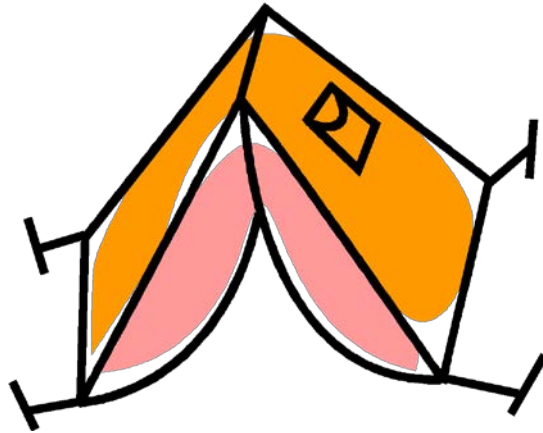


Summer 2015
Camp Guide for Children with Special Needs
Central Texas and Surrounding Areas



Developed in Collaboration

Easter Seals Central Texas
Parent Support & Training Program

Austin Independent School District
Family and School Support Team



Day Camp Programs – Central Texas

Adventurers Academy

The Adventurers help youth and young adults with special needs in the Austin area to develop lifelong independence and achieve their full potential through education, recreational, and social experiences. Daily program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Activities include weekly bowling, evening and weekend activities. Two longer trips during the year which are open to Adventurers who have participated in other daily activities and are recommended for an extended trip.

Ages: Varies with activities

Cost: Depends on activity

Location: Depends on activity

Call: (512) 443-4514 (Diane and John Mackey, Directors)

Website: www.austinadventurers.org

Austin Children's Museum-The Thinkery

Thinkery Camp programs provide a creative, safe and challenging environment for campers to expand their problem solving potential and have a whole lot of fun. Thinkery camps offer hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) as a platform for innovation. Each week-long program offers a variety of fun mental and physical challenges that activate campers' creativity. Campers answer their questions of "how" and "why" through interactive experiences designed to keep them exploring, creating and moving.

Ages: PreK-5th grade

Cost: Half Day Camps (PreK-K): \$190 member and \$210 general public; Full Day Camps (1st-2nd and 3rd-5th): \$325 member and \$360 general public

Location: 1830 Simond Avenue, Austin, TX 78723

Call: (512) 469-6201

Website: <http://thinkeryaustin.org/camps/>

Austin Dog Alliance

Various programs and year round programming offered. K9 Club Autism Social Skill Program is an ABA program for ages 6-14. Job Skills Program is for ages 17+ years. Summer Camp is for ages 5-15.

Ages: 5+

Cost: \$150-425 for the summer camp programs

\$325-350 per 8 week session, 1.5 hours/class for the K9 Club.

\$557.60 per 8 week session, 2 hours/class for the Job Skill Program.

Reduced fees may be available based on student's community support funds (Bluebonnet Trails Community Services, DARS, Community Based Non-Ed Funds, insurance, etc.)

Location: 1321 W. New Hope Drive, Cedar Park, TX 78613

Call: (512) 335-7100

Email: info@AustinDogAlliance.org

Website: <http://austindogalliance.org/>

Austin Jewish Community Center

Inclusive camp program for children with special needs. Swimming, nature trails, a low ropes course, playgrounds, activities, special events and more! Services provided to meet the needs of campers with varying abilities to the most comprehensive extent possible. Parents must inform JCC of child's individual needs (physical, emotional, cognitive, or sensory) as soon as they are able, to allow appropriate planning time. JCC Summer Camp has an Inclusion Specialist who will work with Inclusion Counselors and provide additional support to all camp staff. You don't have to be Jewish, and you don't have to be a JCC member. Sign up early due to limited enrollment. Registration begins January 11, 2015.

Ages: Pre-K to 10th grade

Cost: Depends on the sessions; Discounts for JCC members

Location: 7300 Hart Lane, Austin, TX 78731

Call: (512) 735-8000

(512) 735-8100 (Camp Gan Kef for Toddlers - PreK) erick.walker@shalomaustin.org

(512) 735-8050 (School-Age Camps for K-10th grade) YouthAndTeenOffice@shalomaustin.org

Website: www.shalomaustin.org

Austin Nature & Science Center

Very active camp with one or two week sessions. Campers must be able to be safe, stay with their group and not be disruptive. 8:1 camper to counselor ratio. Activities include hiking, swimming, caving, canoeing, field trips. Children with special needs accepted on case by case basis. Please call ahead to discuss if your child can be accommodated. There are overnight and day camps available.

Ages: 4-17

Cost: Depends on age and length of session

Location: 2389 Stratford Dr. Austin, TX 78746 & around Austin

Call: (512) 974-3888

Website: <http://austintexas.gov/department/austin-nature-and-science-center>

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of summer programs for children 5-12 years old. Some facilities also provide preschool and teen programs. Registration for Summer Camp programs will open on Saturday, March 7, 2015. Staff or interns are available to help with children with disabilities. Please call for the recreation center near you to discuss if their programs can meet the needs of your child.

Ages: 3-18

Cost: Some programs are free; others have fees.

