

Summer Camps for Students with Mental Health Disabilities

(* = anyone can participate, disability or not)

General Camps (that accommodate mental health disability):

- [Abilities First](#), located in Middletown, Ohio, has a summer therapy program.
- *[Camp Courageous](#), located in Whitehouse, Ohio, offers residential, day and respite weekend camps throughout the summer and fall.
- *[Camp Echoing Hills](#), Warsaw Hills, Ohio, is an overnight camp that encourages campers to reach beyond their limitations in dozens of fun and therapeutic programs. Ages 7 to adulthood.
- *[Camp Joy](#), located in Clarksville, Ohio partners with organizations to provide camp experiences for children with medical conditions, grieving children, and underserved children and families. Overnight camping programs include partnerships with Cincinnati Children's, Arthritis Foundation, Camp Sunrise, Amputee Coalition of America, American Diabetes Association, Starshine Hospice, St. Joseph Orphanage and Children's Home of Cincinnati.
- [Center for Possibilities](#), offers a summer program for students with developmental disabilities, preschool through adult. Camp sessions are held in Hobart, Indiana.
- *[Children's Home of Cincinnati](#) offers **Camp I Can** for ages 5 to 12, **Ready Set Work** for high schoolers with ASD and other related disorders, and **Ready 2 Work!** for ages 18 to 25. The camp is from 7:00am-5:30pm and the cost for the week is \$185.00.
- [Cincinnati Occupational Therapy Institute \(COTI\)](#), Cincinnati, runs Camp Odakota to support children who have sensory processing disorders. The cost for the camp is \$380.00.
- *[Cincinnati Recreation Commission](#) has summer camp opportunities and year round recreation programs at different locations throughout Cincinnati.
- *[CYO Camp Rancho Framasa](#), Nashville, Indiana, provides opportunities for full inclusion in an overnight setting.
- [Hattie Larlham Camp Connect](#), Bath, Ohio, has an inclusive summer camp ages 6 to 12.
- *[Indiana Summer Camp Directory](#) is available on the Insource website.
- [Kamp Dovetail](#) is a volunteer run summer camp sponsored by Supplementary Assistance to The Handicapped. The camp is for children with disabilities in Highland and surrounding counties of Ohio and is held at the Rocky Fork Lake State Park in Highland County.
- *[Kicks for Kids](#), Covington, Kentucky has a variety of sports, arts and social activities.
- *[Mayerson JCC](#), Cincinnati, offers inclusive camping opportunities for Kindergarten through Age 10.
- [New Perceptions, Bridging the Gap Summer Program](#), located in Edgewood, Kentucky, provides basic preschool readiness and continuation of therapy for children ages 2½ to 5 who will enter school in the fall.
- *[Pleasant Hill Outdoor Camp](#), Cincinnati, offers inclusive themed day and overnight camps for ages 6 to 18.
- [Recreation Unlimited](#), located in Ashley, Ohio, provides summer residential and day camps, as well as year-round respite weekend camps for youth and adults ages 5 to adulthood. Accepts Ohio DD waivers.
- [Redwood](#), located in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, offers a therapeutic recreation program with different theme each summer that encourages children to explore their diverse interests, personalities, and abilities while

overcoming areas of challenge. Some children require onsite nursing care, assistive technology, and intensive supervision of one-to-two or one-on-one staff-to-student ratios. They also offer technology camps for children and teens with special needs.

