

Thank you so much for volunteering for Circle of Friends!

If you have not registered yet, you need to! Register here:

<https://www.gilmont.org/circle-of-friends.html> (Click on the "Volunteer" tab, then the "Volunteer Here" button)

Registration is MANDATORY. If you show up to camp and you have not registered you will be asked to go home.

Below you will find training and helpful information as you prepare for a wonderful weekend at camp. Note that training is REQUIRED before camp and will no longer be given on Friday nights.

Arrival and Departure:

All volunteers need to arrive on Friday night by 6 pm to help with camp setup. Pizza will be provided for dinner. Camp will end on Monday morning after breakfast and cleanup, which should end no later than 10 am. If you have circumstances that don't allow you to be there Friday night or Monday morning, please contact us at cof@gilmont.org to let us know.

Directions:

Camp Gilmont's address is:

6075 TX-155

Gilmer, TX 75644

If the gate is closed, call the number on the sign that is immediately past the keypad. Once you are through the gate, take the left fork and follow it all the way to the cafeteria parking lot.

Expectations:

- Arrive on time Friday at 6:00 pm at the dining hall.
- Stay with assigned child at all times, unless relieved of duty (which also means no switching kids)
- Participate in activities as your child chooses. (The volunteer should not insist on the child doing a particular activity, but can recommend different activities for them to choose between. The child may simply want to play.)
- Help the child with activities, but don't take over
- Dry tears and give comfort
- Encourage the child to be respectful of ALL equipment, toys, sensory items and craft materials
- Help clean up all activity areas each day, throughout the day and after nightly meeting
- On Monday, help clean up all areas before leaving.
- Have a fun, positive attitude with everyone
- Remember that while you are here, your focus is on your child and not socializing (or your phone)
- Follow the schedule as best as possible
- Be prepared to be flexible
- Any sexual behavior or the use or possession of weapons, alcohol, drugs, or tobacco products on camp property at any time will not be tolerated and is grounds for immediate dismissal.

Time Off

During off hours, the following activities may be available:

- Night swim (pending lifeguard availability)
- Night zipline (pending instructor availability)
- Night hike
- Sand volleyball
- Board games

- Movies
- Campfire and S'mores

Training (will take approximately an hour)

All new volunteers must complete the training before they arrive at their first camp, and all returning volunteers must have completed training within the last year.

Watch each of the following videos. Several of them address Autism specifically, but their methods can apply to all children. The videos will provide insight and practical strategies for working with kids that will help your weekend with your buddy run more smoothly.

- ▶ The Truth About my Son (10:22) ([Click link here](#))
- ▶ Where do I start? The ABC's Of Behavior and why children act the way they do (2:48) ([Click link here](#))
- ▶ Understanding the Function of the Behaviour - Managing Challenging Behaviours (2/5) | Autism at Home (5:55) ([Click link here](#))
- ▶ Preventative Strategies - Managing Challenging Behaviours (4/5) | Autism at Home (10:03) ([Click link here](#))
- ▶ Reactive Strategies - Managing Challenging Behaviours (5/5) | Autism at Home (13:15) ([Click link here](#))
- ▶ Behavior Modification (5:45) ([Click link here](#))

Read this article recapping behavior modification strategies:

[Behavior Modification](#)

Look over the volunteer manual:

[Volunteer Manual](#)

Camp Info

[Packing List](#)

[Schedule](#) (Note: this is a sample and is subject to change on a per camp basis)

[Volunteer Manual](#)