Location: Various Recreation Centers around Austin

Call: (512) 974-6700

Website: <http://austintexas.gov/department/summer-camps-0>

Austin/Travis County Work-Based Learning

Summer Youth Employment program provides young adults an opportunity to earn work experience while earning financial independence during the summer. Youth completing Job Readiness Training can

have an opportunity to work five weeks for four hours per day. Parents can register youth for Job Readiness Training beginning the first week of January. 15 hours of Job Readiness Training must be completed by March 31st. **Often full by February; requires advance planning.**

Ages: 14-17 who live in the City of Austin and/or Travis County, currently enrolled and attending school, including youth with disabilities up to the age of 22.

Location: 100 North I.H. 35, Suite 2310, Austin, TX 78701

Call: (512) 854-4590

Email: Hhs.workbasedlearning@traviscountytexas.gov

Website: www.co.travis.tx.us/health_human_services/children_services/youth_employment_program.asp

Big Sky Pediatric Therapy

Encourages parents to be a part of their child's treatment and builds a program that will help parents create therapeutic opportunities for their child outside of the therapy session. Offers special workshops and small day camps focusing on topics like handwriting and social skills throughout the summer.

Ages: K-5th

Cost: \$250-\$275 for one week of half-day camp

Location: 9433 Bee Caves Rd. Building 3, Suite 101 Austin, TX 78733

Call: (512) 306-8007

Email: info@bigskyfriends.com

Website: www.bigskyfriends.com

Bilingualistics

Speech therapy camp for children with speech and language needs. Activities include story-time, singing songs, and plenty of fun and games! Parent Training sessions will be provided so that families can easily incorporate speech-language strategies into daily routines.

Enrollment: Late Spring. Most insurance and Medicaid accepted.

Ages: 3-5 and 6-8

Days/Hours: M-F, 9-11:30 a.m.

Location: Bilingualistics, 3636 Executive Center Drive, Suite 268, Austin, TX 78731

Call: (512) 480-9573

Email: admin@bilingualistics.com

Website: <http://bilingualistics.com/>

Blue Sky Abilities

Camp and Respite services are offered in small groups to provide community access when participants are on schools holidays or on the weekends. Staff transportation provided. The ratio is 2:1, with a maximum of 10 campers. Registration is open now. Dates for the 2015 camps are: Spring Break Camp: 3/16-3/20; Summer Camp: 6/8/15, and is every-other week throughout the summer, alternating age groups.

Ages: 6-9 (Building Blocks - M,W, F only) & 8-17 (Explorers - 5 days a week)

Price: \$90/day, sliding fee scale available for private pay. Fee includes activity costs.

Hours: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Call: Donna Miller (512) 924-1111

Email: information@blueskyabilities.com

Website: <http://www.blueskyabilities.com/index.html>

Camp Grace at Austin Oaks Church

Austin Oaks Church periodically hosts Camp Grace, a day camp including activities specially designed for kids with special needs and their siblings. Please call for more information.

Ages: 3+

Cost: FREE

Location: 4220 Monterey Oaks Blvd., Austin, TX 78749

Call: (512) 891-1600

Email: campgracefetc@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CampGraceAustinOaksChurch>

Website: <http://www.austinoakschurch.org/special-needs/>

Camp Success

Scottish Rite sponsored summer camp for treatment of children with language, dyslexia, and language-based reading impairments. Requirements: A complete comprehensive speech-language and literacy evaluation must be completed. Based on the results, the child will be considered for this program.

Ages: 4-18

Cost: FREE

Location: Baylor University, Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, Waco, TX

Call: (254) 710-1474 Dr. Michaela J. Ritter, Director of Language Literacy Clinic, Associate Chair

Email: Michaela.Ritter@baylor.edu

Website: <http://www.baylor.edu/csd/index.php?id=50610>

Capitol School of Austin

Offers a fun and enriching summer learning experience for children identified as having speech, language, or learning differences. Four week summer enrichment programs available. Pre-school camp is for children ages 2.5 to 5 years and will focus on developing vocabulary and concepts. School age camp is for kids entering kindergarten through fourth grade.

Dates/Hours: June 8 - July 3, 2015; 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Ages: 2.5 years - 4th grade

Cost: \$1090 for preschool and school age camp

Location: 2011 Koenig Lane, Austin, TX 78756

Call: Tami at (512) 467-7006

Email: TamiL@capitolschool.com

Website: <http://www.capitolschool.com/Programs/Summer%20Camp.htm>

Challenger Baseball

Provides boys and girls with disabilities the opportunity to experience the emotional development and the fun of playing Little League Baseball. Games are held on Saturday Mornings at Garrison Park. Enrolling players now and season begins mid to late March and ends 1st part of June.

Ages: 6-18

Cost: Small registration fee

Call: Ricky Duncum at (512) 441-4128 or Ric Castaneda (512) 443-0844

Email: rduncum1@austin.rr.com

Website: <http://www.southaustinoptimist.org/>

Clay Madsen Recreation Center: Adaptive Camp-Youth & Teen

Adaptive Youth Camp is for youth ages 5-12 with disabilities; Teen Camp is for teens and adults ages 13-21 with disabilities. This program offers daily activities including sports, drama, cooking, crafts and field trips each related to the weekly theme. Youth Camp ratio is 1:4. Teen Camp ratio is 1:5. Campers must be able to self-manage behavior and function within this ratio.