- [Stepping Stones and Camp Allyn](#), offers year-round programs for people of all ages with a wide range of disabilities. Summer day camps are held at two locations near Cincinnati and summer overnight camp for older teens and adults is at Camp Allyn in Batavia, Ohio. This camp is \$800.00 for the week and is for ages 12 and older. The deadline is soon, and the fees can be waived.
- [Talbert House](#), Cincinnati, offers a variety of support programs including drug and alcohol treatment services as well as comprehensive wraparound services and mental health counseling and psychiatric services. They operate [Camp Possible](#), a summer day camp for children ages 6-12 who struggle with behavioral health issues. Insurance can be billed for the camp.
- *[Warren County ESC Tech Camp](#), located in Lebanon, Ohio, is a weeklong camp where students collaborate with peers on technology-based projects for students in grades 6 to 8. The cost is \$80.00 and there is a waitlist for the camp, there is no fee waiver.
- *[YMCA Camp Campbell Gard](#), Hamilton, Ohio, offers weeklong summer camp experiences for children with special needs. The camp provides specially trained counselors, flexible age guidelines, universally accessible facilities and a fully inclusive program for ages 7 to 22. The cost is \$100.00 with no fee waiver and the application deadline for the camp is May 14th.
- *[YMCA Camp Ernst](#), Burlington, Kentucky, offers weekly day camps for ages 6 to 15. The cost is \$620.00 for the week with no fee waiver and the application deadline is May 14th.
- *[YMCA of Greater Cincinnati](#) has summer camp and recreation options in branches around the area. The camp is from 9:00am to 4:00pm and the cost varies on the certain specification, the ages are from 5 to 12 and the application deadline is May 28th.

Autism:

- [Applied Behavioral Services](#) provides teaching environment for children with Asperger's and Autism Spectrum Disorders. Summer teaching and social skills program offered. Ages 3 to 18.
- [Camp Ability, Cincinnati Center for Autism](#) has social skills and recreational programs, including a 9-week summer camp. Some services begin at age 3 ranging up to 21. There is a waiver for the cost of the camp which ranges from \$1,800-\$2,400 for the full day and \$900-\$1,200 for half day also accounting for student to instructor ratios. The application deadline is June 11th.
- [Camp Nuhop](#), located in Ashland, Ohio, is an overnight camp for children with ADHD, learning disabilities, Asperger's Syndrome and behavioral challenges. For ages 6 to 18. The application deadline is June 1st and there is a partial waiver for the camp cost, not including the deposit fee.
- [Children's Home of Cincinnati](#) offers **Ready Set Work**. Ready Set Work is a 5-week summer career and community exploration program for high schoolers with Autism Spectrum and related disorders. Our summer programming focuses on developing the social and vocational skills needed for employment.
- [Clippard Family YMCA](#), located on Cheviot Rd. in Cincinnati, has an Autism Learning Center and is an approved Autism Scholarship provider through the Ohio Department of Education. They also host a monthly Autism Family Night. All monthly Autism Family Nights are open to the autism community; attendees do not need to be members of the Y and there is no age limit. Events range from family movie nights to BBQs to holiday parties.
- [Surfers Healing](#): Changing the World One Child At A Time offers annual summer surfing camps for individuals with autism.

Other Specific Disorders:

- [Cincinnati Children's Summer Treatment Program for Children with ADHD](#) (Ages 8 -12) provides a consistent, daily schedule of recreational and educational activities. The program is designed to develop and improve social skills, conflict resolution, listening skills, improve learning skills and self-esteem. Email ADHDSTP@cchmc.org or call 513-803-7708 for more information about fees and registration process. 7 week long camp that is \$4,500. The application deadline is end of May and there is no waiver for the cost associated with the camp.
- [Camp Nuhop](#), located in Ashland, Ohio, is an overnight camp for children with ADHD, learning disabilities, Asperger's Syndrome and behavioral challenges. For ages 6 to 18.
- [Summer Smart, Lindner Center of HOPE](#), Mason, Ohio, has summer sessions designed for children with anxiety and attention disorders.

Horses, Equine Therapy:

