

Variety Motor Mouth Camp - Volunteers Guidelines



The Variety Motor Mouth Camp (VMMC) is for children who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems, and their families. There will be lots of fun activities, where your child will get help to develop their AAC skills, and for the whole family to feel more confident using AAC.

A committee of specialised therapists, educators and AAC communicators has been formed to organise and run the camp alongside Variety staff.

The camp is held in October each year, starting on a Friday afternoon and concludes on a Sunday late morning at **The Lea Scout Centre/Hobart Bush Cabins**. Exact dates will be announced each year. It will combine fun, development of communication skills, and recreational activities for all involved, while encouraging opportunities to build meaningful connections with other individuals in the AAC community.

This is a fantastic professional learning opportunity to work as a volunteer with children who use AAC and their families. You will increase your knowledge and experience in the area of AAC and benefit from the positive camp experience. A great addition to your resume!

Objectives

- To improve and increase the use of AAC by the child and their family
- For the child to use AAC with other people who use AAC in a new setting
- For families to build friendships and a strong sense of community

Eligibility

- A current Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) check
- Experience working with children who use AAC
- Must be aged over 18 years of age
- Must be able to work in small groups and assist children in a busy sensory environment
- Be able to attend for duration of the camp (3 days). Part-time attendance will be considered and staying overnight is optional
- Be able to attend an online pre-camp information session
- Participate in all camp activities



Volunteer roles

AAC User Support - (suitable for those who have professional or personal experience with using AAC systems) This role includes:

- directly supporting an AAC user during the camp
- modelling language on a child's AAC system
- some behaviour support and/or sensory regulation as needed
- adapting camp activities to support participation

Sibling Support - (suitable for those who have experience with supervising children of varying ages) This role includes:

- supervising and engaging with siblings who attend camp
- running activities with small groups of children of varying ages

Program Support - (suitable for those who have experience with facilitating and running group activities such as, but not limited to, Educators, Teachers etc) This role may include:

- facilitating group activities as part of the camp program
- assisting with the design or set up of camp activities

General Camp Support - (suitable for those who would like to assist with general camp operations) This role may include:

- assisting with catering
- set up and pack down of camp activities
- other flexible jobs

Please note: all volunteers are required to have a Working with Vulnerable People Card and Safeguarding Children training.

Examples of camp program / schedule

- Group based communication therapy (for children who use AAC)
- Family activities with a focus on AAC use / skill practice
- Recreational activities for the child's siblings
- Parent workshops / networking
- Mentoring from an adult AAC user
- Fun evening activities (incorporating AAC use)

How to apply to attend MMC:

1. Complete the online application form available via Variety Motor Mouth Camp
<https://tas.variety.org.au/variety-motor-mouth-camp/>

Additional information:

- This is drug and smoking free camp
- Meals & accommodation will be provided to volunteers
- All volunteers are expected to abide by their professional code of ethics and Variety's code of conduct
- Staying overnight at camp is not essential. Volunteers can opt to go home after evening activities are finished and return in the morning
- There is no cost to volunteers or families to attend
- The camp will be held at Hobart Bush Cabins/Scout Camp at The Lea, Hobart
- Please let the Variety team know as soon as possible if you'll no longer be able to volunteer at camp
- Dates are available on our website

If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact Variety at:
info@varietytas.org.au or 03 6248 4888