



## Character Membership Application

Character Volunteers are costumed performers who attend events and hospital visits in character. Characters Volunteers may also act as General Volunteers at events.

Please take a moment to review our **Criteria for Joining** and **Rules & Code of Conduct** to make sure you are willing and able to meet the requirements to be a Character Volunteer with CAUSEplay for Hope. Provide all required information completely and accurately below.

1. Legal Name (First, Last):
  - a. Preferred Name:
  - b. Pronouns:
  
2. Contact Information
  - a. Phone:
  - b. Email:
  - c. Address:
  
3. Social Media Handles
  - a. Instagram:
  - b. TikTok:
  - c. Twitter / X:
  - d. Facebook:
  - e. YouTube:
  - f. Twitch:
  - g. Other:
  
4. Have you ever been convicted of a felony? **Yes**      **No**
  
5. Do you have current or previous acting experience? **Yes**      **No**
  
6. Do you have previous experience working with children? **Yes**      **No**
  - a. Please explain:

7. Are you currently affiliated with any other character companies or organizations (paid or volunteer)? **Yes**      **No**

a. If yes, please list:

8. Why do you want to join CAUSEplay for Hope?

9. How did you hear about CAUSEplay for Hope?

a. If you were referred by a current member, what is their name?

10. Please list the costume(s) you are submitting for approval. Attach front, back, and side photos of yourself wearing the costume(s).<sup>\*</sup> Include a close up photo of your face (if not masked) and wig (front and back).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit your completed application **as well as the signed Criteria for Joining and Rules & Code of Conduct documents** to [members@causeplayforhope.org](mailto:members@causeplayforhope.org).

<sup>\*</sup> If you have any issues sending your photos via email, please use WeTransfer (<https://wetransfer.com/>) and send them to [costumes@causeplayforhope.org](mailto:costumes@causeplayforhope.org)



## Criteria for Joining and Costume Criteria

### Criteria for Joining CAUSEplay for Hope (ALL APPLICANTS)

1. You must be 18 years or older (OR 14 - 17 years for our Youth program)
2. Be a kind and compassionate individual. CAUSEplay for Hope members want to spread hope, tolerance, and kindness to others.
3. Be responsible, have good time management, and be committed to the mission.
  - a. Joining CAUSEplay for Hope means that you are fully present at events. Please leave your personal social media in the car or at home. CAUSEplay for Hope does not allow private posts from events and discourages self-promoting.
4. Must be able to volunteer a minimum of 3 hours a year (approximately 1 event), not including CAUSEplay for Hope meet-ups.
5. Must complete onboarding and annual training.
  - a. Training includes (but is not limited to) Character training, Conduct training, Hospital training, and/or Handler training.
6. The well-being and entertainment of event guests should come second only to safety.
7. For Hospital Visits/Events:
  - a. Must be 18 years or older.
  - b. Must have current immunizations for the flu (October through May, unless otherwise specified).
  - c. Must be vaccinated for COVID-19 per current state/county regulations.
8. For costumed members:
  - a. Dedicated to portraying a fictional character and maintaining character integrity.
  - b. Meet Costume Criteria

### CAUSEplay for Hope Costume Criteria (CHARACTER VOLUNTEER APPLICANTS)

1. Costumes must be quality - handmade or bought.
  - a. Costumes, wigs, and props should not come from a party store.
2. Costumes must be from a movie, television, comic, or graphic novel and be readily identifiable.
  - a. Crossovers, mash-ups, or obscure variations of a character will not be accepted or approved.
  - b. Period, sci-fi, or fantasy characters (like pirates and mermaids) should also be reenactor level costumes.
3. Costumes must fit appropriately and be child-appropriate.
  - a. Proper undergarments must be worn (all genders).
  - b. Costumes should not be overly revealing.

4. Costumes, wigs, and props must be kept clean and in good repair.
  - a. All parts of an approved costume should be maintained at the same level that it was approved at.
    - i. Repairs and alterations must be done prior to a costume, wig, or prop being brought to an event.
  - b. Costumes should be clean and free of stains, odors, damage, and obvious last minute alterations (like safety pins).
5. Make-up should be character-accurate and match the source material.
  - a. Foundation should match the complexion of the character volunteer. Eyeshadow, contouring, and highlighting should appropriately compliment the volunteer's skin tone as well as be appropriate for the character.
    - i. Characters with unnatural skin tone (blue, green, red, purple, etc.) are allowed and make-up and body paint should be used to distinguish the character.
    - ii. Foundation and make-up that makes a volunteer to be a different race than the race they identify with is not allowed (i.e. blackface, yellowface, etc).
  - b. Make-up should be set appropriately and be able to last the duration of an event.
    - i. Body paint must be smooth and set.
    - ii. Any touch-ups should be done during breaks, out of sight of the event guests.
  - c. Make-up must be approved during the Costume Approval process.
6. Wigs should be styled and be performance quality.
  - a. Wigs and hair accessories must be approved during the Costume Approval process.
  - b. Wigs and hat accessories should be well maintained and free of odors.
7. Future costume changes or updates to costumes must be approved by the Costume Committee before being worn to an event.
8. All parts of an approved costume must be worn to an event.
  - a. Exceptions due to weather or an on-site malfunction may only be made by the Event Lead.