Hours: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Ages: 5 - 12 years and 13 - 21 years

Cost: \$155/session

Location: Clay Madsen Recreation Center, 1600 Gattis School Road, Round Rock, TX 78664

Call: (512) 218-3220

Website: <http://www.roundrocktexas.gov/home/index.asp?page=710>

Creative Action Summer Camps

Camps are tailored to help all children discover their creativity. Builds skills and confidence, while allowing each child to perform or lead just as much as they are ready. Our Summer Camps take place in several locations around Austin. Each week has a different theme. Accommodates children with special needs on a case-by-case basis.

Hours: Full Day Camps – 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Before care and after care available)

Ages: 5-13

Cost: \$275 for one-week camps, \$495 for two-week camps; \$40 non-refundable enrollment fee

Location: 2921 E 17th St Bldg B near the MLK Jr. Light Rail Station

Call: 512-442-8773 x107

Email: florinda@creativeaction.org

Website: <http://creativeaction.org/programs/camps/summer-camps/>

Crenshaw's Athletic Club

All-day camp and afternoon sports camp offered. Minimum requirements for participation would be the ability to stay with the group and not be disruptive. Thereafter, participation would depend upon the difficulty of the sports. Parents are advised to come by and watch the program to see if it is appropriate for their child. Regular gymnastics and swim lessons also offered.

Ages: 5-11

Location: 5000 Fairview Dr., Austin, TX 78731; also available in Northwest Austin and Westlake.

Call: (512) 453-5551

Website: www.crenshaws.com

Dougherty Art Center

Provides a variety of multi-disciplinary classes, workshops and camps including painting, drawing, photography, pottery, metals, dance, jewelry, fiber, computer graphics, animation, drama and much more. Registration begins in January.

Ages: 3 - Adult

Cost: \$389-\$432/2 week session

Location: 1110 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, TX 78704

Call: (512) 974-4000

Website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/dac>

Dreams of Hope Ranch

Camp Eagle Hawk is a day program for children with special needs for 10 weeks in June, July, and August. Space is limited. Completed application accepted on a first come first serve basis. A \$25.00 per week non-refundable deposit will be taken in advance to ensure each camper's reservation.

Days/Hours: Monday-Friday; 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ages: 14 years and up

Cost: \$185.00 per week

Locations: 4515 Keota Drive, Austin, TX 78749 & 16250 Oak Grove Road, Buda, TX 78610

Call: Laura Stock at (512) 791-0160 or (512) 312-9002

E-mail: dreamofhopes@hotmail.com

Website: www.dreamofhopesranch.org

East Wilco Challenger Sports-Central Texas Ability Sports

Provides boys and girls with disabilities the opportunity to experience what it means to be a part of a team and to play sports year around. They offer kickball in the fall, basketball in the winter, baseball in the spring, and golf in the summer.

Ages: 2-30

Cost: FREE

Location: Williamson and Travis County events

Email: john@ctxabilitysports.com

Website: www.huttochallenger.webs.com

Elite Gymnastics

National Elite's Preschool Day Camp is for children ages 3-5 years. Activities include gymnastics, academics, recreational games, story time, outdoor play, and art. You will need to bring your child's lunch and we will provide a snack. Children must be potty trained and there are no make-ups or refunds for missed days. They are able to accommodate children with special needs, but please call to make sure your child is a good fit for the camp.

Days/Hours: Monday-Friday; 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Preschool); 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. older kids

Ages: 3-12

Cost: \$55 registration fee and \$170 for a week (Preschool); Prices for Sports Camp varies by week

Location: 7632 Hwy 71 West, Austin, TX 78735

Call: (512) 288-9722

Email: nationalelitegym@yahoo.com

Website: <http://neg-usa.com/>

Exceptional Georgetown Alliance

In cooperation with the Exceptional Georgetown Alliance, Georgetown Parks and Recreation offers Adaptive Summer Camp Sessions for GISD students. This therapeutic summer camp program is open to school aged students with cognitive and developmental disabilities. Scholarships are available for children and young adults who may be economically disadvantaged. Camps run in early summer. Space is limited. Register through Georgetown Parks and Recreation in late March.

Hours: 8 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Ages: 1st grade-Bridges (GISD school district only)

Price: \$135 Resident/\$170 Non-Resident per week

Location: GISD Administration Annex (old McCoy), 1313 Williams Drive or East View High School, 4490 East University Ave., Georgetown, TX

Call: (512) 930-3595

Email: exceptionalgeorgetown@gmail.com

Website: <https://camps.georgetown.org/summer-camps/adaptive-camp-programs/>

Extend-A-Care For Kids

Offers one-week sessions throughout the summer at Greater Austin Area elementary schools. Activities include swimming, basketball, soccer, baseball, flag football, arts & crafts, cooking, painting and more. Mid-morning and afternoon snacks provided; sliding fee scale.

Ages: 3-12

Hours: 7:15 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.; One-week sessions

Cost: \$170 for first child, \$160 for each additional child; financial assistance available for those that qualify

Location: 55 N. IH 35, Austin, TX 78702-5206 (Business office)

Call: (512) 472-9402

Website: www.eackids.org

Fantastic Magic Camp

The Fantastic Magic Camp features winter, summer, and spring day camps that are for all children, including those with special needs. Magic Camp is “a multi-sensory learning experience combining the fun of magic, puppets and juggling to boost the self-confidence of every participant and make them feel like a star!”