- [Bay Star EquiCenter](#), located in Shandon, Ohio, provides Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) and Equine Assisted Learning (EAL). This is a special type of therapy that is done with a specially trained horse, professionals, and a licensed therapist. This is not a riding program. It is a research-based therapy that is appropriate for individuals with mental health needs. Year round activities, the cost for 1 to 4 people is \$100 an hour and for 5 or more individuals the cost is lowered to \$25 and hour per person. They allow ages 7 years and older to participate in their activities.
- [Bridge Riding for the Disabled](#), located in Lebanon, Ohio, provides therapeutic riding for individuals with physical, psychosocial and cognitive disabilities.
- [Cincinnati Therapeutic Riding and Horsemanship](#) has a comprehensive horseback riding program for children and adults with disabilities. They also have a [Hippotherapy](#) (horse-riding therapy) program that combines speech, physical and occupational therapy.
- [Muddy Water Equestrian Park](#), Cincinnati, offers riding therapy programs and activities. They offer rides, lessons, and parties from April through December this year. To make a reservation they are reached on their website www.muddywaterranch.com. They run Saturday and Sunday for rides at 12:00pm, 1:30pm, 4:00pm. They only accept cash, and the costs per person is \$40, or for groups of 4 or more they are \$25 per person.
- [Ohio Therapeutic Horsemanship](#), Georgetown, Ohio, offers a therapeutic riding program for ages 5 to 18. Provide services working with farm animals, nature, and horses in an experiential environmental setting. They run through November and there is a waiver for their costs associated with their services which are \$35 for one session for an hour and also \$200 for a 6 week session.
- [Potter's Ranch](#), located in Union, Kentucky, provides equine therapy through their therapeutic riding program. There are various summer programs and they all are associated with different costs. The programs are 'Art Day Camp' June 4th-June 8th, 'Boone County Conservation Camp' June 12th-June 14th, 'Basic Horse Day Camp' June 25th-June 29th, 'Camp Infinity Family Camp' July 5th-July 7th, 'Camp Infinity' July 8th-July 14th, 'Adventure Day Camp' July 9th-July 13th, 'Infinity' July 15th-July 21st, 'Advanced Horse Camp' July 16th-July 20th, 'Archery Day Camp' July 23rd-July 27th.
- [Safe Haven Farms](#), located in West Chester, Ohio, is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization offering therapeutic riding, residential, day and community services for individuals on the autism spectrum. It provides a variety of living, working, learning and leisure activities in a farm environment.
- [The Farm at Equisports](#), located in Goshen, provides adaptive riding and interactive farm lessons. Call 513-625-6300 or email anneast@hughes.net for information.
- [Milestone's Equestrian Achievement Program](#), located in Independence, Kentucky, is a therapeutic horseback riding program.

Music/Dance/Acting/Art:

- ***Dramakinetics** offers performing arts classes and activities for all individuals, regardless of ability. Classes are available throughout the year for toddlers through adults in the Cincinnati area. Continuing education opportunities for family members, teachers and therapists on using Dramakinetics methodology are also provided. Find a list of classes on their web site.
- ***Marjorie Book Continuing Education Society**, located in Cincinnati, brings individuals with and without disabilities together, 12 years and older, for continuing education classes, service learning projects and theater productions. There is no cost for the first year, after that there is a \$70 annual fee. The group produces two summer plays. Rehearsals are at UC and the performances are located in Northside.
- **Melodic Connections**, located in Cincinnati, provides music therapy-based adapted keyboard and guitar lessons to individuals with special needs, ages 7 through adult. The camps this year are split by age groups. The costs associated are \$75/week for half day and \$236/week for full day and there are appropriate waivers accepted. Ages 5-8 camps are June 11-15 and July 9-13, ages 9-12 camps are June 18-22 and July 16-20, and ages 13+ camps are June 25-29 and July 23-27.
- ***Music Resource Center (MRC)**, located in Cincinnati, is a multifaceted teen program, grades 7 through 12, that uses recording and performing arts, as well as life skills mentoring to create a sense of empowerment and accomplishment in the urban community. They operate from 9-12 Monday through Friday and their costs range from how many camps you attend. 1 camp is \$175, 2 camps is \$325 and 3 camps is \$450.
- **Music Therapy Services**, located in Cincinnati, provides individual and small group music therapy sessions for children and adults with developmental, physical, emotional, and learning disabilities.
- **Music Therapy Care**, located in West Chester, provides music therapy groups and individual sessions to individuals with special needs to develop identified areas of need, ages 2 through adult, adapted music lessons are also available. Special summer themed classes for percussion experiences, music ensembles and toddler-caregiver classes are available.
- **Visionaries & Voices** is a studio / gallery created specifically for artists with disabilities to grow both personally and professionally.

