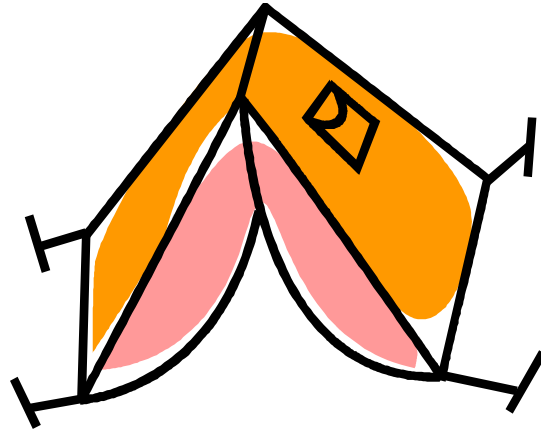


**Summer 2014**  
**Camp Guide for Children with Special Needs**  
**Central Texas and Surrounding Areas**



**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, Texas area to develop lifelong independence and achieve their full potential through education, recreational, and social experiences. Adventurers Academy opened in Sept. 2012 and is a daily program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Activities include weekly bowling, evening and weekend activities. They have 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. Summer Camp is open for ages 13 and up.

Ages: Varies with activities

Cost: Depends on activity

Location: Depends on activity

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

Website: [www.austinadventurers.org](http://www.austinadventurers.org)

### **Austin Children's Museum-The Thinkery**

Full day camps ages 7-10 and half-day sessions ages 4-6 with field trips and various activities planned at the museum. \*\*Please call to see if your child can be accommodated. Public registration begins February 3, 2014.

Ages: 4-11

Cost: \$205/week for half-day; \$355/week for full day

Location: 1830 Simond Avenue, Austin, Texas 78723

Call: (512) 469-6200

Website: [www.austinkids.org](http://www.austinkids.org)

### **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 15-25 years. Summer Camp is for ages 6-15.

Ages: 6-25

Price: \$325-350 per 8 week session, with each class meeting for 1.5 hours for the K9 Club.

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

Cost: \$150-425

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

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

Call: (512) 335-7100

Email: [info@AustinDogAlliance.org](mailto:info@AustinDogAlliance.org)

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

### **Austin Jewish Community Center**

The Austin Jewish Community Center has a wonderful summer day camp inclusion program for children with special needs. You don't have to be Jewish, and you don't have to be a JCC member, but you have to sign up early due to limited enrollment.

Ages: Pre-K to 10<sup>th</sup> grade

Cost: Depends on the session and whether or not you are a member of JCC

Location: 7300 Hart Lane, Austin, Texas 78731

Call: (512) 735-8000

Website: [www.shalomaustin.org](http://www.shalomaustin.org)

### **Austin Nature & Science Center**

Very active camp with one or two week sessions available. Campers must be able to be safe, stay with their group and not be disruptive. 8:1 counselor to camper 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

Location: 301 Nature Center Dr., Austin, Texas 78746

Call: (512) 974-3888

Website: [www.ci.austin.tx.us/ansc](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/ansc)

### **Austin Parks and Recreation Department**

Half day and full-day camps available. Each of the 17 recreation centers in town offers summer day camp programs. Staff or interns ready to help with children with disabilities. Please call for the recreation center near you and its programs and discuss the needs of your child.

Ages: 3-18

Location: 200 S. Lamar Austin, Texas 78704

Call: (512) 974-6700

Website: [www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks)

### **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 January 2, 2014. \*\* Often full by February; requires advance planning

Ages: 14-22

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

Call: (512) 854-4590

Website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/news/summer-offers-great-opportunity-youth-employment>

### **Big Sky Pediatric Therapy**

Encourages parents to be a part of their child's treatment and build's a program that will help parents create therapeutic opportunities for their child outside of the therapy session. Offers special workshops and small day camps throughout the summer. Call to find out more information.