Days/Hours: Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; optional time available from 3-6 p.m.

Ages: 5-12

Cost: \$275 for one week session, \$550 for two week session; scholarships available

Location: Highland Mall, Suite N, 6001 Airport Blvd, Austin, TX 78752

Call: (512) 850-4677

Website: www.magiccamp.com

First Leap Social Skills Camp-Year-Round

Social skills camp will give students the opportunity to improve their interpersonal skills while playing games, going on scavenger hunts, art projects and more! Each camper will have custom goals and the curriculum will pull from the work of Michelle Garcia-Winner and others. Campers grouped by age and verbal ability. Two hour sessions.

Location: 9901 North Capital Of Texas Highway #250, Austin, TX 78759

Call: (512) 887-2126

Website: <http://www.first-leap.com/>

Game Design Camp-College Learning Experience (CLE)-Spring Break 2015

Game Design Camp gives diverse students the opportunity to participate in the production of their own video game while developing personal and team participation skills. Students learn the inventive process of game creation using industry standard design software. Interpersonal skills focused on through a

variety of group activities including team building & self-esteem discussions led by the staff psychologist. At the end of the week, students showcase their hard work and take home a copy of their customized game.

Ages: High School Students with learning or development disabilities

Space: Limited to 15 participants

Cost: \$1,500; application fee \$75

Location: 11801 Stonehollow Drive Suite 100, Austin, TX 78758

Call: (800) 486-5058

Website: <http://experiencecle.com/game-design-camp/>

Hideout Theatre

The Hideout Theatre is committed to growing special needs programming, with classes being offered to youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders and to at-risk youth in residential settings. Having special needs programming allows the Hideout to customize class settings and instruction to specific groups, which maximizes accessibility, fun, and therapeutic benefit. Improv classes are an excellent forum for all youth to gain confidence, build social skills, practice life skills, and have fun.

Call: (512) 443-3688

Ages: 10-17

Cost: \$300; Scholarships are available

Location: 617 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701

Email: Lacy Shawn - lacy@hideouttheatre.com.

Website: <http://www.hideouttheatre.com/improv-for-kids/special-needs-improv>

Kidventures Therapy Services

Provides a variety of different therapeutic camp options which helps children with their play and social interaction with peers. Various camps available include Handwriting Camps. All camps are led by Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, and Therapy Techs. Specific areas to be addressed include: social/pragmatic skills, motor skills, arousal level/self-regulation, sensory processing and speech-language.

Ages: 2-7+

Cost: \$300-\$405

Location: 5524 Bee Caves Road, Building L, Austin, TX 78746

Call: (512) 327-4499

Website: www.kidventurestherapy.com/services-specialties/camps-and-groups/

Kingdom Ranch

Kingdom Ranch is a Christian summer camp for children with special medical, physical, and developmental disabilities. The organization seeks to minister to the entire family and siblings, who are placed with other siblings so they can pull from each other's strengths. 1:1 camper per counselor ratio for the children with disabilities, and a 1:5 ratio for siblings. Kingdom Ranch also strives to have at least 1 registered nurse on camp grounds at all times to administer daily meds and for any emergencies.

Ages: 7-17

Cost: \$450 plus a \$50 non-refundable application fee

Location: 13743 CR 270 Somerville, TX 77879

Call: (979) 820-1393

Website: www.kingdomranch.org

McBeth Recreation Center-Zilker Park

Facilities include a large multipurpose room, kitchen/craft room, game room, activity/computer room, playscape and outdoor picnic areas. Adapted and inclusive recreation programs throughout the year; some evening classes. Ratios vary from 1:4 to 1:15 depending on type of program and special needs of participants. For the more athletic participants, McBeth offers adapted sports programs in tennis, swimming, cycling, basketball, rowing, dance and more. Pre-registration is required; limited space. Full days and half day camps are offered. Participants should be able to manage personal care with minimal assistance and be safe in group atmosphere.

Ages: 6-22 yrs

Cost: \$65-\$130; Scholarships may be available

Location: 2401 Columbus Dr. #A, Austin, TX 78746

Call: (512) 974-9011

Website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/danny-g-mcbeth-recreation-center>

Miracle League at Town & Country

Provides opportunities for all children to play baseball regardless of their ability. Players paired with a buddy.

Ages: 4-19

Cost: Free

Location: Games are played at the Town & Country Optimist Sports Complex located in northwest Austin, or at The Round Rock Express Miracle Field, a state of the art field especially designed and constructed for special needs children.

Call: (512) 335-7434

Website: <http://miracle.tandcsports.org/page/show/1031064-miracle-league>

Odyssey School-Camp Odyssey

Odyssey Summer Camp is designed to be a bridge between school years, making the summer a chance to continue academic growth rather than a time to fall behind. Morning classes are fun, fast-paced and academically oriented without the stress of homework or tests. Afternoon classes are wildly creative Electric Electives. Camp is in July.

