

Dear Future Geneva Glen Nurse,

It is difficult to put into words how amazing Geneva Glen is. I was lucky enough to find camp on the Internet after finishing a tough year of grad school, and I felt like I stumbled upon one of the world's best-kept secrets! Without a question, camp has been the single most influential experience in my life.

I'll start with the reason that camp has been running for eighty-five years: the kids. The kids at Geneva Glen range from 6-16 years old, and they are so well mannered, creative, outgoing, and caring. My favorite times were hanging out with campers or watching them perform during evening play. You get to be with them as they transition into mature adults, and many of them end up joining staff as crew and counselors. I found that the campers had as much of an impact on me as I had on them. You will never find more incredible kids.

Although most of the staff has been at Geneva Glen for a long time, I felt welcome from the moment I arrived. They love telling you all about the traditions of the Glen, and it didn't take long before I was a part of the family. They are very supportive and fun to be around. I have never been in the midst of so many smart people of such high character. They are the type of people that you want to be friends with forever. Even now the people I worked with continue to be my closest friends. You may never know more quality people.

The job itself is loaded with perks. The brand new health center is wonderful. It has a private bedroom and bathroom for the nurse, hardwood floors, and air-conditioning making it the best health center I've seen at a camp. You will treat a variety of different illnesses and injuries, but the majority of the ailments are colds, stomach-aches, sprains, and scrapes. A piece of cake when you love your patients! Teaching is one of my favorite things about being a nurse, and I was able to do this a lot at camp. I was able to teach the staff how to handle emergencies, discuss the causes and treatment of high blood pressure with one of the cooks, and show the campers how to treat a sprained ankle with the RICE method.

Occasionally there were more serious problems, but I always felt prepared to handle them because the staff and camp doctors were always so supportive. Health care will never be more fun.

I can't tell you enough how much I cherish having been able to work for Ken and Nancy, the directors. I have never had a job in which I was praised daily for the work I was doing. It was truly heartwarming. They cherish the nurses dearly, and will do anything to make sure you have a good experience. You will never have better bosses.

As if all of that isn't enough, you get the opportunity to participate in the daily camp life. I loved being able to carry a walkie-talkie, so that I could go play all day. I was famous for hanging out at the pool, but I also liked riding horses, going on sunrise trips to Red Rocks, playing softball and enjoying all the activities that are part of the session themes.

I am so excited that you may also get to experience the magic of Geneva Glen. I would love the chance to talk more about my experience, or to answer any questions you may have.

Congratulations on finding the experience of a lifetime!

Katie Richardson

Geneva Glen Camp Nurse 2004, 2005

Dear Future Nurse of the Glen,

There is way too much to say! My name is Paula Modesitt, and I was a Geneva Glen Camp nurse for the last 3 summers. It was definitely the best job of my life! After driving my car from Florida, and not knowing a soul at camp (or in Colorado), I was quickly pulled right into the family, embraced, and welcomed. The staff has a great balance of their own friendships from childhood, and welcoming in a stranger with arms wide open.

The nurse has a lot of new perks, and it really does make the job a dream. There is a new, BRAND NEW health center, built in the summer of 2005. It has air-conditioning, heat, carpet, wood floors, running water, a beautiful tiled bathtub, private living quarters for the nurse, and enough beds for the sick kids at camp! This health center is an amazing step up from the facility my first year, and it really has made the camp experience better! Camp really honors their nurse and the health care provided, and it shows!

The campers are just a riot! They'll come into the health center with a variety of ailments, but as a new graduate nurse, there still wasn't anything I couldn't handle! Most of the campers enter with homesickness, coughs, colds, tummy aches, etc. You really have the opportunity to be the "comforter" for these children, and that is so rewarding! As long as you're good at basic triage, and you can give good hugs, you'll be great!

The staff has always been very supportive of the nurse. They are always there to help out in emergencies, and most of them are trained in CPR/First-aid to help out too! It's great to get to know the staff, and after orientation week, you'll feel like you've been part of the group forever.

The directors, Ken and Nancy Atkinson really value the nurse. The nurse is valued as a professional position at camp, and Ken and Nancy will do anything to make sure the position is supported. It's wonderful to know that your bosses are rooting for you, and they really love when you succeed. Also, the camp doctors are always just a phone call away, and they will come up if you need them! The doctors are very supportive and trusting of the nurse!

Camp offers so many things for everyone. I didn't like spending my whole day in the health center, so I just carried my walkie-talkie and experienced camp! There are all kinds of activities, and camp loves to see the nurse involved! There is a great pool, horses, a ropes course, trails to hike, arts-and-crafts, archery, etc. There is never a dull day up at camp! After working in a hospital or clinic setting, camp is exactly what you need to revive your senses!