Location: 925 Westbank Drive, Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78746

Call: (512) 306-8007

Website: [www.bigskyfriends.com/index.html](http://www.bigskyfriends.com/index.html)

### **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: April 1, 2014-May 5, 2014. Most insurance accepted.

Age Groups-3-5 and 6-8

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

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

Call: (512) 480-9573

Email: [admin@bilingualistics.com](mailto: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. Summer Camp is often every other week beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June as well as Spring Break.

Call: Skye Howell, M.Ed., CTRS (512) 552-1876

Email: [skye@blueskyabilities.com](mailto:skye@blueskyabilities.com)

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

### **Camp Grace at First Evangelical Free Church**

FEFC periodically hosts Camp Grace, a day camp including activities specially designed for kids with special needs and their siblings.

Cost: FREE

Location: 4200 Monterey Oaks Blvd., Austin, Texas 78749

Call: Lindzi Nicholson at (512) 891-1609

Email: [campgracefefc@gmail.com](mailto:campgracefefc@gmail.com)

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

### **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 enrichments 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. Lower-ratio camp is for students who need more individual attention than is offered in the above groups.

Hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Ages: 2.5-4<sup>th</sup> grade

Cost: \$1090 for pre-school and school age camp, \$1850 for lower-ratio camp

Location: 2011 Koenig Lane, Austin, Texas 78756

Call: (512) 467-7006

Website: [capitolschool.com](http://capitolschool.com)

### **Camp Success**

Therapy for children with language-based reading impairments/Dyslexia. 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, Texas

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

Email: [Michaela.Ritter@baylor.edu](mailto:Michaela.Ritter@baylor.edu)

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

### **Challenger Baseball**

Provides boys and girls with disabilities the opportunity to experience the emotional development and the fun of playing Little League Baseball. Enrolling players now and season begins mid to late March and ends 1<sup>st</sup> part of June.

Cost: No registration fee

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

### **Clay Madsen Recreation Center: Adaptive Camp-Youth & Teen**

The Adaptive Youth Camp is for youth (ages 6-12) with disabilities; Adaptive Teen Camp is for teens and adults (ages 13-21) with disabilities. This program offers daily activities, each related to the weekly theme, including swimming, field trips, arts and crafts, sports, drama, cooking, group games and lots of fun! Youth camp's ratio is 1 staff member for every 4 campers. Teen camp ratio is 1:5 campers.

Campers must be able to self-manage behavior and function within this ratio.

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

Ages: 6 - 12 years and 13 - 21 years

Cost: \$149/session

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

Call: (512) 341-3383

Website: [www.claymadsen.com](http://www.claymadsen.com)

### **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. Also available in Northwest Austin and Westlake.

Ages: 5-7; 6-10; 5-11

Location: 5000 Fairview Dr., Austin, Texas 78731

Call: (512) 453-5551

Website: [www.crenshaws.com](http://www.crenshaws.com)

### **Crowe's Nest Farm**

Crowe's Nest Farm, Inc. is a private, non-profit educational organization established in 1983 and dedicated to fostering public appreciation, knowledge and wise stewardship of Texas agriculture and Texas wildlife. Half-day weekly sessions in June are offered for campers to experience the outdoors at the farm. Wheelchair accessible. Call for schedule and information and to determine if the camp is able to accommodate your child's special needs.

Ages: Grades K-5

Cost: \$175

Location: 10300 Taylor Lane, Manor, Texas 78653

Call: (512) 272-4418

Website: [www.crowesnestfarm.org](http://www.crowesnestfarm.org)

### **Dougherty Art Center**

Dougherty Arts School has award winning programs and 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. Students range in age from 3 years old to senior adults. New: Lottery pre-registration open from December 16, 2013-January 7, 2014. Walk-in registration begins February 22, 2014.

Ages: 5-12

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

Location: 1110 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, Texas 78704

Call: (512) 974-4000

Website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/dougherty-summer-camp>

### **Dreams of Hope Ranch**

Camp Eagle Hawk is a day program for children with special needs for ten (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.

