



Medical Staff Position Overview

About Nature's Classroom

Founded in 1973, Nature's Classroom (NC) is a non-profit environmental education teaching service which operates as a residential field trip program. Schools from all over the Northeastern United States join us for up to 5 days. We serve a wide variety of students, typically ranging from third-eighth grade, who come from every background imaginable: big cities, suburban areas, rural communities, public schools, private schools, charter schools, and schools that serve students with special needs.

Our program operates out of 12 locations in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Rhode Island. We partner with a variety of camp and retreat organizations who host us and allow us to utilize their facilities and property during our seasons. Each of our sites has their own staff consisting of 5-15 educators, a program coordinator, and a medical staff person. We employ medical staff with varying levels of certification: EMT's, RN's, and LPN's.

Medical Staff Position Overview

Our medical staff are the primary caregivers for the students while they participate in our program. This typically consists of administering prescriptions and OTC medications, providing first aid, and keeping proper records of medical care. Each of our sites partners with a local physician who signs off on Standing Orders to which we must adhere; this acts as a guide for treatment of specific illnesses and injuries.

Medical staff are typically only on-duty during program hours (7:30am- 9:30pm). Schools will occasionally request 24-hour coverage and our medics will be compensated extra for being on-call.

Arrival and Departure Day Duties

When a new group arrives, the medic will greet the teachers and receive all medications and paperwork from them. Medics ensure all paperwork is properly completed and highlights any pertinent concerns. Phone calls home will be made if any content is missing or unclear. Before the NC educators participate in activities with the students, the medic will brief NC and school teachers on concerns for specific students.

At the end of the trip, medical staff will return all medication to the school teachers and sign it over to them. Once the group has left, medics clean their office space and take stock of any supplies that may need to be purchased for the next week.

Everyday Duties

Medical staff conduct four "health calls" each day: before every meal and prior to dismissal for the evening. This is a designated time when students will go to the medical office to take medications and report any illnesses or injuries. Medical staff should also be on-site and available during program hours in case of emergency or sudden illness. All care given must be properly recorded in the medical log book. If medical staff determine a student needs to go to a hospital or seek additional medical care, they must communicate with parents/guardians and arrange this with school teachers and their program coordinator.

Orientation Duties

All staff participate in a week-long orientation prior to each season. During this time staff are becoming acquainted with one another and the program. Medical staff take this time to set-up their office, inventory and order medical supplies, and prepare and present a medical orientation to the educators. This medical discussion typically lasts a few hours and should prepare staff to handle medical situations that can occur while they are in the field. Medical staff will put together a first aid kit for educators to carry at all times and instruct staff on how to use the items properly.

Optional Program Duties

Because the medic is an important part of the NC community, it is suggested and recommended that they become involved with the program as much as possible; this is a great opportunity to better know the students and staff, as well as help to make the job more enjoyable. Medical staff can teach classes, lead songs and games, participate in activities, and help with projects.

Obtaining State Licensure

RN's who work for NC must be certified to work in the state in which they are placed. Because RN's may be requested by schools, they may need to work at different sites throughout the season. It is encouraged that nurses obtain licensure in all state in which we operate, and NC will reimburse all incurred fees.