



Camp Jojo Volunteer FAQs

Application Process

When do applications open?

Our volunteer applications open 1st January 2026

When do applications close?

Applications will close - TBC

Is there an age limit?

Adult volunteers have to be over 18. We do also encourage young volunteers over the age of 14, but they must be accompanied by a family member who is over 18.

Can I apply if I have volunteered before?

Yes! We love to welcome our volunteers back to Camp Jojo for as many years as they are able to commit to. This helps create a community of volunteers that know Camp Jojo well, and can support those that are new to volunteering at camp.

How many families come to each camp?

For each camp we select 6-8 families (depending on the size of each family and how we can accommodate them). In 2024 we welcomed 50 families.

How many camps are you running in 2025?

There will be 7 camps throughout the summer of 2025 at Ivy Farm, in Essex. The first two camps will be for Highshore School on 17th - 19th July and East Anglia Childrens' Hospice on 24th - 26th July. The remaining 5 camps will run each weekend until the end of August. We will also be running 3 camps at our brand new second site (Nag's Head Farm) in Cumbria in August.

When is it/how long for?

Our Camp Jojo experiences are two nights/three days. Running from Friday early afternoon-Sunday early afternoon. All camps take place in July and August. We encourage our volunteers to

arrive on Thursday afternoon, to get settled into camp and meet the team before the families arrive, though this is not compulsory.

How many Volunteers do you need for each camp?

We need approximately 30-35 volunteers per camp.

How do I apply?

Please visit www.campjojo.org/volunteers or email Volunteer Manager, Ivy Farm - Paul Hocker at Paul@campjojo.org.uk or Volunteer Manager, Nag's Head Farm - Jo Money at jo@campjojo.org.uk

I am Disabled, can I volunteer?

We welcome applications from everyone! However, we would suggest that you contact our Volunteer Managers, Ivy Farm - Paul Hocker at Paul@campjojo.org.uk or Nag's Head Farm - Jo Money at jo@campjojo.org.uk before you apply to discuss your accessibility requirements, and to talk over how we can support you at Camp Jojo.

How much does it cost?

It does not cost anything to volunteer other than the cost of your travel to camp, and the cost of a Camp Jojo T-shirt, should you opt to buy one (we do have some available to borrow). We can make a contribution to travel expenses, provided this is agreed in advance.

Volunteer Responsibilities

What do volunteers at Camp Jojo do?

We have several opportunities for volunteering at Camp Jojo as detailed below:

Family Support Volunteers:

Providing dedicated support to the families that attend camp. This can include fetching and carrying, spending time with the children to give parents a break, joining in with activities, ensuring that the families have plenty to eat and drink and being on hand for any requests.

Catering Volunteers:

Supporting the catering lead to provide 3 hot meals a day, plus tea, coffee, cakes & snacks. Clearing up and restocking after each meal.

Camp Maintenance Volunteers:

Ensuring that the camp is set up and running well and that any unplanned issues are rectified quickly. Providing support around camp. Supporting with the set up and close of each camp.

Activities Volunteers:

Running activities for the duration of camp, such as sports, bushcraft, arts & crafts, pizza making etc.

Therapy & Photography Volunteers

We also welcome those can can volunteer with a specific skill that our families can benefit from, such as massage therapy, music therapy etc.

Is training provided?

Yes! Volunteering at Camp Jojo can seem daunting, particularly if you don't have any experience of working with children and young people with complex needs. You do not need to have any specific experience, but we do provide some training in safeguarding, manual handling and a general introduction to camp. If you are a first-time volunteer, you will be partnered with a more experienced volunteer, and will also receive support from your camp leader, who will also brief you before camp about anything you need to know. We also have volunteer WhatsApp groups for each camp to share any non-sensitive or confidential information.

Safeguarding

All volunteers need a valid DBS check prior to attending camp. If you don't have a DBS check Camp JoJo will help you through the process of gaining one and joining the update service. This will be at no cost to you and will need renewing every three years.

Catering

Do I need to bring food?

All your meals and snacks are provided. We encourage you to bring anything else you may require/want such as particular snacks/drinks you. **Please note that Camp JoJo is a nut free camp.**

What do I do if I have a food allergy/intolerance?

We will ask you about any of food allergies or intolerances before your visit so we can cater for you. We aim to cater for everyone.

Is there a microwave or fridge?

There is a microwave and fridge for volunteers to use, located in the communal barn. We also have a separate fridge for medication.

Is alcohol allowed at Camp Jojo?

Yes, a small amount of alcohol is allowed after the families have gone to bed and quiet camp has begun. However, we expect our volunteers to behave responsibly and respectfully at all times.

Equipment

Do I have to bring my own camping equipment?

Camp Jojo encourage our volunteers to camp on site and bring their own tent/campervan and equipment. We can provide tents for a limited number of volunteers per camp. We can provide camp beds, sleeping bags and sleeping bag liners, if needed, though most volunteers bring their own bedding. You will need to bring towels.

Are there bathroom/toilet facilities on site?

Yes, there is a communal toilet & shower block with private cubicles for families and volunteers to share.

Are there any charging points/electrics at the farm?

There is electricity in the communal barn to charge phones and other non-essential items.

