

– FIRST DESCENTS VOLUNTEER MEDICAL REVIEWER –

First Descents (FD) provides life changing outdoor adventures for young adults (ages 18-39) impacted by cancer and other serious health conditions. FD currently serves four main community groups, including Healthcare Workers on the frontlines of COVID-19 response efforts, Oncology, Multiple Sclerosis, and Caregivers. The Medical Reviewer is responsible for reviewing and screening program applicants. They play an important medical and risk management role and serve on a voluntary basis. Medical Reviewers are highly encouraged to volunteer in-person at a FD program.

WHAT?

The medical review process is intended to identify medical concerns and to review the medical history of program applicants prior to program participation. This might include identifying potential medication side effects relevant to a particular activity, or reviewing the applicant's specific medical problems and anticipating potential problems with program participation. As such, Medical Reviewers should be familiar with the management of a broad range of underlying medical conditions and medications.

WHO?

FD Medical Reviewers must be currently licensed as a physician or an Advanced Practice Provider, including Physician Assistant (PA) or Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP). FD may also consider licensed nurses with expertise in a relevant area (e.g. Oncology, Multiple Sclerosis, Emergency/Backcountry, or Program/Camp Medicine). This role often favors those practicing in primary or emergency care, however subspecialists with a particular interest may apply.

WHEN?

Typically, FD programs take place year-round with the bulk of programs running June-September. On average, however, Medical Reviewers can expect to review a minimum of 15-25 applications per year. Each application takes one to two hours to conduct a comprehensive review. Therefore, this role requires at least 15-50 volunteer hours per year, concentrated during certain months of the year. The total number of reviews per Medical Reviewer fluctuates annually based on the number of programs and applicants.

REQUIREMENTS?

Medical Reviewers must: have a current medical license as outlined above; attend FD's annual Medical Reviewer Training; and communicate with FD staff and the applicant's medical team, as needed. Medical Reviewers must check their email regularly, respond to FD staff in a timely manner, and complete a review within 3-5 days. Medical Reviewers must be comfortable working in email and Salesforce (FD will provide Salesforce training). Timeliness, responsiveness, reliability, attention to detail, adherence to FD policies and procedures, organization, thoroughness, and communication are critical. FD can adjust the number of applications a Medical Reviewer is responsible for based on their schedule and availability.

How?

Please send an email of interest, your resume, and a copy of your medical license to FD's Director of Programs, Mackenzie McGrath, at mackenzie.mcgrath@firstdescents.org.