



A remarkable place. For remarkable people.

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**Dear Camper, Parent, Guardian:**

Camp Summit is a unique camp that specializes in serving children and adults who are physically challenged, developmentally delayed, dual sensory impaired or have multiple challenges. We accept campers with all levels of disabilities, including many participants in need of total assistance. All activities are adapted for each individual camper and their capabilities.

A good, wholesome experience at camp can be one of the most meaningful and enriching gifts you can give your loved one. We strive to offer our campers a memorable experience. The friendships they develop with other campers and counselors can last a lifetime. It is our goal to provide our campers with a rewarding experience that will benefit him or her in social, recreational, and personal development.

Our philosophy is to focus on individuals' abilities, not their disabilities. Campers are given the opportunity to gain confidence in their abilities and reach their own personal peak through our outdoor recreational and therapeutic camp program.

Our camping program began in 1947, established by Soroptimist International of Dallas as one of the earliest camps for campers with disabilities. Only a handful of camps in the United States offer camping programs for campers with disabilities. Even fewer offer programs with no upper age limit. We proudly carry on the tradition of removing barriers so that everyone can experience the joy of camp.

Every camper's health and safety is of utmost concern at Camp Summit. Our safety record is excellent and every year the facility is inspected by the Texas Department of Health. We are also accredited by the American Camp Association, showing our commitment to the highest standards of health, safety, and program quality. Our experienced camp nurses live on site and are on duty at all times. Our camp doctor is on call 24 hours a day. We certify numerous staff with CPR and first aid training. A hospital is close by and local first responders are familiar with our staff and facilities with quick response time.

We invite you to visit our facilities, meet our staff, and observe the program. We welcome your questions and encourage you to take time to discover what makes Camp Summit so unique. If you have questions, please call our Dallas office at 972-484-8900 or visit our website at [www.campsummittx.org](http://www.campsummittx.org).

Campfully yours,

*Grady Howell*

Grady Howell  
Director of Camp Operations

*All people have a fundamental need for love, protection, security and approval in order to achieve their maximum potential. Our campers are offered the opportunity to have fun and make friends, be accepted for who they are, learn cooperation and communication within a group, and experience and enhance personal independence.*



17210 Campbell Road, Suite 180-W Dallas, TX 75252

972.484.8900 Fax 972.620.1945

Email [camp@CampSummitTX.org](mailto:camp@CampSummitTX.org) [www.CampSummitTX.org](http://www.CampSummitTX.org)

# GENERAL INFORMATION

Our camp program consists of 2 weeklong sessions in the spring, 10 weeklong sessions in the summer, and 8 weeklong sessions in the fall, beginning on Sunday and ending on Friday. Also available are Fun Days, Virtual Zoom events, and other special camp programs.

Activities include archery, swimming, Science Lab, nature hikes, arts and crafts, sports and games, photography, and our ropes course which includes 2 zip lines, a giant swing and elements at a low elevation. Campers with all levels of disabilities are accepted. During the year, Camp Summit serves over 2,000 campers. Our campgrounds are located in Paradise, Texas, northwest of Dallas and Fort Worth on 460 beautiful acres of land.

The program is staffed by numerous counselors and staff members. Many of our staff members are college students pursuing fields of human interest. Counselors and staff with direct responsibility are typically 18 years of age or older and are selected to work after a very extensive and thorough interview process. References are checked and all members undergo a criminal background check. Our counselors and staff participate in an intensive 1 week-long training session prior to camp, which is conducted by Camp Summit staff and related professionals. Our counselors and staff are vital to the camping program. They help carry out the mission and spirit of the camp. Counselors live in the cabins with the campers during their one-week camp session. Each cabin can house twenty-two individuals. The ratio of campers to counselors is two-to-one.



## MISSION

To provide barrier-free outdoor experiences that promote personal growth and foster independence for children and adults with disabilities.

## CAMP ON THE WEB

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

E-mail: [camp@campsummittx.org](mailto:camp@campsummittx.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CampSummitTX.org](https://www.facebook.com/CampSummitTX.org)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/CampSummitTx.org](https://www.twitter.com/CampSummitTx.org)

# WHAT TO EXPECT

## FOOD/MEALS

Camp Summit serves three well-balanced meals, Monday through Friday. On Sunday, after registration, a picnic style dinner is served (approx. 6:30 pm). The kitchen staff is trained to accommodate our many campers with special diets (vegetarian, gluten/casein free, etc.) with advance notification. Other special dietary foods brought to camp will be stored and prepared by full time camp staff. For those requiring assistance with feeding, the counselors have been trained to aid those individuals. Food can also be blended if needed.

## CABIN LIFE

The campers reside in cabins with their counselors during their stay at Camp Summit. Each cabin sleeps up to ten campers with six to eight staff. The cabins have central heat & air-conditioning and bathrooms with showers & lavatories. Campers need to bring their own bedding for twin beds (sheets, pillows and any special sleep items) and toiletries (such as towels, soap, deodorant, etc). A suggested packing list is available on our website at [www.campsummittx.org/forms](http://www.campsummittx.org/forms).

## CAMP STORE

The camp store will be open on registration day. Camp Summit will offer campers several items in the camp store. Items available are magnets, hats, blankets, sweatshirts, T-shirts, stuffed animals, flashlights, photo frames, backpacks and other items. Prices range from \$2 to \$20. Every camper will receive a cabin group photo, water bottle, link to slideshow, and a camp t-shirt.



## JOURNAL

Each camper will be given a journal that is used to record the activities they participated in during the week. This record is an important tool for the parents to read and for the campers to remember their time here. Information is written by the counselors and the journals are decorated by the campers and their counselors.



## CAMP RULES

The following items are **not permitted** on the campgrounds:

*Alcohol, Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Vapes, Pipes, Firearms, Fireworks, Cell Phones, Flammables, Drugs, Pets, Personal Sports Equipment (bats, climbing gear, etc.)*

All **vehicles** must park in the designated parking area, as directed by camp staff. The speed limit is **10 mph** on the campgrounds.

## PHONE CALLS / CELL PHONES

Please know that it is difficult to have the campers receive phone calls during their stay at Camp Summit. They will be involved in activities throughout the day and evening. **We have a “no cell phones” policy for campers while at camp.** If campers need to bring a phone for pictures or music, they must contact the camp director for approval prior to their camp session. We are available to visit with you by phone at camp should you wish to inquire about your camper.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

During each camp session, the evenings are highlighted with group activities that involve the entire camping group: water night games, talent shows and social night, and other activities at a distance. The last night of camp is a very special event, Dance Night. Campers dress in their evening wear (this may be a costume or a special outfit they bring to camp), receive awards and dance the night away

## VISITORS & GUESTS

Security is a priority at Camp Summit. Although visitors are welcome at camp, we discourage visitation during the camp sessions as this disrupts the activities and the campers’ scheduled stay. Every visitor must sign in at the camp office upon arrival.

## ILLNESSES/EMERGENCIES

Should an illness, injury, concern or emergency occur at camp, the Camp Director or nurse will contact camper parent and describe illness, injury, concern or emergency. At that time, the camp staff, nurse and camper parent will discuss course of care for the camper. If camper should need to be transported to the hospital, parent will be contacted immediately. You will be given the opportunity to meet us at the designated hospital. If an emergency should occur and you need to reach your camper, call the camp phone number (940-433-3338). If a natural disaster occurs, we follow the recommended guidelines furnished to us by local disaster shelters and emergency support teams.

