



OPERATION TRACKSHOES

c/o Camosun College, 3100 Foul Bay Road, Victoria, BC V8P 5J2

Dear Peer Counsellor (and parents):

Welcome to Operation Trackshoes (OT). OT is a provincial sports festival for people with developmental disabilities to be held June 9 – 11, 2023 at the University of Victoria. This year we celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Our Junior Program is for children up to grade 8. As a peer counsellor you will play a key role as a buddy/friend to competitors. Full time overnight peer counsellors are housed with competitors, just as though you are in a summer camp together. If you are accepted as a peer counsellor, you will be matched with a competitor for the OT weekend. You, and your competitor will be supported by an adult counsellor.

It is always hard to anticipate how many new peer overnight peer positions will be needed, however there may be some day peer positions available. You would arrive at the start of each day (3:00 pm on Friday) and go home in the evening each day after activities are over.

Our need for peers depends entirely on the age and gender of the competitors who sign up, and until all competitors are registered, we cannot guarantee that we can accept you as a peer counsellor. However, we hope to welcome you to our event this year and we will do our best to let you know if you are confirmed as a peer counsellor by the first week of May. Please plan to attend the orientation on *Saturday, May 13*, and if you are 12 years old or older, please get your criminal record check done. See below for more information regarding the criminal record check as well as a link to the application form and other forms which will need to be filled out.

Mark these dates on your calendar now:

- *Saturday May 13, 11am to 12pm: Peer Counsellor Orientation, Room TBA, Camosun College, Lansdowne Campus.*
- June 9-11, the OT weekend at UVic. If you are accepted as a full time peer, this is an overnight assignment which starts Friday afternoon and ends Sunday afternoon.

A [Peer Counsellor application form](#) is available for download. Once completed, you may submit the form by using the SUBMIT button at the bottom of the form, attaching and sending a copy to info@trackshoes.ca, faxing the form to **1-888-317-2826** (toll free), or mailing a copy to the address on the bottom of the form. The information you provide on the application form is used solely for the purpose of determining the best competitor match for you. It is not given out to anyone else.

Please ask one of your teachers to fill out the [Teacher Letter of Reference Form](#). Please also name a second reference on the application form, one that is employment, education or volunteer related.

You will also need to have your parent or guardian fill out our [Consent Form](#).

If you are 12 years old or over, you will need to have a Criminal Record Check. Email us at info@trackshoes.ca and ask us for a Criminal Record Check Request Letter. Please take this letter to your local police station as soon as possible, as it may take some time for the request to be processed. Then bring the completed Record Check to your orientation.

Operation Trackshoes is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all who attend the event. To see our [Health Safety Plan](#) please visit our website.

If you or your parents need any further information please send us an email at info@trackshoes.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Fallan
Junior Program Senior Counsellor

Fiona McDannold
Registrar