

New Horizons Summer Camp for Children with Special Needs

Recreation and Parks has been offering specialized therapeutic summer camps for children for over 30 years. The combination of our dedicated, qualified and professional staff and innovated and specialized programs gives our campers a summer filled with fun activities the development of positive peer friendships and a continuation of therapeutic learning experiences. The camp is made possible by a partnership between St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks and St. Mary's County Public Schools Department of Special Education.

New Horizons is a five-week, co-ed, day camp program for children and young adults 4-20 years old, with various intellectual and developmental disabilities. Campers enjoy a variety of activities that may include arts and crafts, music, swimming, and exercise, field trips and much more.

Camp will provide approved respite care providers and have full time nursing staff on duty, allowing for medication disbursement, non-delegated nursing duties and emergency care on the spot. A breakfast and lunch program sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education Summer Food Service Program is also offered. Many children schedule their SMCPs approved extended school years services and/or specialized coordinated services to be conducted at camp.

SPECIAL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for Special Needs Camps must be done in person or by mail. A completed registration form must be completed and submitted with payment. Online registration is not available.

Criteria to attend: Child ages 4 through 20 who have disabilities/medical needs that preclude them from full participation in general summer camps.

Camp Schedule

Monday – Thursday Camp times at 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

To prepare parents for their children to attend camp, a daily schedule, field trip schedule and breakfast and lunch menu will be provided no later than the first day of camp.

Cost

\$750.00 for the summer; peer assistance at no charge. Fees include the food services program and all field trips. For those that qualify, scholarships and payment plans are available to assist families in the expense. Families who are registered with the Department of Social Service Respite Program qualify for respite care to pay the registration fee. Occasionally some non-profit agencies will sponsor a child for camp. All third-party payments must be approved prior to registration. Scholarships are available on a limited basis and conditional upon funding. In order to be considered, a Scholarship Form will need to be completed and submitted prior to

registering for the program. All applications are reviewed and considered on a case by case need. Please complete the form with indication for why there is a need for assistance.

SCHOLARSHIP FORM

Transportation

Bus hubs are located throughout the county to provide transportation to campers and peers to and from camp. Exact hub locations and pickup/drop off times are located on the registration form. Door to door transportation is NOT available.

Nursing

Nursing staff are provided for New Horizons campers. Families enrolled in SMCPS medication orders will be transferred by staff to have at camp. Any families that do not attend St. Mary's County Public Schools must provide medication orders completed by the doctor PRIOR to the start of camp.

MEDICATION ORDER

Specialized Coordinated Services

Campers may receive extended school year services during camp hours OR specialized therapy services from an outside providers. Recreation and Parks does not coordinate outside services for families. Such services must be organized by the families and information provided to camp staff. No field trips are scheduled on Wednesdays to give providers at minimum one day a week they may visit to provide services. ALL outside personnel must register with camp directors as volunteers prior to the start of camp.

Program Registration

Applications can be obtained from Recreation and Parks below. Online registration is not available.

REGISTRATION FORM

Peer Assistant

The peer assistance is a program designed to benefit both the campers and the peer assistant. Being a peer assistant allows you to provide campers extra attention, encouragement, and feedback they may need to experience success.

Peer Assistant Expectations:

- In order for peer assistants to participate in the Camp program they must meet several qualifications and hold positive characteristics.
- A good candidate for the peer assistant program is an individual who is:
 - Able to participate in Camp Inspire working with a child or young adults diagnosed with disabilities
 - Capable of handling the responsibilities of working one-on-one with our campers
 - Able to communicate well and be able to follow the instructor's directions
 - Able to assist with any camper if needed
 - 7 years of age and older

Peer Assistant Characteristics

Reliable and helpful, demonstrates a positive attitude, Is prepared for camp, Starts camp on time, Completes assignments, Has a good rapport with peers, Seeks guidance if needed, Allows peers to demonstrate independence, Shows responsibility, Gives clear instructions

[PEER ASSISTANT APPLICATION & AGREEMENT](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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