Is there somewhere safe I can store medication?

There is a fridge with safety latch located in the communal barn for medication.

The Camp Site

Where is Camp Jojo?

Camp Jojo is based at a farm on East Mersea Island, Essex.

Is there anywhere to park?

There is parking at the Farm. You will be able to drive round to your tent to unpack your car before being asked to return it to the parking area.

Where is the nearest train station?

The nearest train station is Colchester which is about 30 minutes away. If you require a pickup please let us know. Please note, we do not have a WAV for pick ups.

Is there any internet access?

The farm does not have internet access.

What happens at Camp?

The days are action packed at Camp Jojo with a full acitivity timetable, including feeding the farm animals, pottery, music, pizza, making, sports, craft and a beach trip. We also have a talent show at each camp. Please see an example itinerary here:

Example Timetable

(Some timings may be subject to change depending on weather and tides)

DAY 1



2pm - Families arrive and settle in
5pm - Camp Gathering
6pm - Dinner
7pm - Campfire
9.30pm - Quiet site**



DAY 2



8am - Morning Team Time
8am - 9.30am - Help-yourself Breakfast
10am - 11am - Morning activity session 1
11am - 12 noon - Morning activity session 2
12.30pm - 1.30pm - Lunch
2.30pm - Beach walk/games
6pm - BBQ dinner
7pm - Camp Jojo's Got Talent
9.30pm Quiet site**



DAY 3



8am - Morning Team Time
8am - 9.30am - Help-yourself Breakfast
10am - 11am - Morning activity session 1
11am - 12 noon - Morning activity session 2
12.30pm - 1.30pm - Lunch
2pm - Whole camp gathering
3pm - Assisted pack-up and leave camp
4.30pm - Volunteers debrief

** After quiet site, a second campfire will either be lit at the bottom of the field, or people will gather in the barn, for parents/volunteers to chat & relax if they wish.

Is it possible to leave the camp site once the families arrive?

Once the families arrive, their needs become the priority for the volunteers. Occasionally a volunteer may be asked to leave the camp to run an errand, but generally the volunteers stay on site with the families.

Is it cold at night?

It can get cold, yes. Please feel free to bring your own duvets, pillows, hot water bottles or extras for warmth and comfort.

Are there mosquitos?

Being outside in the summer months means that there will be mosquitos and insects that bite. Please bring repellent and/or something to ease bite stings.

What happens if it rains?

We advise that you check the weather before you arrive at camp and pack accordingly. If it is due to rain please pack waterproofs, wellie boots, and plenty of clothes – as we do not provide these. We will adjust the itinerary to keep you as warm and dry as possible. We will also supply warm drinks and hot water bottles.

What happens if it's a heatwave?

We advise that you check the weather before you arrive at camp and pack accordingly. If it is due to be hot and sunny, please pack sun cream, hats and other items you may need. We will provide shade where we can.

Lost Property

Unfortunately, we do not have the facilities to store lost property indefinitely so anything left at Ivy Farm will be kept until 1 month following the last camp before it being taken to the local charity shop.

What do I have to wear?

All Camp Jojo volunteers wear a light blue Camp Jojo T-shirt and/or hoody. These are available to buy or borrow. Comfortable clothes, waterproofs and weather appropriate layers is all you will need to pack clothes-wise. We also encourage our volunteers to join the families swimming in the sea. This is not compulsory, but you may wish to pack some swimwear.

Health, Safety and Emergency information

Where is the nearest pharmacy?

Boots Pharmacy, 37 Barfield Road, West Mersea, CO5 8QX.

Where is the nearest hospital?

Colchester General Hospital, Turner road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5JL. Approx. 30 minutes by car.

What happens if there is an emergency whilst I am at Camp Jojo?

Whilst we hope everyone who visits Camp Jojo has an enjoyable, stress free time we are aware that sometimes things don't always go to plan. Please see our In 'Case of Emergency at Camp Jojo' document below:

In case of Emergency

At Camp Jojo we really do appreciate the bravery it takes for our families to decide to come camping. It goes without saying that we hope our families enjoy their experience and make precious memories. However, we are all too aware that sometimes things don't go as planned.

Minor Accident or Illness

In the event of someone having an accident or being ill on site we do have a trained first aider.

Emergency

In the event of an emergency, we will call 999. It is important we make it clear to our families that Mersea is an island and for a couple of hours each day, when the tide is high, access will be restricted. This means that an ambulance would not be able to gain access to our site. That said, the ambulance service is aware of the accessibility issues and there is a contingency in place which calls on first responders who are located on the island, the coast guard and ultimately Essex Air Ambulance (if they are required).

Relevant Services

Colchester General Hospital, Turner Road, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5JL. Main line 01206 747474. (Approx 30 minutes by car)

Primary Care Centre, Turner Road, Colchester, CO4 5JR. Main line 01206 747474
Boots Pharmacy, 37 Barfield Road, West Mersea, CO5 8QX Main line 01206 382850

Other Relevant Information

We are aware that a lot of our family require essential medical equipment for their children, and this can be used 24/7. There is electricity available on site and families that require use of such equipment will be placed in tents that have an electricity supply. In the event of a power cut we do have a generator that will be able to keep essential equipment running.