

## Summer Camps for Students with Special Needs

*\*Note: Prices included in this list were as of Spring, 2003. These were included to give general information concerning camp prices. Please call and check with the provider for current price information.*

1. Adaptive Summer Day Camp

Alison Taylor  
(817)275-1351

Designed for special students ages 12 and up, meeting the needs of physically and developmentally challenged youth and adults through variety of fitness and leisure activities, group and individual games, field trips, arts and crafts and more.

Half Day: \$75 per week (8:30 am-12 noon)  
Full Day: \$100 per week (8:30 am-3:30pm)

2. Camp Carter, Fort Worth TX

(817)738-9241  
[www.campcarter.org](http://www.campcarter.org)

Camp Can-Do is a week of day camp for children ages 6-12 that are blind or visually impaired. The camp is lead by professionals in the field of visual impairment and orientation and mobility. Activities are designed for the student to use all sense to enjoy the natural surroundings, make new friends, improve communication skills, and learn new skills. Campers participate in traditional camp activities such as swimming, archery, canoeing, horseback riding, arts and crafts and nature study. Camp Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Contact the camp for 2004 dates.

3. Camp John Marc

85 miles SW of Dallas  
(214) 360-0056

United Cerebral Palsy Association of Texas hosts an inclusive weekend camp each semesters at Camp John Marc for children with disabilities and their friends and/or siblings, ages 6-17. The camp has wheelchair accessible, air conditioned cabins and an accessible challenge course. Contact the camp for dates.

4. Camp Summit  
2915 LBJ Freeway, Ste. 185, Dallas, TX. 75234  
(972)484-8900  
[www.campsummittx.org](http://www.campsummittx.org)

Camp Summit provides a residential, barrier-free camping experience for persons with special needs. Recreational and educational programming includes swimming, horseback riding, performing arts, a rope challenge course, wilderness and nature study, arts and crafts, fishing games, camping and group activities. All activities are adapted to the individual camper's ability.

5. Camp New Horizons (North)  
American Diabetes Association Camp  
Bill Bates Cowboy Ranch  
4934 FM 1461, McKinney, TX. 75071  
Sherry Hill, contact (972)392-1181 x6097  
[www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)

This is a weeklong day camp for children with diabetes and their siblings. Children will experience outdoor activities and receive valuable lessons, on positive diabetes management. Camp activities are planned and supervised by health care professionals

6. Camp Fire USD Lone Star Council  
(214) 824-1122
7. Camp Ellowi  
(972) 291-4041

## ***Summer Camps and Activities For Children with All kinds of Abilities and Needs***

Dear Parents and Educators:

I hope you find some useful resources in this list. Please remember that those resources only represent a few of the organizations that are available in the DFW area. We encourage you to analyze all the choices available for your child and make the best decision after careful planning. Choosing the right summer camp/ activity will provide an opportunity for our children to build self-esteem and learn new skills. Many options exist. A child's strengths, interests and needs are important parts of the decision process. I hope you and your families enjoy a fun-filled and safe summer.

Laila Kawar

## Summer Camps

### **Arc of Dallas Adventure Camp**

Adventure Camp is a spring and summer day camp for children and teens, ages 5-21. Activities include crafts, games, entertainment, computer fun, swimming and field trips. Summer dates are held in two-week sessions throughout the summer. Space in camp is limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Children and teens of all ability levels, including siblings, are welcome at Adventure Camp.

Contact: or call (214) 634-9810.

[http://www.arcdallas.org/life\\_programs.htm](http://www.arcdallas.org/life_programs.htm)

### **Camp C.A.M.P. (CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION FOR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL)**

Camp C.A.M.P provides integrated camping for children with disabilities and their siblings. provide overnight camping experiences to children/ adults ages 5-21 with special needs/ developmental disabilities. They welcome campers with no verbal communication or self-help skills or with need for multiple medications around the clock, when appropriate health care providers can be enlisted. The camp provide a wide range of fun-filled and educational activities. Located in Center Point.