Sports:

- ***Butler County Challenger Baseball** serves Butler and surrounding counties.
- **Cincinnati TOP Soccer** is part of a national soccer program created to train young people (ages 5 through high school) with disabilities in a caring coaching environment. TOP Soccer allows a child to participate in the same type of community sports programs as their non-disabled peers, including uniforms, awards banquets, and when appropriate the opportunity to play on a non-disabled team. They have indoor and outdoor soccer, depending on the season. They also welcome wheelchairs.
- **Cincy Swish Spirit Basketball** offers basketball instruction to children and young adults with disabilities. In addition to instruction, Swish Spirit provides children of all abilities the opportunity to be part of a team within a basketball league.
- **Fishing Has No Boundaries** is a non-profit organization dedicated to opening the world of fishing to physically and mentally challenged individuals of all ages. Their central event is traditionally held on the third weekend of May each year.
- ***Kids First Sports Center**, Cincinnati, has a variety of enrichment programs, sports activities and gymnastics year round.
- **Joe Nuxhall Miracle League Baseball Fields** are designed for children with special needs, ages 5 to 16. You do not have to be a member of the YMCA, the leagues are open to all.

- [Mason Challenger League](#), a division of Mason Youth Organization, is a nonprofit that provides baseball and softball programs in the Mason area. The Mason Challenger league is a unique opportunity for children with special needs to participate in organized baseball. They welcome players from surrounding communities. It is open to players ages 5-18 (or up to 22 if still in high school). There is a fee to cover uniform and insurance costs, however, scholarships are available to players who may need assistance.
- *[Miracle League Baseball](#), sponsored by the [Cincinnati Recreation Commission](#), offers athletes with or without disabilities an opportunity to have fun and participate in an organized and competitive league.
- [Special Olympics Ohio](#) provides year-round training and competition in various sports areas for children ages 5 years and older who are identified to have mental or developmental disabilities. [Find your local chapter](#).
- [Yoga Life Skills](#), Blue Ash, provides yoga therapy for mental health and wellness. Yoga therapy is carried out by a specially trained yoga therapist, Shelley Goldman, MS, BSN, RN, LICDC -CS, who has training above and beyond yoga teacher instruction. Call 513-428-9642 for more information.

Swim:

- *[Cincinnati Recreation Commission](#) offers Adapted Aquatics Programs in their year round warm water swimming pool located at the Mt. Auburn Community Center. Several water entries and exits are available, including a pool chair lift and “easy ladder” with hand railings. The programs are designed to include all ability levels, including the “Dolan Method” for individuals with autism.
- [Stepping Stones](#) offers adapted swim classes. Certified instructors provide activities that promote water adjustment, swimming skills, and development of gross and fine motor skills.
- [YMCA of Greater Cincinnati](#) offers adaptive swimming lessons for ages 3 and up and also provides training sessions for Special Olympics athletes.

Comprehensive Listings:

- [ADHD / LD Camp Directory](#), provided by [ADDitude Magazine](#), is a comprehensive list of summer camps, programs and helpful articles.
- [Autism Speaks](#) has an online directory of recreation and community activities in Ohio or you can [select the state](#) you are interested in.
- [American Camping Association](#) provides information on camps for children with special needs. Select whether you want day or overnight camps. You can then scroll down the page to refine by area of interest including disability, gender, age, and activities.
- *[Cincinnati Family Magazine](#) publishes an annual guide to local camps and summer programs and an update on [recreation programs](#).
- *[Cincinnati Parent Magazine](#) has an online camp directory.
- *[Kids Camps](#) has information on day camps and specialty camps as well as those that provide opportunities for children with special needs.
- *[MySummerCamps.com](#) is a comprehensive, easy-to-use directory and guide of summer camps, and summer experiences for kids, teens and youth, featuring a special section on special needs camps.
- *[Starfire Council of Greater Cincinnati](#) has recreational and community service outings for teens through adults.



Adapted from: <https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/patients/child/special-needs/recreation/camps>