Grades: 4th-9th

Location: 4407 Red River, Austin, TX 78751

Call: (512) 472-2262

Website: www.odysseyschool.com

Open my World Therapeutic Riding Center

With the help of a few special horses, Open My World Therapeutic Riding Center strives to improve the quality of life for individuals with special needs involving physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. Safe and structured riding program, personal achievement encouraged, self-esteem building. The center is also a Texas "C.L.A.S.S." provider with Disability Services of the Southwest (DSSW) and Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS).

Ages: 5-14

Location: Therapeutic Riding Center, 1020 CR 270, Leander, TX 78641

Call: (512) 259-6665

Website: www.openmyworld.org

R.O.C.K., Ride on Center for Kids

R.O.C.K., Ride on Center for Kids provides equine-assisted therapies and activities to children, adults and veterans with physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities. R.O.C.K. clients see improvement in most aspects of their life; from muscle tone, strength, flexibility, and balance to cognitive, behavioral and emotional improvements. R.O.C.K.'s mission is to improve independence and life skills in partnership with the horse. There are a variety types of camps offered in the summer: Competition Camp, Over 21 Camp, Pony Tails Camp, and Horse Tails Camp. Space is limited and available on a first come first served basis. Camp registration form is due in early spring.

Ages: 2-88

Cost: \$150-\$250; \$25 non-refundable deposit due at registration

Location: 2050 Rockridge Lane (formerly CR 110), Georgetown, TX 78626

Call: (512) 930-7625

Website: www.rockride.org

Sammy's House

Sammy's House is a nonprofit organization that provides services for children who are medically fragile and/or developmentally delayed in a nurturing, inclusive environment. Our mission and goal is to help children and families thrive by giving children the opportunities they need to reach their highest potential through therapy support, curriculum-based instruction, and child care services.

Cost: Scholarships available

Location: 2415 Twin Oaks Drive, Austin, TX 78757

Call: (512) 453-5258

Website: <http://sammyshouse.org/>

Sea World San Antonio Education Camps

SeaWorld artfully combines education and entertainment in a way that connects people to the sea and sea life like no place else. There are several different camps offered including different types of day camps and residential camps. All counselors undergo in-depth interviews to assess their skills in communication, organization, behavior management and safety. Please call to inquire more information on child to staff ratios and whether they can accommodate your child.

Ages: Toddlers to Adults

Location: 10500 Sea World Drive, San Antonio, TX 78251

Call: (800) 700-7786 and ask for Educational Programs

Website: www.seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sanantonio/Educational-Programs

SNAP Aquatics Program for Youth with Disabilities

SNAP NIGHT (Aquatics) – A group class for individuals ages 12 to adult that can be independent in the water. This class focuses on water fitness, stroke development, water safety, peer interactions, socialization, and overall enjoyment of water activities. Classes are held once a week.

SNAP Aquatics Private Lessons – Lessons are one on one and designed for the participants’ individual needs and goals. Lessons are scheduled based on instructor availability

Ages: 12+

Days/Hours: Fridays 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. beginning February 6, 2015.

Cost: \$50/members \$100/non-members per session for SNAP NIGHT.

\$20/per 30 minute lesson for members \$40/per 30 minute lesson for nonmembers for SNAP Aquatics Private Lessons.

Email: Kimberly Redman - kredman@austinyymca.org

Location: Southwest YMCA, 6219 Oak Claire Dr., Austin, TX 78735

Special Olympics

The mission of Special Olympics Texas is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Call: Contact your child’s case manager for more information or call Shalanda Byers, Austin ISD Area Athletic Coordinator/Special Olympics Coordinator at (512) 841-8336

Website: <http://www.austinisd.org/specialolympics>

Spectrum Services

Spectrum offers collaborative, interdisciplinary services addressing the complex needs of individuals with social anxiety and social communication challenges including persons diagnosed with or experiencing behaviors associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Giftedness, Asperger’s Syndrome, Attention Deficit Disorder, and Non-Verbal Learning Disorder. Spectrum uses a person-centered approach with services recommended and designed to meet the unique needs of each individual. Summer and Spring Break Camps.

Location: 8105 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite B, Austin, TX 78757

Call: (512) 524-5482

Website: www.spectrumsocial.net

Sprinkled with Words

Learning enrichment camps focus on developing communication, physical, and social skills. Activities include cooking, yoga, gymnastics, story time, art, peer-play, activity sheets, games, and more. Ratios vary 1:3-6.

Ages: 2-8 year olds

Cost: \$250-\$575

Location: Capitol School of Austin, 2011 W. Koenig Lane, Austin, TX 78757

Call: Nikki Land at (512) 576-4326

Website: www.sprinkledwithwords.com/cupcakesandcartwheels.htm

South Austin Karate

After school programs (includes holidays) and summer camp. In addition to Martial Arts training, the participants will go on field trips, movies, and more. Call to make sure they can accommodate your child.

Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ages: 5+

Cost: Daily, weekly, monthly rates available; registration fee extra

Location: 10203 Old Manchaca Rd., Austin, TX 78748

Call: (512) 280-0611

Website: www.southaustinkarate.com

Texas Rowing for All

Provides adaptive rowing and paddling recreation for people with physical, sensory, and intellectual disabilities. "Camp Kayak" meets at the Texas Rowing Center-behind Austin High School on the Hike/Bike Trail. This Camp provides many fun and stimulating activities and has been a big hit with youth and young adults.