Contact: 210-292-3566 or 210-292-3567

[www.serve.com/campcamp](http://www.serve.com/campcamp)

### **Camp Friendship:**

**Ages::** A social day camp for children (age 7 and older) and teens with Asperger Syndrome, PDD, High-Functioning Autism, ADHD, CAPD and other challenges that make socialization difficult. Camp Friendship offers kids a fun environment for developing and practicing the skills required for meaningful friendships and social interaction. Located in Plano.

**Contact:** 972-633-8244

**E-mail address:** [googahly@aol.com](mailto:googahly@aol.com)

### **Camp John Marc**

Camp John Marc partners with community and health professionals and organizations to provide high quality camping experiences year round to campers who have a chronic illness or physical disability. The camp offer summer camps, weekends camps, and family getaway.

Contact: 214-360-0056  
[www.campjohnmarc.org](http://www.campjohnmarc.org)

### **Charis Hills Camps**

Charis Hills is a Christian Summer Camp for kids with learning and social difficulties who have average to above average intelligence, such as ADD, AD/HD, and Asperger's disorder. The camp is located in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, northwest of San Antonio, near Kerrville. Campers receive academic reinforcement each day while participating in a traditional summer camping program geared to encourage success and reward positive behavior consistently. Siblings and friends are welcome.

Contact: (888) 681-2173  
<http://www.charishills.org/index.html>

### **Joni and Friends Family Retreats**

Since 1991 Joni and Friends Family Retreats has hosted five-day summer programs across the United States where families affected by disability can find hope and get a break from the challenges of everyday life. Activities include: fishing, Swimming, Talent show, Celebration Dance, Bible/worship time, Parent seminars and group activities, Craft time, etc,

Contact: 214-739-2523  
[www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org)

### **Camp Summit, Inc.**

Camp Summit provides residential barrier-free camping for persons with special needs age 6-50+. The camp is located north of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in Argyle, Texas. Call or see website for dates.

Contact: 972-484-8900  
[www.campsummittx.org](http://www.campsummittx.org)

## **Funtastics Camp**

Funtastics Summer Day Camp Program provides youth with disabilities in Carrollton, Texas and surrounding communities with enriching educational, and purposeful summer recreation and leisure experiences in a safe environment, supportive of independence. Camp starts June 5 and ends July 28, Monday thru Thursday, 7:30 am to 6:00 and Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 p.m. An assessment of independence is required prior to acceptance into this camp.

## **Summer Events for Exceptional Kampers (SEEK)**

SEEK is for children and adults with cognitive, orthopedic, visual, hearing impairments, or emotional disabilities. Three camp sessions are offered each summer. One is for children 9-14 years of age, one is for youth 15-21 years of age, and the third is for persons 21 years of age and older. The camp is sponsored by the Methodist Church, though it is non-denominational. It is located near Lake Texoma and fees are charged.

**Contact:** 214-357-5656

## **Texas Elks Camp**

**“Free”** if qualified/ "first-come, first-serve" basis Eligibility: Any Texas resident with special needs, ages of 7-15. The camp provides children an opportunity to try new things and to make new friends. Campers are encouraged to make their own decisions and become more independent. Located north of Gonzales, 210 mi. southwest D/FW.

Contact: 830-875-2425  
[www.texaselks.org](http://www.texaselks.org)

## **Texas Lions Camp**

**“Free”** residential camp for children ages 7-16 with physical disabilities, hearing or vision impairments and Type 1 diabetes, and cancer. The Camp is located on over 500 acres in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, and is designed to introduce the "Can Do" philosophy to children dealing with special medical conditions. Located in Kerrville, TX

Contact: 830.896.8500  
[www.lionscamp.com](http://www.lionscamp.com)

## Horseback Riding/ Hippotherapy

### **Equest Therapeutic Riding**

Equest is an internationally recognized nonprofit that provides therapy using horses for children and adults with disabilities and learning differences. Located in Wylie, Tx

