

PA Vent Camp



# VOLUNTEER PACKET



BECOME PART OF  
A WEEK WITHOUT LIMITS

## CONTACT US



717.531.5338



[volunteers@paventcamp.org](mailto:volunteers@paventcamp.org)



[www.paventcamp.org](http://www.paventcamp.org)

# WELCOME

## TO THE PA VENT CAMP FAMILY

Thank you for choosing to get involved with PA Vent Camp! Hosted on the grounds of Camp Victory in Millville, Pennsylvania, and managed by medical professionals with decades of experience in caring for those with complex respiratory needs, campers at PA Vent Camp are encouraged to explore their independence and grow in a safe environment.

Volunteers who attend PA Vent Camp can count on an experience that will shape their personal, emotional, and professional lives forever. Once a part of the PA Vent Camp family, always a part of the PA Vent Camp family. Welcome!

Sincerely,



Tonya Miller  
Executive Director





# ABOUT US

## & CONTACT INFO

PA Vent Camp was founded in 1993 with just a handful of campers, and has since grown to serve nearly 40 campers each year during a 5-day/4-night summer camp. Additionally, PA Vent Camp serves adult campers (ages 21+) for a weekend each fall.

Open to children (ages 5-18) who use any sort of mechanical ventilation, campers can experience the fully-accessible grounds of Camp Victory while at PA Vent Camp! Kids can get airborne on the zipline, scale the rock wall, go fishing or cruise around in the pontoon boat, scope out the view from the treehouse, experience wildlife firsthand at the Camp Victory nature center, and enjoy a variety of crafts and activities -- there's never a boring day!

PA Vent Camp is a magical place where life-long friendships, lessons, and professional experiences come to life. We encourage anyone looking to make a difference in their community to join us for the week, with a special invitation for those in the medical field.

Quick facts about PA Vent Camps:

- Over 300 campers have attended since the start of camp
- About 125 volunteers are needed each year - approximately a 1:3 ratio, camper to volunteers
- Over 350,000 volunteer hours have been donated to PA Vent Camp since 1993
- It costs approximately \$2,500 to send each camper to camp
- Camp is FREE for campers and their families!

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 [www.paventcamp.org](http://www.paventcamp.org)

 [facebook.com/paventcamp](https://facebook.com/paventcamp)

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# CAMPERS

PA Vent campers are 5-18 years of age and use some kind of assistive breathing device, whether part-time or full-time. They may also use a tracheostomy tube, receive nutrition through a tube in their stomach, use a wheelchair, a walker, or crutches, or rely on other kinds of medical devices to live their lives as independently as possible.

All campers have a wonderful time at camp, whether its through planned activities or by having new experiences outside of their normal day-to-day. You'll never forget their smiles and you'll be helping to make the week a reality for so many!



# VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are medical and non-medical team members with a dedicated commitment to serving their community. PA Vent Camp volunteers have a positive, can-do attitude and an abundance of patience and energy for the week they are at camp!

While we try to accept everyone who applies, space may be limited. We will do our best to accommodate your interests and preferences, but please note that changes may occur at any time for any reason. Also note that a background check and other clearances must be completed before volunteering.



Though not required, volunteers are encouraged to consider fundraising to help cover the costs of PA Vent Camp -- about \$100,000 per week of camp, or \$2,500 per camper. That means it costs about \$500 per camper per day, or about \$20 per one hour of camp. Any and all fundraising ideas and activities are welcome. Some ideas include:

- Starting a Facebook Fundraiser
- Hosting an event
- Introducing PA Vent Camp to a potential business sponsor
- Making a personal contribution

We appreciate all support on behalf of the campers we serve! If you have suggestions on how to improve our campers' experience, please contact our activities staff at [info@paventcamp.org](mailto:info@paventcamp.org).





# FAQ's

## **Do I need medical experience to attend PA Vent Camp?**

Experience is welcome but not required! Every camper cabin has at least one assigned licensed practitioner (nurse or physician) as well as a respiratory therapist. Other physicians, physical therapists, speech therapists, respiratory therapists, nurses, and nurse practitioners are available at all times in case of emergency. And if you're looking to experience the day-to-day life of a child with disabilities in a real-life setting (outside of a hospital or long-term care facility), this is the place to do it! There's so much to learn for both medical and non-medical volunteers.

## **How long is PA Vent Camp?**

Volunteers arrive on Saturday afternoon for registration, set-up, and orientation. Campers arrive on Sunday and leave Thursday morning. Volunteers leave Thursday afternoon after clean-up.

## **What will I be doing at PA Vent Camp?**

When you sign up via our website to volunteer, you'll have the opportunity to select the role(s) you prefer. Roles include:

- Partner: Hang out with one camper for the duration of camp
- Activities Staff: Plan activities and themes for the week
- Cabin Nurse or Respiratory Therapist (Day or Night shift)
- Physician, PT, OT, or SLP

## **What do I need to bring to PA Vent Camp?**

- Bedding -- sheets, pillows, sleeping bag, etc.
- Shower supplies -- flip-flops, towel, toiletries, etc.
- Any necessary medications you need
- Clothes for all types of weather
- Shoes for all types of weather
- Swimming supplies (in case you/your camper would like to swim)
- Sunscreen & Bug Spray
- Flashlight
- Refillable water bottle
- Camera
- If you plan to bring a bike you MUST wear a bike helmet

## **How rustic is PA Vent Camp?**

Camp Victory's campgrounds are well-equipped with accessible buildings, paved walkways, running hot and cold water, indoor plumbing, cabins with bunk beds and air conditioning, and a cafeteria with Camp Victory staff that serves three delicious meals every day we're there.

# FAQ's

## Where is PA Vent Camp?

We hold a PO Box for mail communications, and our medical director works out of Hershey Medical Center. PA Vent Camp and PA Vent Camp Horizons (the adult camp each fall) are held on the grounds of Camp Victory.



Camp Victory  
58 Camp Victory Road  
Millville, PA 17846

[www.campvictory.org](http://www.campvictory.org)

## I can't attend PA Vent Camp, but I still want to help. What can I do?

We need all kinds of support to make PA Vent Camp a free and successful week for campers and their families. Please contact us if:

- You would like to make a gift of goods, services, or treasure \*
- You would like to host an event to benefit PA Vent Camp\*
- You or your company would like to sponsor PA Vent Camp and our Breath of Fresh Air Gala\*
- You would like to start a Facebook fundraiser\*
- You or someone you know would benefit from attending PA Vent Camp as a camper

\*Contact: [donations@paventcamp.org](mailto:donations@paventcamp.org)

## Have more questions about becoming a volunteer? Please contact us!

 717.531.5338

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 [www.paventcamp.org](http://www.paventcamp.org)

## I'm ready to volunteer at PA Vent Camp!

Visit [www.paventcamp.org/volunteers](http://www.paventcamp.org/volunteers) to complete the application to volunteer. Be sure to also complete the background check requirements for attending PA Vent Camp.

**We can't wait to see you!**