
– **FIRST DESCENTS MEDICAL REVIEWER** –

First Descents (FD) is seeking additional Medical Reviewers with a specialization in Oncology and/or Multiple Sclerosis (MS) to support FD’s application and medical review process. The FD model enables young adults impacted by cancer and other life-altering conditions to have a shared experience with their peer group in an outdoor adventure environment.¹ The FD screening process matches participants with programs best suited to ensure their success, safety and well-being. The medical review is a key component of this process.

Applicants are required to submit an application, including their medical history and a Physician’s authorization form from their medical provider in order to attend any overnight program.² This helps ensure the individual and collective safety and well-being of Participants, Staff and Volunteers. This information also prepares Outfitters, FD Staff and Volunteers, including our Medical Volunteer for the program.

WHO?

FD is looking for licensed medical professionals, including physician assistants, nurses, physicians and/or medical specialists, with a background in oncology for our oncology programs and a background in MS for our MS programs, to serve as volunteer Medical Reviewers. FD will have a continued and growing need to identify oncology and MS qualified Medical Reviewers, so the hope is reviewers will continue to support FD into the future!

WHAT?

The Medical Reviewer is responsible for actively reviewing applicant’s paperwork, including their personal application and the physical exam forms submitted by their medical provider, in line with FD’s medical screening guidelines. In this process, the Medical Reviewer would receive the medical forms from FD via email and be responsible for flagging any areas of concern, or issues that require additional medical follow up. If additional follow up is required, the Medical Reviewer may be required to reach out directly to the applicant or to their medical provider to gather more information and make an ultimate determination. The Medical Reviewer should take notes and submit them on each applicant, demonstrating that flagged questions were reviewed and providing any pertinent additional background information or notes.

THE MEDICAL REVIEWER’S KEY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

Making a sound determination and sharing that decision, with accompanying notes, to FD’s Program Team. At times, they may be asked to explain their notes and/or communicate with Lead Staff and/or the Medical Volunteer assigned to the program that individual will be attending.

Communicating with FD Staff, including the Director of Programs, Senior Manager of Program Delivery and members of the Participant Engagement Team, on a regular basis to make gather information and make a determination in line with FD’s program approach, model, activities and environment.

¹ FD has conducted research to better understand the effectiveness and impact of its programs. Research findings and reports can be accessed [here](#).

² Applications (including Physician’s Authorization) are required for all overnight programs, including Multi-Day, Week-Long, Healthcare Partnership and/or FDX programs. Applications are not required for Single-Day and Monthly Meetups.



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Complete annual training with the FD Programs Team and FD’s Medical Director by phone.

Collaborate with other Medical Reviewers, including FD’s Medical Director and the Mental Health Resource Specialist, who focuses on behavioral and psychological components of an individual’s application, to conduct a comprehensive assessment and make a joint determination.

WHEN?

Year-round. However, the bulk of our programs run primarily from May to September. The Medical Reviewer, depending on their availability, can expect 1-4 applications per week or approximately 1- 4 hours of volunteer time per week, depending on the application, level of complexity and any follow up needed. FD can adjust the number of applications a Medical Reviewer is responsible for based on their schedule and availability. This is an unpaid volunteer position.

Medical Reviewers would be required to check their email on a regular basis during the program season. If assigned an application, they would be asked to review it within 3-5 days typically.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send an email of interest and your resume to FD’s Director of Programs, Mackenzie McGrath, at mackenzie.mcgrath@firstdescents.org as soon as possible.