

Destination Dreams

# Volunteer Information Pack





**Destination Dreams**

**Giving children a**

**chance to live a dream**



## About Destination Dreams

Sadly 5,000 children die every year from childhood illnesses. Many of these children spend their short lives in hospital. After a diagnosis of a life limiting or threatening illness everyday life changes.

Families experience physical, financial and emotional turmoil with overwhelming pressure and stress.

Destination Dreams is an organised holiday to Disney World, Florida for children fighting life threatening illnesses. Every child has a terminal prognosis or a severely life limiting or threatening condition. The children are accompanied by their immediate family. The family will stay in their own villa at a unique resort specifically designed for children with a high medical dependency, so special that a child can only be granted a wish to visit once in their lifetime. The families are supported by Caudwell Children's medical and staff team who are on call 24 hours a day.

The magical Destination Dreams week provides families with happy memories they can cherish forever and the opportunity to make lifelong friends that understand their situation better than anyone else. The programme provides a break from the routine of painful treatments, hospital appointments and education.

The volunteer team offer support to families when they need it; pushing a wheelchair to enable parents to hold hands and see the look on their children's faces as they meet all their favourite characters. The volunteer team does not undertake personal care, manual handling or medical duties and stay off site from the families.

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For more information, contact us on:

☎ 01782 600 424

✉ [volunteer@caudwellchildren.com](mailto:volunteer@caudwellchildren.com)

🌐 [www.caudwellchildren.com](http://www.caudwellchildren.com)



## Daisy's Story

**Daisy is 5 years old and travelled with her parents, two brothers and sister to Florida on the Destination Dreams holiday.**

**It's believed that Daisy's condition, Costello Syndrome, affects only 300 people worldwide. It is a rare genetic disorder that affects many parts of the body and is often characterised by a small stature and distinctive facial features. It can also cause heart problems and causes a 17% increased risk of cancer, amongst other complications. However, many of Daisy's medical issues have never been seen in a child with Costello Syndrome before. This means Daisy, who is partially sighted and has limited communication skills, encounters frequent hospital admissions and over the last two years she has developed intestinal failure.**

"A trip to Disney World was beyond our wildest dreams. To put it into context; our life revolves around our trips to Great Ormond Street or the hospice Daisy attends. This half term Daisy had an infection so while all the other children were enjoying doing fun things during their school break, the children were at the hospital, then the hospice and then straight home before school started. None of our children have been to Chessington World of Adventure or Alton Towers, let alone Disney World. We have been able to tell them that for once, instead of a trip to Great Ormond Street, they are going to Florida. It will make the children so happy to see Daisy so happy as well.

We just don't know that something like this will be possible next year. Daisy's needs have really increased lately and she is medically fragile so it's really important for us to go now while we still can."

– Stephanie, Mum of Daisy.

# DESTINATION DREAMS VOLUNTEER

Caudwell Children annually provides children with life threatening illnesses with a chance to create lasting memories and live their dreams on a holiday of their lifetime.



## DURATION

10 days including travel



## AGE

18yrs or over



## LOCATION

Disney World Florida

## ROLE DESCRIPTION

As a Destination Dreams volunteer you will provide vital support for families to ensure that the holiday is successful and each family's needs are met. Volunteers will work with siblings, providing support and family liaison for the duration of the trip.

Volunteers will not be expected to provide any medical assistance, personal care or manual handling.

## YOU WILL

- Provide families with support on the journey and for the duration of the stay in America
- Work as part of a team with different families during their stay to ensure their needs are met
- Provide on site information at parks

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- The ability to convey information to children and their families
- Good listening skills
- Good organisational skills
- Ability to talk to people from all backgrounds
- Be able to work on own initiative and as part of a team
- Ability to maintain confidentiality, take direction, work to policies and procedures and also work to Caudwell Children's values and ethos
- Non judgemental with a positive outlook

## DESIRABLE EXPERIENCE

- Experience within a health and social care environment
- Work with disabled children and their families (paid or unpaid)