Contact: 972-412-1099

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

### **Equine Angels:**

***Free:** Provides Horseback Therapy & Aquatic Therapy for children with special needs. The Center is the ONLY Licensed Physical Therapy Center offering BOTH of the Physical Therapy Specialties Horseback Therapy & Aquatic Therapy, provided by a Licensed Physical Therapist, in a Year-Round Program, to Children with disabilities, for **FREE!***

<http://www.equineangels.org>

### **Reata Rehabilitation**

Reata Rehabilitation is a non-profit organization offering therapy to adults and children in the Dallas - Fort Worth area. Located on a ranch setting in Ponder, Texas, where therapists (occupational, physical and speech) use horses, [Hippotherapy](#) and clinic to provide comprehensive rehabilitation for people with physical, mental or emotional challenges. Aquatic therapy offered in the summer

Contact: 940-479-2612

<http://www.reatarehabilitation.org/index.html>

### **Riding Unlimited**

Founded in 1990, Riding Unlimited provides safe and affordable therapeutic horseback riding instruction for individuals with physical, mental and emotional disabilities in Dallas, Tarrant, Denton, Wise and Collin counties. Ranch in Ponder off FM 156, 35 miles north of Fort Worth.

Contact: 940-479-2016

Email: [ridingunlimited@aol.com](mailto:ridingunlimited@aol.com)

### **Rocky Top Riding Center**

Rocky Top Therapy Center is Located in Keller and is recognized by the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association ([NARHA](#)). Provides Therapeutic horseback riding for children with disabilities and may have combined program for siblings.

Contact: 817-379-5717

<http://www.rockytoptherapy.org/index.html>

### **Stadjuhar Stables**

provides 3 programs- hippotherapy, therapeutic riding, and an equine assisted mental health program. Hippotherapy refers to the use of the movement of a horse as a tool by trained therapists to address impairment and functional limitations in people with disabilities. The horse is used as a part of an integrated treatment program to achieve functional outcomes. Located in Colleyville

Contact: 817-849-1999

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

## **Sport activities/ Water therapy**

### **Camp Do It All/ Coppell Aquatic Center**

A popular day camp offered during the major Summer. Catered to kids ages 6-12, activities include swimming, movies, field trips, and arts and crafts. May be able to accommodate some children with special needs. Call for Specific information.

Contact: 972.304.7032

<http://www.cit.coppell.tx.us>

### **Emler Swim School**

Teaching methods to ensure that each student is comfortable and confident in the water. Small group and private lessons are available during both daytime and evening hours. May offer private or semi-private swimming lessons to children with special needs.

Contact: Colleyville - (817) 481-SWIM (7946), Plano - (972) 599-SWIM (7946),  
Arlington - (817) 275-SWIM 7946)

<http://iswimemler.com/program/>

### **Play Options:**

A gymnastics program for kids with special needs that combines play and activity. Gross motor development, self-esteem, and social interaction skills are enhanced in a non-therapeutic, non-competitive environment. Classes are offered in small groups with emphasis on individual needs. Children must be 3 years or older and able to follow simple directions and rules. Private lessons are available for approved situations.

Contact: (214) 207-6161

<http://www.playoptions.com/contactus.htm>

### **Special Needs Gymnastics**

Special Needs Gymnastics in the Dallas / Fort Worth area. The coach works with each student on an individual basis with a program to allow each athlete to achieve success at their own level.

Contact: 1-806-438-3227

<http://www.specialneedsgymnastics.com/>

### **Special Olympics Texas**

Provide year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Texas offers 20 sports including: Aquatics, Athletics, Basketball, Bowling, Skating, Golf, Gymnastics, Sailing, Soccer, Softball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball and more.

Contact: (214) 943-9981

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

### **You Can Ski**

Non-profit, volunteer driven organization (Metroplex Adaptive Water Sports (MAWS)\_dedicated to providing opportunities for persons with all types of disabilities to experience water sports. The emphasis is on water skiing, utilizing specialized "sit skis" to provide a safe, enjoyable experience, *regardless of the level of disability*.

