



New Found Freedom Thanks to Easterseals Camp Fairlee

When Maria is on the water in one of the new adapted canoes at Easterseals Camp Fairlee, she feels free and is able to explore the lake independently. Being independent is something many people take for granted but for Maria, who has cerebral palsy, it is not often she is able to “call the shots” on her own. Camp Fairlee provides that sense of freedom while providing a nurturing and safe environment for all.

“I liked it. It’s independent. I could paddle it myself with the counselors nearby but not in the canoe,” Maria says. “My favorite thing about Camp Fairlee is getting out by myself for a week, meeting new people and making friends.”

Maria’s parents, Greg and Stephanie, are thrilled their daughter can experience freedom at Camp Fairlee. While Maria is at camp enjoying her favorite activities, they can enjoy a break from caregiving to enjoy a date night or escape for a day or two. “Camp has been a godsend to Maria and to us. It gives us a break. We do what we want to do without worrying about Maria being safe,” Greg says. “We get to be empty nesters for a week.”

For caregivers who need a break from the constant demands of caregiving, Easterseal’s Camp Fairlee is one of the only facilities in the region that provides a typical residential camp experience year-round for children and adults with disabilities. The summer sessions include some of Maria’s favorite activities; canoeing, campfires, dancing, talent show and so much more.

“Our goal for Maria is independence. The kayaks and canoes allow her to do it on her own. She has to rely on herself. With the counselors there, we never have a feeling that she will be in danger or unsafe,” Greg says. “We love Camp Fairlee.”

Camp Fairlee offers week-long summer camp experiences, weekend respite program from August through May, Fairlee Vacation program and Daily Adventures program. Learn more about Camp Fairlee at www.de.easterseals.com/fairlee or by calling 410-778-0566.