**Failure to follow the CAUSEplay for Hope Criteria for Joining and Costume Criteria may lead to a volunteer being asked to leave an event and/or disciplinary action being taken.**

*By signing this form you hereby acknowledge and accept all Criteria for Joining and Costume Criteria.*

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Membership Rules & Code of Conduct

Please review the Rules & Code of Conduct to ensure you are willing and able to meet all requirements. Each item must be adhered to at all times during events.

### Rules & Code of Conduct

1. Members should always put kids and event guest's safety and enjoyment first.
  - a. Do not give props or costume parts to any child or event guest. If someone takes something belonging to a character, the Event Lead should be notified and will handle the situation.
  - b. Avoid personal conversations with other members and guests while at an event. Stay in character and maintain character integrity.
    - i. If there is a lull in activity, members may speak to one another as long as it is done quietly and kept clean and child friendly.
  - c. Members should be approachable and avoid clustering together.
2. Costumed members must maintain quality costumes, wigs, and props and be readily recognizable. Costumes must be approved and meet the Costume Criteria.
3. Non-costumed members and Chaperones should maintain character integrity and be available to direct guest questions to the Event Lead and assist with activities.
4. Event Leads are in charge of events and act as the intermediary between the client and CAUSEplay for Hope. All client and guest questions should be directed to the Event Lead as they will be fully briefed on what to say about the group and availability.
5. Scheduling and Attendance
  - a. Characters are selected by what is needed or requested for a specific event. Non-character members are selected by first-come, first served unless otherwise stated.
  - b. Only members who have been registered for a specific event may attend. Do not show up to a hospital or event without permission.
    - i. If a CAUSEplay for Hope member is attending an event with a different organization, it is expected that they will stay with the other organization and represent them. Different organizations have different rules and CAUSEplay for Hope members will be held to a high standard.

- c. A 48-hour notice is requested if backing out of an event. This ensures the Event Lead has time to backfill the position, especially if a specific character or type of character has been requested.
  - d. Arrive at the scheduled time. Members who are sick or running late must let the Event Lead know ASAP so they can be replaced or adjustments can be made on site.
6. Personal Devices
- a. No personal photography at events or hospital visits.
    - i. Approved photos will be posted on CAUSEplay for Hope's social media and can be shared.
    - ii. Costumed selfies while at an event are not allowed.
  - b. Personal cell phones are for emergency use only.
    - i. Cell phone use is restricted to the event Organizer and/or the event Handler. Costumed characters should not be seen using cell phones. If a phone must be used, members must step away to a pre-designated "private area" where the character will not be seen by guests using a phone. Cell phones should be kept out of sight.
    - ii. All event photos, including the official group photo, are ONLY taken by the event Organizer or the event Handler.
7. Social Media and Online Conduct
- a. Do not make posts (text and/or pictures) that poorly reflect on CAUSEplay for Hope. Keep personal posts appropriate and clean.
    - i. Volunteers shall remain cognizant of the fact that Clients and Partners regularly track down members through social media posts.
    - ii. All public posts to social media by members should reflect positively on the member and CAUSEplay for Hope.
  - b. Members may not tag hospitals or charity events in any posts they make regarding a visit or event.
    - i. Tagging will happen on official CAUSEplay for Hope social media.
      - 1. These posts may be shared.
8. Hospital Rules
- a. Members must pass and be signed off on Hospital Visit training before attending a Hospital visit or event.
  - b. If a member has been ill within the last 48 hours, they may not attend a hospital visit or event.
    - i. Children may be immunocompromised and need to be kept free of "extra" germs.

- c. NO pictures may be taken of the children. Any photos taken must be cleared by the hospital. This is an important consideration for the privacy of patients and their families.
- d. Do not ask any health related question to patients or their families. Do not share any health related information with anyone outside of the hospital.
- e. Avoid greetings which can be misconstrued as an inquiry into a patient's physical and/or emotional well-being (i.e. "How are you doing?" "How are you feeling?" "How is your day going?") or implies future visits and refers to length of stay in the hospital ("i.e. "See you soon." or "Hope you get to go home soon."
- f. Do not offer gifts or opportunities of any kind to patients. The Event Lead communicates directly with the hospital Child Life Staff and the Staff will manage expectations if CAUSEplay for Hope has a specific resource it can offer. The visit itself is a gift to the patient.
- g. Do not inquire about specific patients. All hospital staff must maintain patient confidentiality. The Child Life Staff will operate on behalf of the patients' best interest.
- h. Do not provide personal contact information to patients or their families. Do not contact patients and families via social media.
- i. Respect cultural and religious differences that patients and their families may have. Do not discuss personal religious beliefs.
- j. No Latex
  - i. This is a severe allergy concern for many patients.
- k. Hospital visits are under the direction of Child Life Staff. Always remain with the Staff person. Do NOT venture off unless specifically directed by a Child Life Staff member.
- l. All volunteers/visitors must be 18 years of age or older.
- m. Current flu immunization is required during flu season (October to May, unless otherwise specified). Masking may be required.

Disciplinary action may be taken against members who repeatedly or intentionally fail to follow our Code of Conduct. Disciplinary actions will vary depending on the violation. Possible consequences include:

- Reprimand (verbal or written)
- Retraining
- Probationary period
- Suspension or termination of membership

*By signing this form you hereby acknowledge and accept all Membership Rules & Codes of Conduct.*

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_