



Camp Smiles

## Camp Smiles Frequently Asked Questions



### 1. What is Camp Smiles?

Camp Smiles is a week-long overnight camp for children ages 6-15 with cerebral palsy or similar neurological disorders. Volunteers work one on one with a camper and act as their buddy and personal caregiver for the week. Campers participate in awesome outdoor camp activities such as rock climbing, fishing, paintball, karaoke, and many more activities that have all been adapted to fit the needs of each camper. We host about 40-45 campers during the week at Camp For All, an adapted camping facility in Burton, TX. Camp Smiles is only offered for one session during the summer; this year it will be July 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



### 2. What are the eligibility requirements to be a camper?

- **Campers must be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend camp.**
- Campers must be diagnosed with cerebral palsy or a similar neurological disorder and be between the ages of 6-15.
  - “Similar neurological disorders” pertains to children with neurological diagnoses such as acquired brain injury due to stroke, TBI, brain tumor, encephalitis, etc. Campers must meet all eligibility requirements and will be accepted on a case by case basis.
- **Campers must be cognitively aware that he/she is participating in a camping program and be capable of interacting with strangers in some capacity.**
- Campers cannot have a medical condition that requires intravenous (IV) fluids/medications, or need for laboratory studies while at camp.
- Campers cannot have a medical condition that places them at high-risk for complication or injury, such as uncontrolled seizures, abnormal heart rhythm, extreme respiratory problems, bone disorders, etc.
- Campers cannot have a history of physical abuse of self or others including hitting, biting, scratching, spitting, kicking, etc.
- Campers must be able to eat the food provided by Camp For All. Please note that Camp For All can make camp food any consistency (pureed, chopped up, etc).

### 3. Who are the staff at Camp Smiles?

Easter Seals' Camp Director is on-site 24/7, as well as a team of medical staff from Texas Children's Hospital. Our Camp Doctors handle all medication administration and medical situations during the week of camp. Each of our campers get paired one to one with a volunteer, who acts as their buddy and personal caregiver for the week.



### 4. What is the cost of Camp Smiles?

Camp Smiles is offered on a sliding scale, please inquire with Camp Director. There are also a limited number of scholarships offered through Easter Seals that reduce the cost of camp. Opportunities to apply for scholarships are found within the Camp Smiles application online.

## 5. How do I apply to Camp Smiles?

Applying to Camp Smiles has multiple steps, please read in full:

- Fill out an online application through the Active website. Applications can be found on the Camps & Recreation page of the Easter Seals website or by contacting Kenzie Richard at [MRichard@eastersealshouston.org](mailto:MRichard@eastersealshouston.org).
- If this is your first time applying to Camp Smiles, one of our Camp Doctors will review your child's application and check their eligibility for camp.
- 3 Supplemental documents are required to be signed and returned to the Camp Director ([MRichard@eastersealshouston.org](mailto:MRichard@eastersealshouston.org)) for your camper's application to be complete.
  - **Doctor Form**- signed by medical personnel (usually the camper's primary care physician)
  - **Medication and Allergy Form**
  - **Camp For All Release Form**- an online signature is required
- If you are waiting to hear about a scholarship or plan to pay in-person by cash or check:
  - During checkout, select "PAY A DEPOSIT + PAY BALANCE MANUALLY" and you will be able to check out immediately without paying.
- Easter Seals will send out an acceptance e-mail to families confirming their spot at camp.
- We will have a Meet & Greet/medication-turn in session before camp starts. You will be able to meet the camp volunteers & staff, and go over any medication details with our camp doctors!
- Have a FANTASTIC experience at Camp Smiles!



**Learn more about Camp Smiles at one of our virtual information sessions!**

Hosted the first and third Wednesday of each month, 6:00-7:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. Please email Kenzie at [mrichard@eastersealshouston.org](mailto:mrichard@eastersealshouston.org) to RSVP!

The online application for Camp Smiles will open in late January, 2022!