Hours: 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Ages: 13 and up

Cost: \$215 for the week

Location: 1541 W. Cesar Chavez, Austin, TX 78703

Contact: info@texasrowingcenter.com (Matt Knifton)

Website: http://www.texasrowingcenter.com/adaptive_programs.htm

Texas State University: Autism Camp

This camp is designed to provide children with Autism Spectrum Disorders access to quality summer camp experiences to improve their social, language, communication, and motor skills. Each camp session is limited to 15 children with a 1:1 ratio. There are four sessions available in the summer.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ages: 5-12

Cost: \$110 per session. Discounts are available for multiple sessions.

Location: Travis Heights Elementary School, 2010 Alameda Drive, Austin, TX 78704

Call: Dr. Ting Liu at (512) 245-8259

Email: tingliu@txstate.edu

Website: <http://www.hhp.txstate.edu/Camps/Autism-Camp.html>

VSA Arts of Texas

Expert resource on inclusive arts. Check website to see what programs are currently being offered. Programs include music, visual arts and performing arts.

Location: VSA Texas Administration Offices, 3710 Cedar Street, Room 128, Austin, TX 78705

Call: (512) 454-9912

Website: www.vsatx.org

YMCA of Austin & YMCA Greater Williamson County

Holiday and summer camps available; Day camp features a theme every week including swimming, games, sports, crafts and field trips. One-week sessions; Located at centers all over the city. Call to make sure they can accommodate your child.

Ages: 4-15

Website: www.austinyymca.org or www.ymcagwc.org (Williamson County)

William's Community School

This local non-profit operates year-round with day and half-day programs and offers a 10 week summer program for children.

Ages: Pre-K through 6th grade

Call: (512) 382-1631

Website: www.williamscommunityschool.org

Overnight Programs In Texas

Camp Blessing

Camp Blessing is a Christian camp that welcomes children with a primary diagnosis of a physical or intellectual disability and their siblings. Fun activities through trained leaders. The ratio is one counselor to one camper and this is their buddy for the term. New campers are accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis when their completed applications are received and accepted. Please submit applications starting in January.

Ages: 7 -14

Cost: \$585 per session; scholarships may be available

Locations: Two sessions at Hill Top Camp, 217 Hilltop Rd, Garrison, TX 75946

Six sessions at Camp Holy Wild, 22152 Baptist Encampment Rd., New Caney, TX 77357

Call: (281) 259-5789

Website: www.campblessing.org

Camp for All

Camp for All is a unique barrier-free camp working in collaboration with other non-profit organizations to enrich the lives of children and adults with challenging illnesses or special needs and their families by providing unique camping and retreat experiences throughout the year.

Location: 6301 Renburg Rd., Burton, TX 77835

Call: (979) 289-3752

Website: www.campforall.org

Camp Brave Heart

Hospice Austin's Camp Braveheart is a recreational summer camp for children and adolescents who have experienced the loss of a loved one due to death. Through a variety of creative activities, campers are supported in their exploration of emotional, behavioral and physical adjustments to their loss. The four-day/three night camp is held at John Knox Ranch near Wimberley; round trip transportation is provided from a Northwest Austin location. Campers are accepted on a first come, first served basis after a determination that the child is emotionally ready and able to participate and benefit from the camp.

Ages: 6-17

Cost: FREE

Location: John Knox Ranch, 1661 John Knox Rd., Fischer, TX 78623

Call: (512) 342-4782

Email: info@hospiceaustin.org

Website: www.hospiceaustin.org

Camp CAMP

The Summer Camp sessions are held at Camp CAMP in Center Point, Texas. Camp CAMP has 55 acres and includes activities like canoeing on the Guadalupe River, horseback, Aquatic Center, music, sports & recreation, arts & crafts, and outdoor cooking. CAMP modifies traditional summer camp activities to include everyone, regardless of the severity of the Camper's physical or developmental needs. Summer Camp is a series of six-day, five-night sessions for a variety of individuals with special needs and their siblings. Sessions are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The Summer Camp application becomes available in February 2015.

Ages: 5-50

Cost: \$1500 per camper; Scholarship tier based on income

Location: 515 Skyline Dr., Center Point, TX 78010

Call: (210) 671-5411

Website: www.campcamp.org

Camp Discovery

This is a special camp experience for children with skin conditions. Under the expert care of dermatologists and nurses, Camp Discovery offers campers the opportunity to spend a week among other young people who have similar skin conditions. Many of the counselors have serious skin conditions as well, and can provide support and advice to campers. Fun, friendship, independence and inclusion are on the top of everyone's agenda.

Cost: FREE

Location: Camp Dermadillo, Burton, TX

Call: (847) 240-1737

Email: jmueller@aad.org

Website: www.campdiscovery.org/about

Camp LIFE

LIFE— it stands for Leadership, Independence and Friends through Experiences, and it's what embodies the spirit of Camp LIFE, a unique camping adventure for children with disabilities. Held twice a year, Camp LIFE provides recreation for children with disabilities and their siblings while offering a weekend of respite for their parents. Campers can experience horseback riding, fishing, archery, the zip line and rope course activities, as well as a petting zoo, canoeing, dancing and even karaoke. Online applications are first-come, first-served basis.

