

# Who Can I Contact To Find a Special Needs Camp?

**Resources for Children with Special Needs, Inc.**

**212-677-4650**

**[www.resourcesnyc.org](http://www.resourcesnyc.org)**

**Online Special Camp Guide**

**[http://resourcesnyc.org/images/uploads/content/2014\\_RCSN\\_Special\\_Camp\\_Guide.pdf](http://resourcesnyc.org/images/uploads/content/2014_RCSN_Special_Camp_Guide.pdf)**

**The American Camping Association**

**Contact them to find accredited special and mainstream camps**

**212-391-5208**

**<http://www.aca-nynj.org/search-for-a-camp>**

## Suggestions for Selecting a Camp

A summer spent at a day, sleepaway or travel camp should be a productive living and learning experience. It can be fun and healthy, and can provide an opportunity to develop new skills and friendships. A camp experience may have a great impact on a child's life, so it is important for parents and caregivers to make a careful decision in choosing a camp. Not every camp meets the needs and abilities of every child. Since you are the consumer, you have a right to ask any question you wish so that you can better understand a camp program. Some of the questions you may want to consider are listed below.

### *You and Your Child*

- What do you want for your child from a camp experience? Improvement in specific areas: language, reading, gross motor skills, social interaction, skills of daily living, etc.?
- What does your child want out of his or her camp experience? A good time? New friends? New skills?
- Is your child ready for a day camp?
- Is your child ready for a sleepaway camp?
- Has your child spent time away from home overnight at a friend's or relative's home?

### *Director and Staff*

- Who is the director? What are his or her qualifications?
- What kind of screening process is used to select staff?
- What are the qualifications of the staff members: education, age, training? How are they supervised?
- If there is a remedial program, is it staffed by licensed professionals?
- What is the professional staff-to-camper ratio: senior counselors, waterfront staff, therapists, medical personnel?
- Who are the medical staff: doctor, nurse?
- What is the percentage of returning staff?

### *Camp Program*

- What is the overall philosophy of the camp? What are the goals for the children?
- What is a typical day like? What are the activities? Do children have a choice of activities?
- Is one-to-one instruction provided for some activities?
- How is the waterfront program run? What are the qualifications of the waterfront staff? What are the safety procedures? How often do children swim?
- Are activities varied for different age groups and abilities?
- What do children do on a rainy day? Do they stay in camp or go to other facilities?
- What is the range of abilities and special needs of the campers?
- How does the program meet individual needs and differences?
- How are behavior problems handled?
- What is done to deal with a child's fear or resistance to a particular activity, e.g., swimming, horseback riding, boating?

- What is the percentage of returning campers?

## *Camp Setting*

- What is the overall appearance of the camp?
- What are the facilities like for indoor and outdoor sports and games? Are they accessible for children with physical disabilities?
- Where are the kitchen and dining areas? Do campers and staff eat together?
- Are buildings and equipment safe, well-lighted and in good repair?
- Do children sleep in tents? Cabins? Where are bathroom and shower facilities? Are they kept in sanitary condition?
- Is there plenty of equipment in good condition?
- How many counselors live in each of the cabins or bunks?

## *Other Things to Consider*

- What is a typical menu? Who prepares the food? Are provisions made for special dietary needs?
- What medical facilities are available at the camp?
- Are there procedures for the administration of medication?
- What procedures are in place for medical emergencies?
- How does your child get to camp? Is transportation provided?
- Do staff members speak languages other than English?
- Is there a visitors' day for parents? Are parents able to arrange a visit other than on visitors' day? Are parents able to call? Are computers and email access allowed?
- If possible, visit the camps the year before you will be sending your child.
- How is information concerning children's progress shared with parents and/or schools after the camp season?
- What can you as the parent share with the camp that will be helpful?
- What system exists for laundering of clothing?
- Do you want your child to be included with children without disabilities for all or part of the day?
- What payment options are offered by the camp (scholarship, sliding scale, payment plans)?

## **CAMP SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

If your child has a **developmental disability** you can ask about a financial aid program called “**Family Reimbursement**”. Call your **Developmental Disability Regional Office** and ask to speak to Family Support:

To find your local **DDRO**:

Call OPWDD (Office for People with Developmental Disabilities) or go to their website to find your local office:  
**INFORMATION LINE 1-(866)-946-9733**

[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd\\_contacts/contact\\_information](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_contacts/contact_information)

**Look in your Yellow Pages or on the Internet** under “**Fraternal Organizations**”, sometimes these charitable organizations help. Some examples are: **Lions Clubs, Elks Clubs, Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis**

**American Camping Association** offers funding if your child will be attending an ACA accredited camp. Ask the camp if it is accredited by ACA, then call **212-391-5208 or 1-800-777- 2267** and ask about the **SCOPE Program**.

