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Why I Am a Meriden YMCA Mountain Mist Day Camp Counselor

by Chantel Martin

I started working for Mountain Mist as a volunteer for Musical Theater Camp (MTC) when I was 12 years old. I kept volunteering every summer because Mountain Mist is a very fun, safe, and happy environment for kids. The kids look forward to camp throughout the entire school year and are upset once summer vacation comes to an end. I truly believe Mountain Mist is a remarkable camp because there are many opportunities for kids.



Campers can discover new activities and sports they enjoy, make new friends, and learn camp songs and games similar to other camps, but at Mountain Mist, they can find that feeling of “belonging” and “purpose.”

This camp is for EVERYONE no matter who they are, what they look like, and what interests appeal to them because the staff members and campers create close friendships that turn into feeling like “one big camp family.” Both staff members and campers are supportive, friendly, caring, and because this camp forms a family-like bond between everyone.

Almost every kid that has attended camp during the summer comes back every summer because it's something they do NOT want to miss. Some families reschedule their family vacations just so their children do not miss out on special events that Mountain Mist provides including: Leo Palooza Carnival, MTC/CIT musical theater dinner, MASA, the overnights, specialty camps and more.

MERIDEN YMCA

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With Musical Theater Camp, our program continues to grow and improve every session. We have fun filled sessions that include the fun camp atmosphere as well as preparing an entire production in less than two weeks. Besides performing the duties of a typical counselor, knowing that I can help kids in numerous ways emotionally and physically to build confidence, learn new skills and activities of interest to them, and have fun is why I chose to continue working at the Meriden YMCA's Mountain Mist Day Camp every summer.

I work here to help create and see smiles on the campers' faces as well as progressive development in each child's talents and every day skills. Having the kids say comments to me such as "I don't want to leave because I'm learning and having so much fun here," and "Thank you for helping me. I feel more confident in myself now," is the most rewarding feeling personally.



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