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ages: 8 years and up

Cost: \$180.00 per week-Monday thru Friday

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

Call: Laura Stock at (512) 791-0160

Website: [www.dreamofhopesranch.org](http://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 free of charge.

Ages: 2-30

Cost: FREE

Location: Williamson and Travis County events

Website: [www.huttochallenger.webs.com](http://www.huttochallenger.webs.com)

### **Easter Seals Central Texas**

Camp ESKIMO (Easter Seals Kids in MOtion) is a therapeutic respite day camp for children with special needs ages 5-15 and their siblings. Activities include crafts, community outings, bowling, and more. Space is limited and is determined on a first come, first served basis as well as a camper interview which screens for aggressive behaviors. \$30 non-refundable deposit required with completed application.

Hours: 9 a.m. -4 p.m., Monday-Friday, 1 weeklong session, Dates TBD

Ages: 5-15

Cost: Determined individually - Based on family size and income please call for more details.

Will accept ATCIC Respite Funds

Location: 1611 Headway Circle, Bldg. 2, Austin Texas 78754

Call: Shireen Connor, LMSW at (512) 615-6859

Email: [sconnor@eastersealstx.org](mailto:sconnor@eastersealstx.org)

### **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 camp 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.

Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Ages: 3-5

Cost: \$55 registration fee and \$170 for a week

Location: 7632 Hwy 71 West, Austin, Texas 78735

Call: (512) 288-9722

Email: [nationalelitegym@yahoo.com](mailto:nationalelitegym@yahoo.com)

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

### **Exceptional Georgetown Alliance**

In cooperation with the Exceptional Georgetown Alliance, Georgetown Parks and Recreation is now offering Adaptive Summer Camp Sessions for GISD students. Experienced and trained staff will continue to provide this opportunity to the Georgetown community. 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: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. or 2 p.m., depending on the camps.

Ages: K-12

Location: P.O. Box 3000 #172, Georgetown, Texas 78627

Call: (512) 930-3595

Email: [exceptionalgeorgetown@gmail.com](mailto:exceptionalgeorgetown@gmail.com)

Website: [www.exceptionalgeorgetown.org](http://www.exceptionalgeorgetown.org)

### **Extend-A-Care For Kids**

Offers one-week sessions throughout the summer at Greater Austin Area elementary schools. Activities include swimming, field trips, sports, art, science projects, etc. Breakfast and afternoon snacks provided; sliding fee scale. One-week sessions; Full day and part day available.

Ages: 5-12

Cost: Depends on session ranges from \$134-\$167; financial assistance available for those that qualify

Location: 55 N. IH 35, Austin, Texas 78702-5206

Call: (512) 472-9402

Website: [www.eackids.org](http://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!” Scholarships are available for families.

Hours: 9 a.m.-3 or 4 p.m., Monday-Friday; varies with camps

Ages: 5-12

Cost: varies with camp; \$65/day; \$350 winter session; scholarships available

Location: Highland Mall, Austin, Texas

Call: (512) 850-4677

Website: [www.magiccamp.com](http://www.magiccamp.com)

### **First Leap**

*First Leap will be offering two summer camps this year in Austin, Texas:*

#### **Inclusion Readiness Camp**

If your child is getting ready to enter an inclusion Pre-K - 2nd grade class, this camp will help prepare them for the unique challenges an inclusion setting may present. Some of the skills addressed will be responding to the classroom teacher, following multi-step directions, referencing the board or demonstration, and appropriate behaviors within a group setting. Please contact for more details, time, and cost: [Contact@first-leap.com](mailto:Contact@first-leap.com) or (512) 887-2126

#### **Social Skills Camp**

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 will be grouped by age and verbal ability. Please contact for more details, time, and cost:

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

### **Game Design Camp**

CLE Game Design Camp provides high school students with learning or development disabilities the opportunity to participate in the exciting production of their own video game while developing personal and team participation skills. Students learn the intricacies of the video game design process, then put their newfound knowledge to work. Deadline for Applications is by February 7, 2014.

