



easterseals
Southeast Wisconsin

in partnership with



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**



All Abilities. Limitless Possibilities.



Online Registration Opens January 15, 2024
<https://www.easterseals.com/wi-se/>

Welcome!

Welcome to camp, where individuals of all abilities come together to have a memorable summer experience! Our goal is to provide an inclusive and welcoming environment where everyone can build social skills, make new friends, explore interests, and showcase their talents. We believe that a summer at camp can be life-changing and we are dedicated to ensuring that every participant has the opportunity to discover endless possibilities.

At Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin, in partnership with the Milwaukee County Office of Persons with Disabilities, we understand the importance of creating safe and fun programs that cater to the diverse needs of our community. We strive to make our camp experience accessible to individuals with disabilities and provide the necessary accommodations to ensure everyone can fully participate. Come join us and be part of our community where we celebrate differences and embrace individual uniqueness!

3 Sessions, 2 Camps, 1 Awesome Summer

Session One **June 24th-July 5th**

Music Festival

Experience the power of music at camp! Join us as we explore the positive effects music has on brain development, promoting creativity and imagination. This session will enhance camper confidence through self expression along with allowing them to discover an array of diverse music by enjoying hands on instrument making, music playing and live musical appearances from local musicians!

Session Two **July 8th-July 19th**

Celebrations Around the World

Campers that take part in this session can be ready to explore festivities from around the world and see how other parts of our nation enjoy holidays and traditions! They will learn the diverse ways others gather and celebrate all while we create our own camp culture and sense of togetherness!

Session Three **July 22nd-August 2nd**

Everything Hollywood

All stars welcome! This session will be full of runway opportunities to celebrate our campers' independence, uniqueness, and overall differences. Through award ceremonies, red carpet interviews and camp highlights, everyone will experience the chance to be a camp celebrity!



Camp Goals and Outcomes

At Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin, our goal is to provide a quality camp experience that addresses campers' physical, social, mental, and emotional needs as well as their overall well-being. Here's how we achieve that:

A. We deliver meaningful programming and thoughtful activities to our campers where they work individually and as part of a team to assess and accept their individual strengths/weaknesses, as well as those of their peers - all while they learn to work together as one unit.

B. We provide opportunities that stimulate the development of each camper's self-esteem and confidence. Each camper can select their own activity during free time, participate in at least one activity to promote self-esteem, and engage in getting-to-know-you games throughout camp sessions. Our staff provides positive praise and encouragement throughout the camp day.

C. We improve or maintain social skills such as eye contact, verbal/non-verbal communication, and enjoyment of others. All campers will be encouraged daily to communicate their wants and needs, participate in themed games and read with their peers and counselors to promote the art of communication and have the opportunity to write/draw/color daily in order to utilize their own artistic freedom.

D. We provide an environment that promotes and/or increases independence where campers will be encouraged to try new things on their own while being supported by staff and peers, and help their peers when they need assistance. We offer reasonable equipment that is adaptable for kids with all abilities.

E. We recognize each camper as their own individual person and treat them with dignity and respect, where each camper will participate in daily pod meetings, be addressed in a manner that they are comfortable with (nickname, pronouns, etc.), and have the opportunity to share their suggestions and ideas for the personalization of their Pods.

Easterseals Respite Camp offers a wide range of activities designed to promote camper development in various areas:

Mental Health:

- Providing opportunities for relaxation and fun
- Encouraging communication of challenges with staff and peers
- Disconnecting from social media and stresses at home, school, or work
- Engaging in outdoor activities to enjoy the fresh air and stay active

Emotional Health:

- Encouraging autonomy in decision-making for daily activities
- Practicing new skills such as games, crafts, sports, environmental appreciation, and safety
- Building relationships through making new friends, teamwork, and having fun

Social Health:

- Meeting new people and trying new things
- Being approachable and accepting of others
- Developing relationships and creating a sense of community

Physical Health:

- Enjoying nature hikes, casual sports and active games
- Spending time outdoors
- Encouraging healthy and regular eating habits



Registration Policies and Procedures

Registration and Acceptance

To apply for Easterseals' camp, visit <https://www.easterseals.com/wi-se/> to submit your application online.

If you are unable to apply online, you may call 414-840-9740 for assistance. If your case manager is funding your camper, you must provide Easterseals with a written authorization or a service plan beforehand. Please note that an authorization must be received by Easterseals before your child can be accepted into camp.

To ensure that your child has a successful camp experience, the Camp Supervisor and/or Manager will meet with you and your camper to discuss their interests, behavior concerns, and additional support needed. However, please be aware that Easterseals will only conduct assessments at their locations and not in-home or in-school assessments. An assessment must be completed before your child can be accepted into camp, but completion does not guarantee acceptance. If there are any concerns about safety or if Easterseals is unable to accommodate your camper's needs, more information may be requested, or your child may not be accepted into camp.