## VOLUNTEER BENEFITS

- Professional training
- Development of transferrable skills and experience
- Travelling expenses will be provided to an agreed budget
- The chance to change disabled children's lives and create lasting memories for their families

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- This role is subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check
- Current valid passport
- Ability to travel to the USA and to demonstrate the ability to meet entry requirements
- Willingness to undertake residential training and attend Destination Dreams meetings as required in the UK and for the duration of the trip
- To be able to raise the minimum amount of required sponsorship



# Destination Dreams

## Volunteer

**Volunteering is the most effective and rewarding way to become involved and make a real change to everyday lives. However you choose to get involved, Caudwell Children will ensure you have the skills and support to make a difference.**

### Selection Process

It is essential that we recruit the most appropriate and committed volunteers. Successful volunteers become the public face of the Charity, helping children have a magical time and supporting families to create lasting memories.

Caudwell Children's volunteer management team and trained volunteers will quickly determine the outcome of each application, inviting potential volunteers to a Selection Day.

### The application process is a 5 stage process:

1. Application form plus supporting documentation
2. Shortlisting
3. Selection Day
4. Receipt of references and the Disclosure and Barring Checks
5. Residential training weekend

### Induction and Training

Following a successful application all volunteers will participate in our induction and Destination Dreams training programme. This can lead to an ongoing programme of personal development based on each volunteer's experience, aspirations and availability.



## Destination Dreams

### Selection

Due to the number of applications we receive we are unable to acknowledge receipt of your application. We will contact everybody once the Charity has completed stage 2 of the process.

### Everyone can help

Although the Destination Dreams Programme has a limited number of places, the Charity has many other volunteering opportunities that can change a disabled child's life.

### Beneficiaries as volunteers

If you have been a beneficiary of the Destination Dreams programme, please contact us to discuss our beneficiaries as volunteer policy.

## Guidance notes - Application form

Please be aware that Destination Dreams volunteer placements are limited. All applications will be considered and evaluated against skills, qualifications and experience relevant to the Destination Dreams role. Make sure you read the role description and demonstrate how you meet the skills and experience requirements.

### Please ensure that:

- Your applications is completed and is legible
- You demonstrate your enthusiasm and passion for the Destination Dreams programme
- You highlight your relevant experience and skills

### Questions 5 onwards

This information enables us to short list your application, so it is important that you show your commitment to the project and what has motivated you to apply to be part of the programme. Highlight all your skills and experiences both in a paid and an unpaid capacity. Remember we can only assess your application on the information you provide. Demonstrating skills and experiences will assist the team in shortlisting applications.

### References

We require two referees who we can contact and who can comment on your personal qualities. Referees can be colleagues, employers, college/university tutors and friends, but not family members.



### Medical Form

We require this information to make certain that we take all reasonable care to ensure your safety whilst working as a volunteer. It is also essential that volunteers can secure health insurance.

### Criminal Records Disclosure

As a children's charity we are committed to safeguarding children and all our Destination Dreams volunteers will be asked to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service check.

### Passport

We require a copy of your valid passport at the application stage.

### Equal Opportunities Monitoring

Information given in this section will be used for statistical data, which is analysed to understand whether our equal opportunities policy is effective and to identify any changes that need to be made.

### Data protection

Confidential personal information recorded about volunteers is not shared with other bodies and is maintained in compliance with data protection legislation.

### Insurance

Details of Caudwell Children's Insurance Policy will be available on request following a successful application.

## Visa

Please note that from 12 January 2009 all nationals and citizens of Visa Waiver Program (VWP) countries - including the UK - will be required by law to obtain a travel authorisation prior to travelling to the United States under the VWP. There is a fee to obtain a Visa Waiver, which volunteers will be required to pay when submitting their application to the US authorities.