**FACES: Funding for children with Seizure Disorders:**  
**212-871-0245 ext. 113**

**Autism Speaks:** (212) 252-8584 For children with autism spectrum disorders

## **LOW COST SLEEPAWAY CAMPS**

(These are primarily mainstream camps: mostly children  
without disabilities)

For more camps call: American Camping Association-1-800-777-2267  
212-391-5208

**Fresh Air Fund:**  
212-897-8900

**Kamp Kiwanis:**  
315-336-4568

**Girls Quest:**  
212-532-7050

**Catholic Youth:**  
212-371-1000 ext.  
2065

**Salvation Army  
Camps:**  
212-337-7200

**Protestant Welfare  
Camps:**  
212-777-4800

**Minisink:**  
212-368-8400

**Joy:** 845-225-2005

**Vacamas & Top of the  
Pines:** 973-838-0942,  
877-428-8222  
x0942

**Wilbur Herrlich:** 845-  
878-6662

**Morry's Camp:**  
914-592-3055

**Friendship:**  
718-965-3695

**Trail Blazers:**  
212-529-5113

**University Settlement:**  
212-674-9120

**NYC Mission Society:**  
212-674-3500

**Berkshire Hills-Emanuel  
Camps** (Copake, NY)  
(914) 693-8952,  
[www.bhecamps.com](http://www.bhecamps.com)

**Fiver** (Earlville, NY)  
(212) 971-9562;  
[www.fiver.org](http://www.fiver.org)  
[www.freshair.org](http://www.freshair.org)

**Holmes Presbyterian  
Camp** (Holmes, NY)  
(845) 878-6383;  
[www.presbyteriancenter.org](http://www.presbyteriancenter.org)

**John's Boys and Girls  
Camp**  
(Friendship, ME)  
(570) 426-7083;  
[www.jonsboysandgirls.org](http://www.jonsboysandgirls.org)

**Camp Johnsonburg  
Presbyterian Center**  
(Johnsonburg, NJ) (908)  
852-2349;  
[www.campjburg.org](http://www.campjburg.org)  
**Kiddie Keep Well Camp**  
(Edison, NJ)  
(732) 548-6542;  
[www.kiddiekeepwell.com](http://www.kiddiekeepwell.com)

**Lake Delaware Boys  
Camp** (Delhi, NY)  
(607) 832-4451;  
[www.lakedelawareboyscamp.com](http://www.lakedelawareboyscamp.com)

**Camp Lebanon- Baptist  
Camp & Conference Ctr.**  
(Lebanon, NJ) (908)  
236-2638;  
[www.camplebanon.com](http://www.camplebanon.com)

**Camp Ma-He-Tu** (Bear  
Mountain, NY)  
(888) 262-4388;  
[www.campmahetu.org](http://www.campmahetu.org)

**North Shore Holiday  
House Camp**  
(Huntington, NY) (631)  
427-7630;  
[www.northshoreholidayhouse.org](http://www.northshoreholidayhouse.org)

**Camp Olmsted**  
(Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY)  
(845) 534-7900;  
[www.campolmsted.org](http://www.campolmsted.org)  
**Camp Onas** (Ottsville,  
PA)  
(610) 847-5858;  
[www.camponas.org](http://www.camponas.org)

**(Quinipet** (Shelter Island  
Heights, NY)  
(631) 749-0430;  
[www.quinipet.org](http://www.quinipet.org)

**Camp Sandy Cove** (High  
View, WV)  
(410) 287-5433;  
[www.campsandycove.org](http://www.campsandycove.org)

**Surprise Lake Camp**  
(Cold Spring, NY)  
(212) 924-3131;  
[www.surpriselake.org](http://www.surpriselake.org)

**Top at Tradewinds Lake**  
(Windsor, NY)  
(212) 529-5113;  
[www.vacamas.org](http://www.vacamas.org)

**Camp Victory Lake**  
(Hyde Park, NY)  
(718) 291-8006;  
[www.campvictorylake.org](http://www.campvictorylake.org)

**YMCA Camp Bernie**  
(Port Murray, NJ)  
(908) 832-5315;  
[www.campbernie.org](http://www.campbernie.org)

**YMCA Camp  
Chingachgook**  
(Kattskill Bay, NY) (518)  
656-9462;  
[www.chingachgook.org](http://www.chingachgook.org)

**Fairview Lake YMCA**

(Newton, NJ)

(973) 383-9282;

[www.fairviewlake.org](http://www.fairviewlake.org)

**Greater NY YMCA**

(Huguenot, NY)