Ages: High School Students

Space: Limited to 15 participants



Cost: \$1500

Location: 11801 Stonehollow Drive Suite 100 Austin, TX 78758

Call: (800) 486-5058

Website: [http://experiencecle.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/GameCamp-2014\\_email.pdf](http://experiencecle.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/GameCamp-2014_email.pdf)

### **Kidventures Therapy Services**

Provides a variety of different therapeutic camp options which helps children with their play and social interaction with peers. The different camps available include Handwriting Camps and the regular Summer 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: Depends on the type of summer camp. Ranges from 2-6 years old and older.

Price: Depends on type of camp. Ranges from \$300-\$405

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

Call: (512) 327-4499

Website: [www.kidventurestherapy.com/services-specialties/camps-and-groups/](http://www.kidventurestherapy.com/services-specialties/camps-and-groups/)

### **McBeth Recreation Center**

McBeth Recreation Center is located in 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. Youth ratios vary from 1:4 to 1:15 depending on type of program and special needs of participants. Activities are offered year round for children and adults through after school explorers, spring break and summer day camps, and recreational day program for challenged adults. There are also ongoing evening classes such as cooking, sports, social games, outdoor activities, and creative arts. For the more athletic participants, McBeth offers adapted sports programs in tennis, swimming, cycling, basketball, rowing, dance and more. Special events include the Art in the Park Festival in the spring, Costume Ball and Carnival in October and monthly dances. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Scholarships may be available. 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.

Cost: \$65-\$130. Varies depending on session

Ages: 6-22 yrs

Location: 2401 Columbus Dr. #A, Austin, Texas 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.

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

### **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 Active Academics without the stress of homework or tests. Afternoon classes are wildly creative Electric Electives.

Grades: 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>

Location: 4407 Red River, Austin, Texas 78751

Call: (512) 472-2262

Website: [www.odysseyschool.com](http://www.odysseyschool.com)

### **Open my World Therapeutic Riding Center**

Improve the quality of life of children with special needs including physical and emotional handicapping conditions. Provide a safe and structured riding program, encourage personal achievement and increase their self-esteem.

Ages: 5-14

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

Call: (512) 259-6665

Website: [www.openmyworld.org](http://www.openmyworld.org)

### **Reading Key Heroes**

Designed for any student entering grades 1-8 in the fall that struggle with academics. Reader's Theatre, creative writing, music, art, science/math, physical education, American Sign Language

Ages: Grades 1-8<sup>th</sup>

Cost: \$150 per week

Location: Elm Grove Elementary, 801 F.M. 1626, Buda, Texas 78610

Call: (512) 295-2443

Website: [www.readingheroes.org](http://www.readingheroes.org)

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

R.O.C.K., Ride On Center for Kids, is located in Georgetown, Texas. It is a non-profit provider of therapeutic riding and Hippotherapy for individuals with cognitive and physical challenges. These therapies benefit the bodies, minds, and spirits of many children and adults in our community and we continue to expand in the areas of research, education, and service to injured members of our armed forces. There are four types of camps offered in the summer: Sibling Camp, 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 by July 15<sup>th</sup>. \$50 Non-refundable deposit due at registration.

Ages: 8-16; 18 and up depending on type of camp

Cost: \$125-\$250

Location: 2050 Rockride Lane (formerly CR 110), Georgetown, Texas 78626

Call: (512) 930-7625

Website: [www.rockride.org](http://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/respite services.

Cost: Scholarships available

Location: 2415 Twin Oaks Drive, Austin, Texas 78757

Call: (512) 453-5258

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

### **Scottish Rite Learning Center**

The summer program is three 2-week sessions for students with Dyslexia, to maintain, enrich, and deepen understanding of concepts for the fall semester.

