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## **VOLUNTEER TRAINING SCHEDULED FOR FLORIDA BEREAVEMENT CAMPS**

*Training session will equip individuals with information necessary to help child, teen campers*

**Bradenton, Florida:** The Mark Wandall Foundation, in partnership with Comfort Zone Camp, is holding a volunteer training session for those interested in assisting at the groups' free youth bereavement camps.

The camps, held across the country by Comfort Zone Camp, allow children and teens the chance to connect with peers who understand their unique experience of having lost a parent, sibling or guardian. Florida camps are conducted in partnership with The Mark Wandall Foundation.

Trained volunteers are critical to providing this opportunity to the children and teens who benefit from these camps. Up to 90 individuals are required for each camp session to fill a variety of volunteer roles.

"Increasing our volunteer database is critical to serving these children and teens in grief," said Melissa Wandall, director of The Mark Wandall Foundation. "These camps allow the kids a safe place where they can all connect through their grief. They see that their grief doesn't define them. Training to be a camp volunteer is a great way to support the kids in our communities that have experienced a loss."

Volunteers must be at least 15 years old and need to attend only one six-hour training session. Upon completion of training, volunteers can register for a variety of roles at any camp held in Florida or across the country.

The training session is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 3, 2018, at Gold Coast Eagle Distributing, located at 7051 Wireless Court in Sarasota. Lunch will be provided to registered attendees.

During this six-hour program, volunteers will meet Comfort Zone staff, campers, and previously trained volunteers who will explain what to expect at camp and how the program impacts grieving children and teens. Trainees will receive education about childhood bereavement and tips on how to be successful in whichever volunteer role they are selected to fill.

To register for this training session:

- Go to <https://www.comfortzonecamp.org/event/965>
- Create a My Comfort Zone account by clicking the "Register Now" button at the top of the page and complete the basic information form
- Click on the "Volunteer" tab and then click on the "Apply as a volunteer" button, complete the Volunteer Application
- Click on "Enroll in Training Session" and select the March 3rd date for your training session.
- The background check process will be described during training, and directions on how to complete that process will be sent out after you attend training.

For any questions regarding this training, please contact Jessi Schmale at [jschmale@comfortzonecamp.org](mailto:jschmale@comfortzonecamp.org).

**About the organization:** The Mark Wandall Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization supporting children and teens who are in grief due to the loss of an immediate family member or guardian. Our establishment facilitates programs that connect these children and their families to the valuable resources they urgently need. Our goal is to assist our children as they unearth their inner courage to confront the personal adversities they are facing and empower them to not only survive in life but to thrive in life. For more information, visit [www.themarkwandallfoundation.org](http://www.themarkwandallfoundation.org).

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