(845) 85 8-2200;

[www.ymcanyc.org/camps](http://www.ymcanyc.org/camps)

**YMCA Camp Hi-Rock**

(Mt. Washington, MA)

(413) 528-1227;

[www.camphirock.org](http://www.camphirock.org)

## Sleepaway Camps for Children with Developmental/Intellectual Disabilities

\*=Particularly good for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

### **AHRC Camp Anne**

83 Maiden Lane, 9th Fl.  
New York, NY 10038  
212-780-2500  
[www.ahrcnyc.org](http://www.ahrcnyc.org)

### **Akeela \***

3 New King Street  
White Plains, NY 10604  
866-680-4744  
[www.campakeela.com](http://www.campakeela.com)

### **Allen**

56 Camp Allen Road  
Bedford, NH 3110  
603-622-8471  
[www.campallennh.org](http://www.campallennh.org)

### **AMAC \***

25 W 17th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
212-645-5005  
[www.amac.org/program/camp.htm](http://www.amac.org/program/camp.htm)

### **Clover Patch**

55 Helping Hand Lane  
Glenville, NY 12302  
518-384-3000  
[www.cloverpatchcamp.org](http://www.cloverpatchcamp.org)

### **Empire State Special Needs Experience, Inc.**

725 LaRue Rd.  
Spencer, NY 14883  
607-589-4800  
[www.lionscb.org](http://www.lionscb.org)

### **HASC \***

5902 14th Ave.  
Bklyn., NY 11219  
718-686-5930  
[www.hasc.net/camp](http://www.hasc.net/camp)

### **Hemlocks-Easter Seals**

PO Box 198  
Hebron, CT 06248  
860-228-9496  
[www.ct.easterseals.org](http://www.ct.easterseals.org)

### **Hidden Valley**

633 Third Ave. 14th Fl.  
New York, NY 10017  
212-897-8900  
[www.freshair.org](http://www.freshair.org)

### **Hope**

PO Box 670  
Carmel, NY 10512  
845-225-2005  
[www.cbfny.org](http://www.cbfny.org)

### **Horizons \***

127 Babcock Hill Rd.  
South Windham, CT  
06266  
860-456-1032  
[www.camphorizons.org](http://www.camphorizons.org)

### **Huntington \***

56 Bruceville Rd.  
High Falls, NY 12440  
866-514-5281  
[www.camphuntington.com](http://www.camphuntington.com)

### **Jaycee**

985 Livingston Ave.  
North Brunswick, NJ  
08902  
732-246-2525x44  
[www.campjaycee.org](http://www.campjaycee.org)

### **Lee Mar \***

805 Redgate Rd.  
Dresher, PA 19025  
215-658-1708  
[www.leemar.com](http://www.leemar.com)

### **Loyaltown**

189 Wheatley Rd.  
Brookville, NY 11545  
516-626-1000  
[www.ahrc.org](http://www.ahrc.org)

### **Merry Heart-Easter Seals**

21 O'Brien Rd.  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840  
908-852-3896  
[www.eastersealsnj.org](http://www.eastersealsnj.org)

### **Mid-Hudson Valley**

PO Box 197  
Esopus, NY 12429  
845-384-6620  
[www.esopuscamps.com](http://www.esopuscamps.com)

### **Pa-Qua-Tuck**

PO Box 677  
Center Moriches, NY  
11934  
631-878-1070  
[www.camppaquatuck.org](http://www.camppaquatuck.org)

### **Ramapo for Children \***

PO Box 266  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572  
845-876-8403  
[www.ramapoforchildren.org](http://www.ramapoforchildren.org)

### **Round Lake \***

21 Plymouth St.  
Fairfield, NJ 07004  
973-575-3333x145  
[www.roundlakecamp.org](http://www.roundlakecamp.org)

### **Summit \***

322 Route 46 West, Ste.  
210  
Parsippany, NJ 07054  
973-732-3230  
[www.summitcamp.com](http://www.summitcamp.com)

**Sun 'N Fun**

1555 Gateway Blvd.  
West Deptford, NJ 08096  
856-629-4502  
[www.thearcgloucester.org](http://www.thearcgloucester.org)

**Sunrise at Warwick**

PO Box 349  
Warwick, NY 10990  
845-986-1164  
[www.campwarwick.com](http://www.campwarwick.com)

**Wagon Road**

431 Quaker Rd.  
Chappaqua, NY 10514  
914-238-4761  
[www.childrenaidsociety.org](http://www.childrenaidsociety.org)

**YAI/MAC \***

460 W. 34th St. 11th Fl.  
New York, NY 10001  
212-273-6298  
[www.yai.org/camping](http://www.yai.org/camping)