Cost: \$350 for each session

Ages: 5-13 (1st to 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

Location: 12871 North US Hwy 183, Ste. 105, Austin, Texas 78750

Call: (512) 472-1231

Website: [www.scottishritelearningcenter.org](http://www.scottishritelearningcenter.org)

### **Sea World 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: Varies on type of camp. Camps for all age groups: toddlers to adults

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

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

Website: [www.seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sanantonio/Educational-Programs](http://www.seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sanantonio/Educational-Programs)

### **Special Olympics**

Special Olympics Texas is a year-round movement that provides sports training and competition opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. Contact the AISD Special Olympics coordinator.

AISD Contact: Shalanda Byers (Delco Center)

Call: (512) 841-8334

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

### **Spectrum Services**

Social Skills Classes for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other social-communication challenges.

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

Call: (512) 524-5482

Website: [www.spectrumsocial.net](http://www.spectrumsocial.net)

### **Sprinkled with Words**

Learning enrichment camp focuses on developing communication, physical, and social skills. Activities include cooking, yoga, gymnastics, story time, art, peer-play, activity sheets, games, and more.

Ages: 2-8 year olds

Location: Capital School of Austin, 2011 W. Koenig Lane, Austin, Texas 78757

Call: Nikki Land at (512) 576-4326

Website: [www.sprinkledwithwords.com/cupcakesandcartwheels.htm](http://www.sprinkledwithwords.com/cupcakesandcartwheels.htm)

### **South Austin Karate**

In addition to Martial Arts training, the participants will go on field trips, learn sign language, and have access to a unique Motor Skills lab and Bouldering room. Campers will need 2 snacks and a lunch. Call to make sure they can accommodate your child.

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

Ages: 5+

Cost: \$150 per week

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

Call: (512) 280-0611

Website: [www.southaustinkarate.com](http://www.southaustinkarate.com)

### **Texas Rowing for All**

Provides adaptive rowing and paddling recreation for people with physical, sensory, and cognitive disabilities. "Camp Kayak" will meet 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: \$200 for the week

Location: 5715 Bexley Court, Austin, Texas 78739

Contact: [diane@texasrowingforall.org](mailto:diane@texasrowingforall.org)

Website: [http://www.texasrowingcenter.com/adaptive\\_programs.htm](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, while being sensitive to each child's unique abilities as well as ensuring their safety and enjoyment. Each camp session is limited to 15 children with a 2:1 ratio. There are four sessions available in the summer.

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

Ages: 5-11

Cost: \$100 per session. Discounts are available for multiple sessions.

Location: Crockett Elementary School, 1300 Girard St., San Marcos, Texas 78666

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

Website: [www.hhp.txstate.edu/Autism-Camp](http://www.hhp.txstate.edu/Autism-Camp)

### **Traditional Martial Arts Academy**

Martial arts for children with special needs. Life skills and community-based activities integrated into martial arts curriculum. Special needs classes designed with slower pacing.

Ages: 6 and up

Location: 1503 Morgan Lane, Austin, Texas 78704

Call: (512) 535-4404

Website: [www.TraditionalMartialArtsAcademy.com](http://www.TraditionalMartialArtsAcademy.com)

### **VSA Arts of Texas**

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 #7, Austin, Texas 78705

Call: (512) 454-9912

Website: [www.vsatx.org](http://www.vsatx.org)

### **Westlake TOP Soccer**

This program offers the experience of playing soccer for children with special needs. A piece of the TOP Soccer program includes inclusion with typically developing peers and young adults.

Call: (512) 894-3975

Email: [tops@westlakesoccer.org](mailto:tops@westlakesoccer.org)

### **YMCA of Austin & YMCA Greater Williamson County**

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](http://www.austinyymca.org) or [www.ymcagwc.org](http://www.ymcagwc.org)

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Call: (512) 382-1631

Website: [www.williamscommunityschool.org](http://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. Partial and whole scholarships may be available upon.