After the application and assessments are completed and Easterseals receives the authorization to provide services, an acceptance letter will be sent to your email address. If your child is on the waitlist, you will be notified via phone, email, or letter when a spot opens up.

Payment

To ensure that we can provide the best possible experience for all campers, we ask that fees are paid in full by June 1, 2024.

If your camp fees will be paid by a funding source, such as Children's Long-Term Support Waiver, Family Care, IRIS, DHHS, etc., please indicate the name, phone number, and email of your case manager on the application. We encourage you to work closely with your case manager to acquire authorization for services by the May 15, 2024 deadline.

Please note that camp fees will not be prorated, and if we have not received authorization of services by May 15, 2024, your camper may be moved to the waitlist. We understand that you may have questions regarding payments or authorizations, and we are always happy to help. Please feel free to contact our office at 414-840-9740 with any questions you may have.

Please coordinate with your case manager to obtain authorization by May 15, 2024. Failure to do so may result in moving your camper to our waitlist. Contact our Business Office at 414-449-4444 for payment and authorization inquiries.

Cancellation and Refunds

At Easterseals, we strive to provide the best possible experience for all of our campers. If for any reason a camper is unable to attend camp, we will evaluate the situation on a case-by-case basis and consider refunds. We are happy to let you know that refunds will be given no later than September.

Please note that the Camp deposit is non-refundable unless we are unable to accept a camper into camp. We understand that unexpected circumstances may arise, and we will work with you to find the best possible solution. Our goal is to ensure that every camper has the opportunity to participate in our program and enjoy all that camp has to offer.



Space is limited, apply today!

Important Information

Locations

Wil-O-Way Underwood Recreation Center
10602 Underwood Pkwy
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Wil-O-Way Grant Recreation Center
207 S. Lake Drive
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Eligibility

To attend the Easterseals Respite Camp, campers must be aged between 7 and 22. We review completed applications on a first-come, first-served basis, and we require all campers to undergo an assessment by our staff, regardless of whether they are new or returning campers. If there are concerns about a camper's behavior, we work closely with the camper's support team and will request behavior support plans, IEPs, and other support plans as needed before accepting the camper into our program. All Campers are allowed to participate in all activities offered at camp with the exception of parent requests.

Additional Medical Needs

We strive to make camp accessible to everyone, including those with significant medical needs who may require a Personal Care Assistant (PCA) to provide care during camp. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any medical concerns, please contact the Camp Manager at 414-840-9740.

Transportation

We are happy to offer transportation services to and from camp for Milwaukee County residents. To ensure a smooth ride, please provide accurate pick-up and drop-off addresses in the transportation section of your application.

Behavior Protocol

Easterseals is committed to ensuring the success of all campers. If at any point during camp, our staff feels that additional support is needed, we will work closely with the guardian and service coordinator/case manager to determine the best course of action. In the rare event that a determination to discharge a camper is made, Easterseals staff will communicate this decision verbally and in writing to the guardian and service coordinator/case manager.

Agency Policies

At Easterseals, we prioritize the protection of our clients' rights. We provide a Notice of Privacy Practices and a Complaint Resolution process that are easily accessible on our program page: easterseals.com/wise/our-programs/. We encourage all clients to review these policies to better understand their rights and our commitment to their privacy and wellbeing.



Communication

Emails

To receive general information and non-emergency updates, Easterseals personnel will contact you by email. Please ensure that the primary contact's updated email address is included in the camper registration form. Check your email daily for general communication and schedule changes. Each Site Leader will check their email daily as well. Don't hesitate to contact the staff via email for non-emergency matters, including notices of absence.

Phone calls

If there are any immediate concerns or incidents related to camper illness, behavior, or other matters, Easterseals staff will contact you via phone. Site Leaders may also be contacted via phone for last-minute changes in camper drop-off or pick-up schedules, transportation, or daily schedule updates. It is important to note that the primary focus of Easterseals staff is the safety and engagement of all campers throughout the day. Non-emergency phone calls should be directed to the camp Site Leader before or after the full camp day, between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM, and 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM. If you have concerns regarding camper safety, Site Leader matters, or cannot reach the Site Leader in an urgent matter, please contact Lauren, the Camp Supervisor, at 414-550-3807 or laurend@eastersealswise.com. If you are unable to reach Lauren, please contact Shelly Reynolds, the Camp Manager, at 414-840-9740 or shellyr@eastersealswise.com.



Getting Ready For Camp

Camp Checklist

To guarantee a fun and satisfying day at camp, it is expected that campers bring a bag or backpack that is filled with the following items each day:

- Lunch (cold lunch preferred)
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Bathing Suit
- Towel
- Change of Clothes
- Personal Care Supplies
- Water Bottle
- Pool Shoes (optional)



Important Reminder

To ensure your camper's comfort throughout the day, please send them to the program with suitable clothing. We recommend dressing them in light layers to adjust to the changing temperatures. As there are many campers at each site, kindly label all items with your camper's initials. Although staff will make an effort to keep track of each camper's belongings, they may label them if needed.

See you at camp!