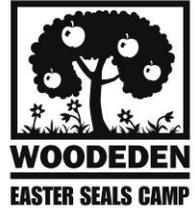




EASTER SEALS ONTARIO FAMILY CAMP

WF: August 4 - 9, 2019 at Woodeden Camp
MF: August 20 - 25, 2019 at Merrywood Camp



Since 1979, Easter Seals Ontario's Family Camp program has been providing parents and their children the opportunity to relax and have fun together at a fully accessible site. At Family Camp the whole family can enjoy activities such as crafts, games, archery, swimming, campfires and much, much more. While at camp, parents are responsible for supervising and providing the daily care of their children. However, supervision is available during scheduled children's activities so parents can attend adult only programs or just relax. Childcare is available in the evening.

CRITERIA FOR FAMILY CAMP

- Families must have a child with a physical disability between the ages of 1-18 years (as of July 1, 2019) who is registered with Easter Seals Ontario before submitting an application (Please note, the Incontinence Supplies Grant Program is a separate registry).
- Priority will be given to first time families who have never attended an Easter Seals Family Camp before, and then to all returning families on a first come first serve basis – applications will be date stamped based on the date that the completed application WITH payment has been received. If you have attended family camp at any of Easter Seals' camp locations in the past, you are still considered a returning family even if you are applying to a new camp location. Family size may have an impact on priority of acceptance as larger families of 6 or more require the use of two rooms to be accommodated and some cabins only hold a maximum of 2 people.

If your child is between the ages of 6-26 as of July 1, 2019 and able to communicate a consistent yes/no (this can be verbal or non-verbal as long as it is consistent) then they may qualify to attend our Individual Camps. Due to the limited space in Family Camp we encourage any applicants whose child meets our Individual Camp criteria to enroll in an Individual Camp session as Family Camp is intended for those who are severely medically fragile and/or do not meet our minimum Individual Camp criteria.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1

- Send your completed Family Camp Application with payment to Easter Seals Ontario. Applications are date stamped by the date the completed application with payment is received. **Minimum payment required is \$85 per person** for immediate family members only. Any non-immediate family members will be required to pay full fees at \$900 per person.
- **Confirm receipt of application** – it is the family's responsibility to follow up with Easter Seals Ontario that their application has been received. Please contact the Recreation Coordinator after sending in your application to confirm it has been received.

Step 2

- **Wait for confirmation.** Easter Seals Ontario will **review all applications by mid February, 2019**. At this time, we will contact you by mail to let you know if you have been approved or waitlisted. Easter Seals will not process any payments until you have been approved for camp. If you do not receive a spot in camp – you will not be charged.

Step 3

- **If approved for Family Camp**, you will receive a confirmation package in the mail with information about the camp. Please complete any forms and bring them with you to camp on arrival day.
- **If not approved for Family Camp and placed on the waitlist**, you will receive a waitlist letter in the mail. Easter Seals Ontario will contact you should any spots become available in the session - you do **not** need to keep following up with Easter Seals on whether a space has become available.

Frequently Asked Questions...



Where are the Camps located?

Easter Seals Camp Merrywood is located on a breathtaking peninsula stretching out into Rideau Lake near Perth (approximately 1 hour from Ottawa & Kingston). It offers a wide range of programs including water sports such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing and out-tripping. Easter Seals Camp Woodeden is located on 107 acres of scenic woods and beautifully landscaped grounds overlooking the Thames River in London. Families will enjoy playing sledge hockey as well as trying out the fully accessible high ropes course.

Do parents and children have to attend all activities?

No, activities are optional. Some parents and siblings choose to participate in all the programs while others choose to read a book. We do however encourage your children to participate in the activities. If they choose not to, they must be supervised by a parent. Please Note: if your child is attending a program without you, the camp staff will return them to you if they require personal care or are not staying with the group.

Can I attend activities with my child(ren)?

Yes, that is why we are a Family Camp!

Will the staff assist my family?

All campers will be supervised during scheduled program times by the camp staff. Outside of structured program times, you are responsible for supervising your children. Evening babysitting is provided, allowing you to enjoy the adult programs offered. You can request additional assistance for morning and evening care. (The amount of assistance that the camp staff is able to provide is dependent upon the needs of the campers. Our staff are not trained in caring for tracheostomies, respirators or doing any suctioning).

What are the cabins like?

Families will have a room to themselves and share washroom facilities with others. Linen and towels are provided. Side rails are available upon request.

What are the meals like?

A catering company that specializes in camp cooking provides family-style meals, served in our dining hall. Please keep in mind that Easter Seals Camps are not staffed with Registered Dietitians or Nutritionists trained to implement specialized diets. We will do our best to accommodate common diets, such as vegetarian, soft, puree, and gluten-free (we do not provide Halal/Kosher/low-sodium meals etc.). Families can bring food from home to supplement the camp food in order to meet their special dietary needs. Easter Seals camps offer a **peanut aware** environment. We ask that you do not bring any nuts or nut products to camp.

Are there laundry facilities at camp?

Yes, there are washing machines and dryers available for families to use during their stay.

I sent my application back right away but was placed on the waitlist. Why wasn't I approved?

Due to the limited availability and popularity of family camp, you may have been waitlisted for any of the following reasons:

- **Your application was incomplete and/or payment was not included.** Applications are date stamped based on the date that that completed application WITH payment is received in the Head office.
- **There was a high volume of new applicants.** Priority for Family Camp is first given to new families and then to all returning families on a first come first serve basis. If there is a high volume of new applicants, even if your completed application with payment is in right away, you are not guaranteed a space as there may only be a few spots for returning families for that year. Please note: If you have been to any of Easter Seals Camp locations in the past, you are still considered a returning family.
- **How soon your application was received.** You may have sent in your application within the first week that the applications became available online, however, we often receive an influx of applications on the same day applications are posted. Please note: it is your responsibility to follow up with Easter Seals that your application has been received.
- **Your child is not eligible.** If your child will be 19+ as of July 1st of the camping year, they no longer qualify for family camp. Alternatively, your child may not be eligible if you have attended Family Camp in the past and have been told that your child meets the criteria to attend our individual camps. As Family Camp is limited, if the Easter Seals child meets our individual camp criteria, they are no longer eligible for Family Camp.

For more information on Family Camp:

Contact the Recreation Coordinator at 416.421.8377 ext. 325 or toll-free at 1.800.668.6252 ext. 325 or via email at camp@easterseals.org or visit our camp website at www.eastersealscamps.org.