

AARON’S ACRES
Job Description

TITLE: Buddy -- Volunteer

CLASSIFICATION: Non-Exempt

REPORTS TO: Group Leader

SUPERVISES: None

DATE: December 10, 2012

Updated: 9/1/2019

GENERAL SUMMARY

The Buddy Program is a volunteer program at Aaron’s Acres. Students between ages 14-17 volunteer to be “buddies” for the children with special needs. Each buddy is paired with a child and works hand in hand with the professional staff. The Buddy’s job is to act as a positive role model for the children. Buddies help staff with the children, but more importantly, Buddies gain an experience and perspective of the life of a child who has special needs. Barriers are broken down, fears that some of the typical children have of those with special needs fade away, and friendships develop among children and adolescents with all different abilities.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Attend and actively participate in orientation and training sessions for program
- Help each participant meet his/her goal focusing on socialization or communication
- Be a friend and interact with the participant to encourage positive socialization with others
- Help the child participate in both group and individual activities
- Set a good example by sharing, helping, and interacting appropriately with others
- Encourage the participant during the program to help build self confidence, skills, and friendships
- Assist professional staff by alerting them to any issues or concerns that are observed while in this program

NOTE: The list of essential functions is not exhaustive and it may be supplemented as necessary.

JOB SPECIFICATIONS

- High school student
- Desire to work with children with developmental disabilities
- Must be able to follow rules and policies of Aaron’s Acres
- Must be able to meet attendance requirements; arriving on time and be present for the number of days of the contract/program

DISCLAIMER

The above information on this description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by volunteers within this classification.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Buddy Signature

Date

Buddy Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Supervisor’s Signature

Date