related to your service as a volunteer.
- Being a part of the StudentsCare Chapter on your campus allows you to connect with other students as you work together in doing good for others in your community.

StudentsCare will provide all the necessary materials for you to succeed in this role. Additional support is provided through appointed faculty advisors as well as Child Life staff at partnering hospitals.

We hope you will join us in brightening the hospital experience for kids!