October 17, 2016

Q: Are activity staff required to do the Safe Food Handler Certification training?

A: The Illinois Department of Public Health defines “food handlers” as an individual working with unpackaged food, food equipment or utensils or food-contact surfaces. "Food employee" or "food handler" does not include unpaid volunteers in a food establishment, whether permanent or temporary. Unless the activity staff are working in the kitchen or working with residents in handling and preparing food as an activity, they are not required (see IDPH Food Service Sanitation Code at http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/077/07700750sections.html).