



Dear Potential SNAPer,

WELCOME TO WATER MAGIC! We are looking for talented, bright, energetic, and water friendly folks to work with our special swimmers in the water. SNAP stands for the *Special Needs Aquatic Program*. Our program here in Palo Alto is modeled after the SNAP program founded in Berkeley 1991 by Dori Maxon PT, PCS, MEd. SNAP is a motor development program in the water for children with physical and/or cognitive challenges. SNAP strives to help kids with special needs feel pride and self-confidence while helping them build stronger bodies, build friendships, and have fun.

Volunteers work ONE-ON-ONE with our swimmers in the water each week under the supervision of a head instructor and an aquatic rehabilitation specialist. You will learn about the needs of your special child, learn best how to work with him or her, how to improve motor and social skills, have the opportunity to build a friendship with a special kid, and have lots of fun! Students have the opportunity to fulfill service and internship hours and can contribute novel ideas to our training manual.

To work with our special swimmers in the water you must be a good swimmer, have a warm spirit and humor, and enjoy working with children. We request that our volunteers commit TWO HOURS PER WEEK for at least TWO 8-week sessions. Our sessions follow the Stanford University academic calendar. We hold classes on Fridays at the Palo Alto Family YMCA (Ross Road) from 3:45-5:45 pm. You will need to fill out volunteer applications to both SNAP and the YMCA and pass a swim test. Since we are working with children, you will be asked to complete a background check through the Silicon Valley YMCA.

Training is provided. While you may begin volunteering anytime during the session, we highly suggest that you attend our new helper orientation and training day. All helpers receive a new helper training manual, continuous training, and support throughout the semester. We're here to help you succeed, learn, and have fun!

Please feel free to look over the materials and send your registration information to us via email or fax. If you have any questions at all, just ask. Thanks again for your interest in SNAP!

Kathryn Azevedo Ph.D., ATRIC, CMP
South Bay Regional Director

Special Needs Aquatic Program at the Palo Alto Family YMCA

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SNAP is program of United Cerebral Palsy of the Golden Gate