Ages: 5 - 21

Cost: \$250-\$350; stipend support available

Location: Camp for All Facilities, 6301 Rehbarg Rd., Burton, TX 77835

Call: Aimee Day, Program Assistant at 979-862-2913

Email: aday@tamu.edu

Website: <http://camplife.tamu.edu/>

Camp Lonestar

This Christian camp in La Grange has regular camp activities, including archery, canoeing, swimming, hiking and Bible studies, and campfire devotions. They will accept children with mild disabilities but due to rough terrain please call to see if your child can be accommodated. There are a variety of different camps and numerous dates available.

Ages: 5-14 for day camp, 13-18 Teen Camp

Cost: Depends on type of camp; Some scholarships available

Location: 2016 Camp Lone Star Rd, LaGrange, TX 78945

Call: (800) 362-2078

Website: www.lomt.com

Camp Summit

Camp Summit offers eleven one-week long residential camping sessions during the summer with activities ranging from horseback riding, swimming, arts & crafts, nature studies, kaleidoscope, ropes challenge course and sports & games. Accepts campers without regard to the severity of the intellectual or physical disability

Ages: 6-99

Cost: \$1400. A sliding scale is available for all campers and some scholarships are available. Applicants will be required to provide proof of income and expenses. Camp Summit is proud that it has never turned anyone away because of their inability to pay.

Location: 17210 Campbell Rd., Ste. 180-W, Dallas, TX 75252

Call: (972) 484-8900

Website: www.campsummittx.org

Camp Sweeney

Camp Sweeney is a specialized camp for children with diabetes. Campers learn to recognize and treat the early warning signs of dangerously high and low blood sugar levels all the while having fun and meeting new friends.

Ages: 5-18

Cost: \$3,400 broken into two parts: medical fees \$1,615 and camping fees \$1,785.

A \$500 non-refundable deposit is required for each three-week session you wish to attend.

A \$400 deposit is required to stay overnight. Financial aid is available based on household size and household income.

Location: 10687 FM 678, Whitesboro, TX 76273

Call: (940) 665-2011

Website: www.campsweeney.org

Candlelight Ranch

Candlelight Ranch encompasses a pristine 100 plus acres containing canyons, natural springs, hiking trails and grottos all along the northern shore of Lake Travis. Candlelight Ranch's staff customizes programs to meet the needs of each individual group. We have the capacity to serve small groups to large groups of 50 or more. Candlelight Ranch provides unique opportunities for children with Special Needs to experience nature. We offer day, overnight and weekend visits.

Ages: 6 - 18

Cost: Depends on group sizes

Location: 6408 Muleshoe Bend Trail, Marble Falls, TX 78654

Call: (512) 323-5300

Website: www.candlelightranch.org

Charis Hills Summer Camp

Charis Hills is a Christian Summer Camp for kids with learning differences such as ADD/ADHD, High-Functioning Autism, Asperger Syndrome, and other special needs. Our goal is to provide a positive camp experience for kids. Daily academic reinforcement provided while participating in a traditional summer camping program geared to encourage success and reward positive behavior consistently. Contact our office prior to the beginning of March for an application.

Ages: 7-18

Cost: \$1,260; \$200 nonrefundable deposit; Limited number of full or partial scholarships each year based on financial need.

Location: 498 Faulkner Rd. Sunset, TX 76270 (Cross Timbers or North Texas Hill Country area, northwest of Dallas and Fort Worth, near Decatur)

Call: (940) 964-2145

Website: www.charishills.org

Elijah's Retreat (Family Retreat Center)

Elijah's Retreat, a non-profit, Christ centered retreat for families with children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder. Located in East Texas, just south of Jacksonville, with rolling hills, towering pine trees and green as far as the eye can see. Where families can stay in a two-bedroom cabin with kitchen and laundry room. The retreat has play areas with swings, slides, rope climbing, sand boxes, and plenty of room to run. The children can interact with the animals, fish in the pond and hike through the woods. The hope is that families will come and enjoy the quiet, peaceful setting where the children can run and play and make as much noise as they want without fear of people who don't understand them.

Cost: \$30 per night donation for your family visit. Funds available for those who need it.

Location: Divine Acres Ranch - 257 CR 3110, Jacksonville, TX 75766

Call: (903) 589-0145

Website: <http://www.elijahsretreat.com/>

Marbridge Summer Camp

Nine week-long sessions designed for individuals with cognitive challenges. Must be independent with activities of daily living and able to ambulate and transfer independently. Hiking, nature walks, greenhouse, swimming, socialization, and interpersonal skill development. Sessions are filled on a first-come, first-served basis and always fill up.

Ages: 16-30

Cost: \$655

Location: 2310 Bliss Spillar Rd., Manchaca TX 78652

Call: (512) 282-1144

Website: www.marbridge.org

Muscular Dystrophy Association

Camp For All site in Burton, Texas will be offered this summer. Any child with at least one of the 43 neuromuscular diseases served by MDA is eligible. This is an overnight camp that will provide at least one doctor and two nurses on site. There will be a 1:1 ratio with a volunteer.

