



GIG Summer Program FAQ



What is United Ability?

United Ability (formerly known as United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham) offers many programs and services to children and adults with a variety of disabilities as well as to their families. We also focus on the ABILITY of our participants by developing what they can do rather than dwelling on what they cannot do.

What program will I work with?

GIGs serve at the Hand In Hand Early Learning Program which is an inclusive educational facility where children with and without disabilities learn side by side. Though the program is available for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years, we only place GIGs in the classrooms with children 1-5 years old.

When is GIG?

Volunteers are assigned shifts based on their requested schedules between **June 8 – July 31**. Shifts are available 8am-noon, Monday through Friday during the program and will be assigned based on volunteer request and shift availability.

How much/often do I volunteer?

We request volunteers serve at least **5 total shifts** during June and July. You may work one day a week or multiple days a week, you can work every week or only certain weeks.

Volunteers will be allowed to make schedule changes. While we understand that plans must change unexpectedly, volunteers are only allowed to miss 2 shifts with 24 hour or less notification. Unless extreme circumstances, volunteers will be terminated from the program if a 3rd shift is missed.

How old do I have to be to volunteer with GIG?

GIGs must be **entering grades 8-12** in the school year following GIG service. Generally, that means age 13-18 years old. We will only accept applications from 12 year olds who will be entering 8th Grade.

Where will I be going to volunteer?

United Ability is located on **Oslo Circle off Lakeshore Drive**. The address of the Hand in Hand Early Learning Program is 120 Oslo Circle.

What will I be doing?

First and foremost, volunteers are expected to be engaged during service. Cell phones will be stored in a secure area of the classroom or office where you are assigned and should only be retrieved at the end of a shift. Volunteers may be asked to leave for the day or for the remainder of the program if repeatedly reprimanded for cell phone usage during service.

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Daily activities include:

- Assist teachers with lessons such as art, music and other lessons
- Monitor children on the playground
- Organize classrooms, supplies, library, etc.
- Read to/assist with reading activities
- Assist Office Staff

When is Orientation?

All orientation sessions are held at the Hand In Hand Early Learning Program (120 Oslo Circle) from 9am to noon. Volunteers **MUST ATTEND** one scheduled orientation before beginning service:

Friday, June 5

Monday, June 8

Applicants who are unable to attend a scheduled orientation session will not be considered for the program. Unfortunately, we can no longer accommodate one-on-one orientations.

What do I wear?

We ask that you dress in clothing that is comfortable and easy to move in that also provides complete coverage when bending or reaching. Follow typical school dress code regulations. Closed toed shoes or sandals with a heel strap are required (no flip flops).

Volunteers scheduled on water play days may wear a swimsuit under a shirt and shorts. We suggest volunteers also bring a towel and a change of dry clothes on these days.

Why is there a \$20 volunteer fee?

Only GIGs accepted to volunteer in the program are asked to pay the fee which covers an exclusive volunteer t-shirt, scheduling software access, badge, and orientation snacks.

How will scheduling work?

Volunteers are assigned ONE account in When I Work that can be accessed through a computer and/or a cell phone app. It will be the responsibility of the volunteers and parents to determine how to manage schedule sign-ups and notifications.

I need volunteer credit for school. Can I count GIG towards that?

As long as GIG meets your school program criteria, yes. Please be sure to share any forms that need to be signed with the GIG Coordinator before the end of the program.

How do I apply?

The application must be completed online and can be accessed at www.unitedability.org/gigvolunteer.

New applicants must have 2 non-family adults complete the online recommendation form (link in application) and upload a brief essay explaining what value you would bring to the program and what benefit you hope to gain from your experience.

Complete applications (including recommendation form submissions) must be received by May 1. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.