I am so excited that you're considering this job. I would do it year-after-year if "real-life" obligations didn't exist. I think I am a better person after working at Geneva Glen, and I can't wait for the spirit of the glen to wrap you up too! This is an experience of a lifetime!

Please give me a call anytime if you'd like to learn more about this position. Ken and Nancy have my phone number.

Take care of Geneva Glen, and it will take care of you!

Take care,

Paula Modesitt ☺

Geneva Glen Camp Nurse 2004, 2005, 2006

To the Future Nurse of Geneva Glen,

A friend of mine introduced me to Geneva Glen Camp. She said to me, "Steve, this camp really needs a nurse like you and you could really use this camp." I never imagined how right she was.

If you're getting into this without any pre-expectations, fantastic! Be prepared for the experience of a lifetime. If you already have your summer planned out, be prepared to open your mind and your heart, and enjoy all there is to enjoy at Geneva Glen.

I was a new graduate when I took the job in 1995, and what a great way to begin my nursing career. The independence was a challenge for me at that point, but soon became very rewarding. What I considered to be the supporting staff (the doctors, assistant nurse, EMT's, and Conifer Medical Clinic), were all so excellent and helpful, it allowed me to accept that independence and grow as a nurse.

The Health Center will become what you wish, but I'm betting it will be more than just an "office." That's your baby, from the very beginning days of setting up and organizing, through to the busy times of open hours, and into the closing days of camp.

This job portrays the basic aspects of nursing. You don't have to worry about technology coming in between you and your care. You are the one everyone comes to see! The most technical aspect may very well be getting some 100 different campers or staff their medications at every meal, whether they are in their seats or not.

One aspect where I benefited, as my friend predicted, was the experience of camp life. It's your choice, but I highly encourage you to get involved with camp life. From the beginning during staff orientation, through the mystics of American Heritage, the true magic and wonders of Knighthood, and the warmth you can give and receive during World Friendship. Again, it's your choice to become as involved as much as you wish. All I can do is to encourage you.

Then of course, there are your bosses. Ken and Nancy Atkinson are honestly and truly the most incredible people to work for and to know. They LOVE the nurse! They are there for you and anything you or the health center may need. They'll keep you in check, if they need to, but their support is unprecedented. I cannot say enough about those two.

The entire staff was really great. The campers will challenge you, as well as warm your heart. Enjoy this year, I know I would be if I was in your shoes. I sit here in the city, dreaming of the days I get the opportunity to return to G.G. as the nurse. All my best to you. I'll probably be seeing you, once the magic of that place gets into your system, it doesn't leave too easily.

Peace, love, happiness,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Clayton". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Steve Clayton

"BONES"

To the future nurse of the Glen:

Where to start---I love camp so much I can't seem to stay away. I've been there for 4 summers and would tell anyone interested in the best job ever – please consider it – experience the magic for yourself. It will make your life as a nurse and as a person even more rich and full. You will love the kids, the counselors, Ken and Nancy, the freedom and independence, the opportunity to collaborate with great docs, and lastly just the magic of the Glen. Be ready to learn about powwow's and rendezvous, kings and queens, knights and ladies, Merlin and magic, Camelot, and world friendship.

The basics:

There aren't many technical skills involved with camp nursing. Yet good clinical judgment and common sense are good skills to have, you will use them daily. The health center is yours to set up and run as you like. There is always help around: EMT's and an assistant nurse on site at camp, and a doctor always a phone call away. Lots of bandaids, stomachaches, medications, and reassurances. There is the occasional asthma problem, bee stings, stitches that need to go to the medical center or ER, sprains, strains, cuts, bruises, jammed fingers, and a rare rock in the ear – but nothing that good clinical judgment can't solve. I've learned so much from the camp docs and never felt at a loss of support or help. That is the nursing part in a nutshell.

But the best part is participating in camp life. It is whatever you make it. You set the health center hours and you carry a walkie-talkie so you can do anything. Ropes, zip line, challenge course, hikes with kids, discussions with kids, horses, pool, Frisbee, it is your choice. You just have to like to play – with kids!

And everybody loves the nurse. Sometime, to be honest, I did get tired, but as a fellow counselor said to me, "Yes but people love what you do," So it is all worth it.

Positivity, pure energy, beauty, authenticity, simplicity, love, creativity, talent, excitement, hope, and optimism. This is what you will see every day. I met life long friends at camp that I still see and talk with often. It has been one of the greatest experiences I have had and would say to anyone reading this – Please come experience it for yourself – camp needs an awesome nurse like you!

One is drawn to things because it is important, because it has meaning (wisdom from Ken). If you have been led to Geneva Glen, please open yourself up to all it has to offer, there is so much! If you want to hear more or talk about anything, please give me a ring, Ken and Nancy have my number.

Congratulations on finding the best job ever!

Love and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Micki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Micki Kibler