

Incorporating Special Need Audiences into Camping Programs

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Introduction

Camp is often a defining moment in a child's life. Canter's Cave 4-H Camp believes that ALL youth should have the opportunity to experience and learn from that moment. Ohio 4-H Special Needs Camp is offered to youth that have unique needs that could not be accommodated in a traditional Camp setting. These youth need the availability of a camp which can accommodate their varying medical, physical and emotional needs. Canter's Cave's specialized environment allows youth, and their caregivers, an opportunity to participate in Camp activities geared to their abilities.

Background:

4-H Special Needs Camp has been happening for more than 10 years. Special needs youth need the availability of a camp which can accommodate their varying medical, physical and emotional needs. Ohio 4-H Special Needs Camp is designed with special needs youth in mind and is tailored to their needs. It gives youth a chance to try new things in a safe environment while building relationships. When campers and caregivers were asked about the Camp, 100% of those surveyed stated that they want to return next year and one caregiver stated, "Everyone helps all the kids have a great time. No one is left out." Campers feel the same way – one Camper listed their favorite memory as, "Seeing all of the kids, staff, counselors & parents."

Who can attend:

Individuals with unique needs ages 8-18. This camp will be held at the Elizabeth L. Evans Outdoor Education Center/ Canter's Cave 4-H Camp near Jackson, Ohio. Each camper will need to be accompanied by a caregiver.



Location:
 Canter's Cave 4-H Camp
 1362 Caves Road
 Jackson, OH
<https://4hcantercave.osu.edu/>
<https://www.facebook.com/CanterCave/>



Camps are hosted both in the summer and the fall.