



## Summer Stars Fieldwork/Internship Opportunity

### JOIN OUR VIBRANT TEAM AT DSAWM!

Are you a college student passionate about inclusivity, working with children that have disabilities, and eager to make a meaningful impact? The Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan (DSAWM) invites you to apply for our Summer Stars Fieldwork/Internship.

This role is ideal for students pursuing or interested in Special Education, Therapy, Psychology, Social Work, Non-Profit Leadership, or related fields.

### FIELDWORK/INTERNSHIP OVERVIEW:

The Summer Stars program offers a unique and engaging opportunity for kids with Down syndrome to continue learning, develop new skills, and build friendships throughout the summer. Through a variety of thoughtfully designed activities, including games, crafts, and outdoor play, the program helps children work on their IEP (Individualized Education Program) goals while supporting their overall development. With a structured routine that balances education and fun, this program provides a summer of growth, enjoyment, and achievement.

In this role, you will be paired with one or two children that have Down syndrome in grades 1-6, each with a diverse range of abilities and help design a summer curriculum based on each child's IEP goals. You will work closely with the Special Education Teacher, Program Coordinator, and other team members to implement group activities and help children stay engaged in learning through play. This program offers you the unique opportunity to make a lasting impact on children's lives by helping them continue their learning journey during the summer months and avoid the risk of regression.

### SCHEDULE:

- **Orientation:**
  - May 18th
- **Program Preparation:**
  - May 19th-June 4th
  - Monday-Thursday
  - 10am-4pm
- **Summer Stars Program:**
  - June 8th-August 6th
  - Monday-Thursday
  - 12pm-5pm
- **Days Off:**
  - May 25th
  - June 29th-July 2nd

Students are required to be available during the program dates, with the exception of the listed days off.

## **YOUR IMPACT:**

### **Summer Stars Program:**

- Work directly with children that have Down syndrome and encourage the children to engage in activities as well as support them as they work to accomplish goals.
- Plan, facilitate, and adapt group therapeutic activities.
- Document interaction, progress, and participation per program protocols.
- Manage behaviors of children.
- Create a fun and safe environment.

### **Support Tasks:**

- Collaborate with other staff, interns, and volunteers.
- Select and gather materials.
- Assist children in the bathroom or with other personal hygiene or ADL's as necessary.
- Support other member programming as needed.

## **WE'RE LOOKING FOR:**

- A motivated college student who is reliable, eager to learn, and passionate about contributing to a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting children with disabilities, particularly those with Down syndrome.
- Preferred Spanish and English, as we aim to extend our outreach and inclusivity to Spanish-speaking communities.
- Basic American Sign Language (ASL) is a plus, or willingness to learn.
- Strong organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to multitask, adapt in a fast-paced environment, and collaborate effectively with a team.
- Someone with reliable transportation to and from the program location.

## **ADDITIONAL DETAILS:**

This Fieldwork/Internship position is designed to offer a well-rounded and hands-on experience providing valuable skills applicable in many career paths. The position requires in person attendance at our building located at 160 68th St SW Grand Rapids, MI 49548. Our building is located on the bus line.

This Fieldwork/Internship offers a minimum stipend of \$1,000.

DSAWM is committed to creating an inclusive and supportive work environment, including reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

## **JOIN US!**

If you're ready to contribute to our mission and gain invaluable experience at DSAWM, please send your resume and cover letter to [program@dsawm.org](mailto:program@dsawm.org) by April 16th. In your cover letter, describe your interest in this Fieldwork/Internship and how it aligns with your academic and career goals.

We look forward to welcoming you into our community!

## **Have Questions?**

Contact our Program Coordinator, Maria, at [program@dsawm.org](mailto:program@dsawm.org)