Ages: 7 -14

Cost: \$450 per session

Location: P.O. 2268 Tomball, Texas 77377

Call: (281) 259-5789

Website: [www.campblessing.org](http://www.campblessing.org)

### Camp for All

Camp for All is a unique barrier-free camp working in partnership 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.

Call: (979) 289-3752

Website: [www.campforall.org](http://www.campforall.org)

### Camp Barnabus

Camp Barnabus is a Christian camp for children with special needs. It is an overnight camp that has opened a branch in Texas (its original branch is still located in Missouri). The camp has weeklong sessions and includes typical overnight camp activities.

Call: (830) 589-7123

Website: [www.barnabus2.com](http://www.barnabus2.com)

### Camp Brave Heart

Hospice Austin's Camp Brave Heart 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 three-day 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, Texas 78623

Call: (512) 342-4726 or (512) 342-4700

Email: [info@hospiceaustin.org](mailto:info@hospiceaustin.org)

Website: [www.hospiceaustin.org](http://www.hospiceaustin.org)

### **Camp CAMP**

Residential program in Center Point, Texas offering a wide range of recreational, rehabilitative, and respite services for children with developmental disabilities and their families. Six one-week sessions available throughout the summer, including two sessions for adults over 21. Application will be available early February. Space is limited. Completed application accepted on a first come first serve basis.

Ages: 5-21.

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

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

Call: (210) 671-5411

Website: [www.campcamp.org](http://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, and independence are on the top of everyone's agenda and everyone shares in the discovery of what it's like to be included.

Cost: FREE

Location: Camp Dermadillo, Burton, Texas

Call: (847) 240-1737

Email: [jmueller@aad.org](mailto:jmueller@aad.org)

Website: [www.campdiscovery.org/about](http://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 special needs children and their siblings while offering a weekend of respite for their parents. Accepts children with a variety of special needs including, but not limited to, autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, epilepsy, intellectual disabilities, visual impairments, hearing impairments and spina bifida. It is our goal to never turn away a child due to his or her disability. Children with disabilities and their siblings are eligible to attend Camp LIFE. A one-to-one counselor to camper ratio ensures that each camper with a disability receives the support he or she needs to fully participate in all activities. Applications, which are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, are made available online a few months before the camp.

Ages: 5 - 21

Location: Camp for All Facilities, 6301 Rehburg Road, Burton, Texas 77835

Call: Dr. Amy Sharp, Director of the Family Support Network at (979) 845-4612

Email: [sharp@tamu.edu](mailto:sharp@tamu.edu)

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

### **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. Some scholarships available.

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

Cost: Depends on type of camp ranges from \$200-\$500

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

Call: (800) 362-2078

Website: [www.lomt.com](http://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: \$1300. A sliding scale is available for all campers. Camp Summit also offers partial & full camperships (scholarships) for summer camp. 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, Texas 75252

Call: (972) 484-8900

Website: [www.campsummittx.org](http://www.campsummittx.org)

### **Camp Sweeny**

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: \$2,900 broken into two parts: medical fees \$1330 and camping fees \$1570. A \$500 non-refundable deposit is required for each three-week session you wish to attend. Financial aid is available based on household size and household income.

Location: 10687 FM 678, Whitesboro, Texas 76273

Call: (940) 665-2011

Website: [www.campsweeny.org](http://www.campsweeny.org)

### **Camp Villa**

Sponsored by the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and is for youth who are blind or visually impaired. This camp is for DARS/DBS consumers.

Ages: 8-15

Location: Held at Ceta Canyon Campground, in Happy, Texas

Call: Christina Weller, Children with Visual Impairment Specialist at (800) 687-7010



### **Camp Xtreme**

Youths with physical disabilities are welcome to attend Camp Xtreme held at Camp For All near Brenham, Texas. A specific list of criteria for admission is available on the website. The activities of camp include archery, kayaking, horseback riding, SCUBA diving (SCUBA experience in pool), ROPES/Challenge Course, hand cycling, basketball, football, floor hockey, softball and more. Campers will experience 3-4 different activities per day and 1 - 1 ½ hours in duration. The camper to staff ratio is 2:1.