Ages: 6-17

Cost: FREE

Call: (512) 691-0065

Website: mdausa.org/summer-cam

"People with Smiles" Camp

A three day camp specifically for children with Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS). We have designed meals and snacks to comply with the specialized needs of those with PWS and still provide a Fun and Exciting camp experience that otherwise might not have been possible. Our volunteers are dedicated to not only making sure our campers have the time of their lives, but also to insure their safety with issues specific to Prader-Willi Syndrome. Hosts up to 40 campers.

Ages: 8 years and up

Cost: \$220 per camper plus \$50 non-refundable deposit

Location: Peaceable Kingdom Retreat Center - 19051 FM 2484, Killeen, TX

Call: (903) 520-5178

Website: <http://pwscamp2014.wix.com/praderwillisyndrome>

Sea Camp

Week-long residential adventure exploring the wonders of the marine and estuarine environments. As a Sea Camper you will have access to research vessels, oceanographic equipment, laboratory facilities, and a professional staff enabling you to learn about the ocean through hands-on experiences. Camps offered throughout the summer. Children with special needs are invited to participate, but make sure they can tolerate the ratio of staff to participants. If the child needs an assistant, the assistant may ask to attend free.

Ages: 6-18

Cost: \$140- \$160; \$25 nonrefundable deposit

Location: Texas A&M University at Galveston, P.O. Box 1675, Galveston, TX 77553-1675

Call: (409) 740-4525

Website: www.tamug.edu/seacamp

Sea World San Antonio Education Camps

Multiple types of day and overnight residential camps. See entry under day camps.

Ages: Varies on type of camp. Camps for all age groups: toddlers to adults

Cost: Depends on the type of Camp

Location: 10500 Sea World Drive, San Antonio, TX 78251

Call: (800) 700-7786 and ask for Educational Programs

Website: www.seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sanantonio/Educational-Programs

Texas Elks Camp

Resident over-night camp serving only-Texas children with special needs-in a therapeutic recreation setting. Multiple special needs accepted. Call to ensure your camper's disability is eligible. Offers swimming, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, and team building exercises.

Ages: 7-15

Cost: FREE

Location: 1963 FM 1586, Gonzales, TX 78629

Call: (830) 875-2425

Website: www.texaselkscamp.org

Texas Lions Camp

Texas Lions Camp is a residential camping facility for children with physical disabilities, type 1 diabetes and cancer. The Camp is located on over 500 acres in the Texas Hill Country, and is designed to introduce the "Can Do" philosophy to children dealing with special medical conditions. There are three different camps available: one for children with physical disabilities (ages 7-16), children with diabetes (ages 8-15), and one for children with Down Syndrome (ages 12-16). All children must be residents of Texas and have a Lions sponsor. Any Lion in your area can do this; just get in touch with one or call the camp for the name of a Lion near you. Most disabilities served but double check to make sure your child is eligible. Space is limited.

Ages: Depends on type of camp

Cost: FREE

Location: 4100 San Antonio Hwy, Kerrville, TX 78028

Call: (830) 896-8500

Website: www.lionscamp.com

Texas School for the Deaf

Several types of camps including early childhood education, adventures in learning, driver's education, high school and family weekend retreat.

Ages: Preschool through high school

Location: 1102 S. Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78704

Call: (512) 462-5353 (V/TTY)

Website: www.tsd.state.tx.us

Variety's Peaceable Kingdom Retreat for Children

The Summer Camp Program encourages children to participate in week-long, diagnosis-specific camps. It encourages physical achievement and social development through specialized activities. Summer camps provide activities and adventures for children with disabilities or chronic illness, and offer experiences not otherwise available to these incredible kids.

Location: 19051 FM 2484, Killeen, TX 76542

Call: Laura Nickel – (254) 554-5555

Email: lauran@varietytexas.org

Website: www.varietytexas.com

YMCA Camp Flaming Arrow

Diverse camp with multiple activities. Camp is not wheelchair accessible. Special needs accepted on a case-by-case basis. Primarily able to serve children with learning disabilities, but depends on the child. Resident RN on site. Please call for more information and an application. Financial assistance available.

Ages: 6-16

Location: 190 Flaming Arrow Rd. Ingram, TX 78025

Call: (800) 765-9622

Website: www.campflamingarrow.org

Helpful Information:

Activity Hero

A website to find and book kids classes and summer camps.

Website: <https://www.activityhero.com/in/buda-tx>

American Camp Association

The American Camp Association (formerly known as the American Camping Association) is a community of camp professionals who, for 100 years, have joined together to share our knowledge and experience and to ensure the quality of camp programs around the United States. As a leading authority in youth development, ACA works to preserve, promote, and improve the camp experience. ACA accredits over 2,400 camps. ACA-Accredited® camps meet up to 300 standards for health, safety, and program quality.

Call: (800) 428-2267

Website: www.acacamps.org

Austin Family Magazine

Austin Family is Austin's resource for Families - Find Events, Doctors, and Advice on Parenting. Resource guides on local area summer camps.

Website: <http://www.austinfamily.com/>

Kids Camps

KidsCamps.com is the Internet's most comprehensive directory of summer camps, winter camps, and spring break camps, including traditional overnight camps, day camps and more.

Website: www.kidscamp.com

Specially Designed Travel

Experienced parent/professional run business that provides personalized service in designing and booking travel for families and individuals with special needs.

Call: 512-217-9147 (Tina Shands)

Website: www.speciallydesignedtravel.com