

## Voice of Care Outdoor Ministry Training



### Initial Consultation with Key Leadership *(approximately 2 hours)*

Voice of Care will meet with key leadership by phone or in person to discuss:

- The value of including people with disabilities in **Outdoor Ministry**
- Liability questions
- Curriculum adaptations
- Requisite forms
- Ministry responsibilities

### Training for Outdoor Ministry Staff *(online course, plus 6-hour in person class)*

Begins with completion of the *REST Essentials Online Course* followed by **Voice of Care's** training, including:

- Biblical foundations for ministry among people with disabilities
- Disability Awareness training
- Curriculum adaptation instruction and alternatives

### Training for Volunteers *(approximately 2 hours)*

Includes:

- Designated videos on **Voice of Care's** YouTube channel
- Downloadable handouts from *voiceofcare.org*.

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# Outdoor Ministry



### Voice of Care Outdoor Ministry Training costs:

**REST Essentials Online Course** *(required for all staff)* - \$15 per person, may be purchased as a bundle

**REST manual** - \$50, one copy per participant is helpful, but 3 to 5 copies are essential for reference

**6-Hour Training Class** - \$400 suggested donation, plus fees for transportation and housing

**Consultation** - NO CHARGE

**Downloadable resources** - FREE

**Dear Christian Friend** *(Christian Bible Story curriculum for people with disabilities)* - \$99 per set, purchase recommended



Introduces  
**Outdoor  
Ministry**  
to people with  
disabilities

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## Why Voice of Care?

**Outdoor Ministry** provides unique opportunities to minister among people with disability and those who care for them. **Voice of Care** equips the churches and ministry organizations with the training and resources needed to effectively and appropriately work with adults and children with disabilities.

**Voice of Care's Outdoor Ministry** training integrates curriculum from *REST (Respite Education & Support Tools)* training, a nationally accredited program certifying volunteer respite companions.

**Outdoor Ministry** is one of **Voice of Care's** five models of ministry among people with disabilities. Learn more at [voiceofcare.org](http://voiceofcare.org).

630.231.3862 [office@voiceofcare.org](mailto:office@voiceofcare.org)

## Why should the Church minister among people with disabilities in an outdoor setting?

- First and foremost, **Outdoor Ministry** is a setting in which to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and His Salvation to people who are often not connected to a church home.
- Non-traditional, outdoor settings can provide positive experiences for people with disabilities, because much of their life is spent indoors.
- Time outdoors can inspire camaraderie and generate good memories.
- **Outdoor Ministry** programs are a way to provide respite for caregivers.

## What types of Outdoor Ministry might a church or church body conduct?

- Permanent **Outdoor Ministry** centers present special needs camping opportunities for people with disabilities.
- There are many ways to include people with disabilities in sports or fine arts camps.
- A church may opt to include people with disabilities in Vacation Bible School or Day Camp programs, on property or off-site at a park or forest preserve.
- Churches can present a "pop up camp" by renting a camp and importing program, volunteers, staff and participants to the site.

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## Who benefits from Outdoor Ministry to people with disabilities?

- People with disabilities and their caregivers are the primary targets of these respite opportunities.
- Others can receive positive benefits, as well. Consider a nurse or home health assistant who may be refreshed by serving in another setting and interacting with others, giving a change from the normal work environment.
- Teens and adult volunteers can interact with a population they might not have otherwise engaged.
- Young camp counselors, such as those in college, may be inspired to alter their career path to include vocations among people with disabilities.

## What are the requirements for accommodating people with special needs?

- **Voice of Care's Outdoor Ministry** training program is rooted in *REST (Respite Education & Support Tools)* training.
- Each outdoor ministry provider defines the limitation of accommodation that the organization is comfortable providing.
- Outdoor settings may naturally produce some limitations for people with mobility issues, but there is a huge population of people with disabilities who can and want to participate in outdoor activities.
- A ministry may be selective about who to invite, and may choose appropriate activities for selected populations.
- **Voice of Care** training incorporates safety awareness particularly focused on outdoor scenarios.

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