Ages: 8-21

Cost: \$125 for registration

Location: Camp for All, Brenham, Texas

Call: (713) 877-0488

Website: [www.tirrfoundation.org](http://www.tirrfoundation.org)

### **Charis Hills Summer Camp**

Charis Hills is a Christian Summer Camp for kids with learning differences and social difficulties 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. Limited number of full or partial scholarships each year based on financial need. Contact our office prior to the beginning of March for an application. A non-refundable, \$200 deposit is also required to "hold" a spot.

Ages: 7-18

Cost: \$1190

Location: 498 Faulkner Rd. Sunset, Texas 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](http://www.charishills.org)

### **Down Home Ranch**

Residential program for children and adults with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities who are physically and emotionally healthy. Crafts, nature lore, archery, target practice, fishing, hiking, boating, farm animal care and swimming are the camp's activities.

Ages: 13 and up

Location: 20250 FM 619, Elgin, Texas 78621

Call: Jerry & Judy Horton (888) 926-2253

Website: [www.downhomeranch.org](http://www.downhomeranch.org)

### **Marbridge Summer Camp**

Nine week-long sessions designed specifically for individuals age 16-30 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

Location: 2310 Bliss Spillar Road, Manchaca Texas 78652

Call: (512) 282-1144

Website: [www.marbridge.org](http://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

Location: 9430 Research Blvd, Eschelon Bldg #2, Ste. #300, Austin, TX 78759

Call: (512) 691-0065

Website: [www.mdaua.org](http://www.mdaua.org)

### **Peaceable Kingdom**

The Summer Camp Program encourages children with chronic illness to participate in one of twelve week-long, diagnosis-specific camps by arrangement with their hospital or professional organization. It encourages physical achievement and social development through specialized activities. PKRC hosts over 700 campers each summer. In partnership with hospitals, health organizations, and families, PKRC offers fun and inspiring camps for kids and teens from across the state of Texas. 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, Texas 76542

Call: Abigale Flugum at (254) 554-5555

Email: [abigale@peaceablekingdomretreat.com](mailto:abigale@peaceablekingdomretreat.com)

Website: [www.peaceablekingdomretreat.com/site/programs/summer-program](http://www.peaceablekingdomretreat.com/site/programs/summer-program)

### **People with Smiles Camp**

A two day camp specifically for children with Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS). Food will be secured and they will have a PWS friendly menu. All counselors/advisors are familiar with PWS. Volunteers welcomed. Registration will begin March 1<sup>st</sup> and is limited to 50 campers so register early!

Ages: 8 years and up

Cost: \$165 per camper

Location: Riverbend Retreat Center, Glen Rose, Texas

Call: Cheri Wood at (903) 520-5178

Website: [www.TXPWA.org](http://www.TXPWA.org)

### **Sea Camp**

It is a 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: 10-18

Location: Texas A&M University at Galveston, P.O. Box 1675, Galveston, Texas 77553-1675  
Call: (409) 740-4525  
Website: [www.tamug.edu/seacamp](http://www.tamug.edu/seacamp)

### **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, Texas 78629

Call: (830) 875-2425

Website: [www.texaselkscamp.org](http://www.texaselkscamp.org)

### **Texas Lions Camp**

This is a FREE camp for children with special needs from the State of Texas. 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, Texas 78028

Call: (830) 896-8500

Website: [www.lionscamp.com](http://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: Pre-school through high school

Location: 1102 S. Congress Avenue Austin, Texas 78704

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

Website: [www.tsd.state.tx.us](http://www.tsd.state.tx.us)

### **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: P.O. Box 770, Hunt, Texas 78024

Call: (800) 765-9622

Website: [www.campflamingarrow.org](http://www.campflamingarrow.org)

## **Helpful Information:**

### **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](http://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. For more information please visit

<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. For more information please visit their website at [www.kidscamp.com](http://www.kidscamp.com)