**If you are not a UK passport holder please visit [www.travel.state.gov/visa/](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/)**

The Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) is now live. You can submit your application at [www.esta.cbp.dhs.gov](http://www.esta.cbp.dhs.gov). This will cost \$14 which will be valid for 2 years

A passport indicating that the bearer is a British Subject, British Dependent Territories Citizen, British Overseas Citizen, British National (Overseas) Citizen, or British Protected Person does not qualify for travel without a visa. A passport which states holder has Right of Abode or indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom does not qualify for visa free travel;

You will qualify for travel under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) if you are a citizen of the United Kingdom:

- For business, pleasure or transit for less than 90 days. Visa-free travel does not include those who plan to study, work or remain in the United States for more than 90 days;
- Is not ineligible to receive a visa under U.S. visa law. Travellers who have been arrested, even if the arrest did not result in a criminal conviction; those with criminal records (the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act does not apply to U.S. visa law), certain serious communicable illnesses, those who have been refused admission into, or have been deported from, the United States; or have previously overstayed on the VWP are not eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program.



### What is a Visa?

A visa is issued by a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. A visa entitles the holder to travel to the United States and apply for admission; it does not guarantee entry. An immigration inspector at the port of entry determines the visa holder's eligibility for admission into the United States.

### Who Needs a Visa?

Anyone who is not eligible to enter the United States visa free under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), or is not exempt from the visa requirement. Please note: travellers born in the United States and those who hold dual citizenship with the United States must enter and depart the United States on U.S. passports.

**For more information for UK citizens please visit [www.london.usembassy.gov/visa](http://www.london.usembassy.gov/visa)**

### Sponsorship

Volunteers are required to raise an agreed target to be confirmed when selection is complete. Caudwell Children is 100% reliant upon fundraising income. It costs over £7,000 per Destination Dreams family place and volunteer fundraising enables the charity to create more lasting memories by contributing to a family place on the following year's Destination Dreams.

## Volunteer Experience

When you hear you are selected, you get a rush of excitement at the prospect of what lies ahead - helping children with life threatening illnesses have a fantastic holiday. Then you realise that you need to get straight on to planning your fundraising activities - thinking of creative ways to raise the money and the profile of Caudwell Children within your local community. When the money starts rolling in, you see your hard work repaid.

About a month prior to the trip, you are invited to attend a training event arranged by the Caudwell Children staff - it's a great time to meet the staff and your fellow volunteers. The training is extremely important and gives you information that will help prepare you for the trip.

The day prior to flying off to Florida, we all arrive at the airport and there is a mixture of emotions - excitement about going on the trip, nervousness about meeting the children and families for the first time. Then it's an early night ready for the long day ahead.

Each day in Florida, you will be allocated one of the volunteer duties - this will either be assisting Caudwell Children staff in the morning at Give Kids the World (where the families and medics have stayed all week), assisting a family in the park or manning the information point. Each night the Caudwell Children staff and volunteers get together to discuss the day raising any issues we may have - also telling funny stories about things that have happened during the day!

The last day we all get to spend time at Give Kids the World that is a colourful and magical place - Virgin staff come along to check us in. We then make our way to the airport, check in and get ready to board our flight back to the UK. Finally we land and say our goodbyes. Everyone is exhausted following the long exciting week they have had.

It is then off home to reflect on the memories and magical experience of the past week...

**“Destination Dreams for me is a life changing experience! The whole trip you are left with breath taking moments that will stay with you for a lifetime. You get to witness first hand the incredible work that Caudwell Children does for the disabled children and their families. Not only has Destination Dreams inspired me to do more to raise disability awareness but also to continue to raise vital funds to keep amazing initiatives like this going. I will take forever memories and forever friends from this experience and for that I can never say thank you enough to the charity for the opportunity! My heart will always glow purple!”**

- Zoe Scott (Destination Dreams Volunteer)



destination  
dreams



**“Each day was a completely unique experience having the opportunity to work with different families and volunteers”**



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 [caudwellchildren.com](http://caudwellchildren.com)  [caudwellchildren](https://www.facebook.com/caudwellchildren)  [@caudwellkids](https://twitter.com/caudwellkids)

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