Contact: 214-803-9955

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

## **Fun activities**

### **Challenge Air**

**Free:** Provides fun airplane rides for children with disabilities and their guest, along with other fun activities. This is a motivational, inspirational and life-changing experience. Next fly days in Texas: McKinney /May 19, Ft. Worth/ September 15, and Mesquite/ September 29.

Contact: 214-351-5779

[www.challengeair.com](http://www.challengeair.com)

### **Coppell Family YMCA**

Integrated summer activities and camps where children with and without disabilities play together, located at the Y sites around Tarrant County.

Contact: 972-393-5121

## **Educational Programs/ Activities**

### **The Flint Academy**

The academy is an inclusive-model school, educating all students, together in the same classroom, whether they are gifted, typically developing, or have any special education needs (including Autism, Down Syndrome, learning disabilities, dyslexia, and/or ADHD). The school offers fun and educational summer days camps.

Contact: Phone: 817-277-0620

[www.FlintAcademy.com](http://www.FlintAcademy.com)

### **Green Oaks School:**

A Christian-based independent school in Arlington, for students with Down syndrome and similar developmental delays. Serve children from ages 8 to young adult and the primary focus is to teach academics at the ability and interest levels of our students. Offers several summer programs including: Language Camp, Private or Paired Tutoring, and others.

Contact: 817-496-5100

<http://greenoaksschool.org/index.htm>

### **The Handwriting Clinic:**

A licensed occupational therapy facility providing summer camps and all year round classes and therapy in fine motor and pre-handwriting development at an early age to PREVENT problems. The classes are designed to use a multi-sensory format to develop hand strength, fine motor manipulation skills, stroke development and pre-handwriting skills for children who have readiness skills or mild delays in fine motor skills.

Contact: 972-633-1974

<http://www.thehandwritingclinic.com/>

## **Music Therapies**

### **Speech Therapy and Recreational Music (S.T.A.R. Music)**

Classes for children with communication needs, Ages 1½ -6, accompanied by their parents. Techniques combine music, movement and language to reach specific objectives. Only 8 children per class. Located in Plano.

Contact: 972-839-0312

<http://www.startherapyprograms.com/>

### **Kathleen Coleman RMT-BC**

Private music therapist will provide parents with a comprehensive list of music therapist located throughout Tarrant County, as well as information on music therapy (Grapevine).

<http://www.preludemusictherapy.com/>

## **Art Therapy**

### **Antia Mester, ATR, CCDS, LPC**

214-370-5333

[www.lakewoodtherapy.com](http://www.lakewoodtherapy.com)

6301 Gaston Ave. Suite620

Dallas, TX 75214

Social skills group for children dealing with emotional, learning and physical disabilities.

### **The Art Station**

The Art Station is a nonprofit organization offering individuals and groups art therapy and community programs to children and adults.

817-921-2401

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

## **Drama and Theater**

### **IASIS Learning Center**

Through drama lessons, children can practice and gain the social skills they need to be successful in relationships, in school, and in a career. Services include: Social instruction for all children, in groups as well as individualized format, including those with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Attention Deficit, or in Gifted and Talented programs. Located in Denton.

Contact: (214) 395-3045

<http://www.iasislearningcenter.com/director.html>

Camp for All <http://www.campfora ll.org/index. cfm>

Summer Camps Directory <http://www.camppage .com/texas. htm%20>

Camp Resource <http://www.campreso urce.com/ camps/regional. cfm?locid= 43>

Kids Camps <http://www.kidscamps.com/>

Federation for Children with Special Needs <http://www.fcsn.org/camps/directory.html>

My Summer Camps <http://www.mysummercamps.com/>

**Achievement Center of TX -**

It is the mission of the Achievement Center of Texas to provide day care, day habilitation (life skills training), educational assistance and community inclusion for children and young adults with disabilities so they can develop functional living skills and self-confidence working toward greater independence and a more satisfying way of life.  
Call: 972-414-7700