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Andrew Flannery, M.A.



Andrew Flannery M.A., is a rising fifth year student in Northern Illinois University's Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program. He graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He received his master's degree in clinical psychology from NIU in the fall of 2017. Andrew previously worked as a mental health counselor at Presence St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin, IL. He has experience conducting assessments and therapy with children, adults, and families at the Psychological Services Center at NIU. He recently worked as a behavioral consultant at Opportunity House, Inc. in Sycamore, IL, where he provided therapy and assessment services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. His clinical practicum experiences also included conducting comprehensive multidisciplinary psycho diagnostic assessments and providing individual and group therapy for children and adolescents at Florissa Pediatric Development Center in Dixon, IL. Andrew currently works as a practicum clinician at Susan Myket, Ph.D., & Associates, a private family psychology practice in Naperville, IL. In the summer of 2017, Andrew served as a counselor for the ATS Adventure Camp, and he is thrilled to return to camp this summer! During his free time, Andrew loves to cook, watch sports, and explore Chicago with his fiancée and friends!

Q & A with Andrew

What do you hope to take away from this experience?

This summer at Adventure Camp, I am hoping to create new memories with campers and grow with them as we learn to use our brave! My experience at Adventure Camp last summer helped me grow immensely as a person, as I learned more about myself and new ways to connect with others.

Why are you returning to Adventure Camp?

This will be my second summer as an Adventure Camp counselor, and I am so excited to return! We had so much fun with our campers last year and saw so much growth. The experience was tremendously rewarding and facilitated my ability to integrate more effective evidence-based skills into my "therapy toolbox." I am looking forward to continuing to develop these skills through Adventure Camp!

In what way do you think Adventure Camp is a unique treatment compared to treatments you've encountered?

In my experience, I have come to learn there are not many resources or interventions for children with selective mutism. However, Adventure Camp has shown to be an extremely effective treatment *specific* to selective mutism. It goes above and beyond typical exposure therapy as the treatment program is an intensive daily intervention, whereas other exposure therapies that I have encountered work on a once-a-week basis. Additionally, there is one-on-one interaction between each camper and a designated counselor, occurring within a group setting--which is a brilliant design!

How can you integrate this experience into your academic or professional goals?

Adventure Camp has provided me with a special opportunity to work with a unique group of children, which has helped me gain insight about what selective mutism is and how it influences other areas of functioning. With a passion to work with children and adolescents in clinical settings throughout my career, I am certain that Adventure Camp will continue to provide me with an ability to properly identify selective mutism. I am also confident that Adventure Camp will teach me how to help future children develop the requisite skills to be brave!

If you could talk to your camper right now, what would you tell them?

If I could talk to my camper right now, I would tell them that it is *totally* ok to be scared or nervous--in fact, I also get nervous at times! But no matter what, those hard moments pass when we learn how to be brave. This summer, I will work so hard with you to make sure that we learn how to use our brave, have fun, and learn that we can achieve anything!