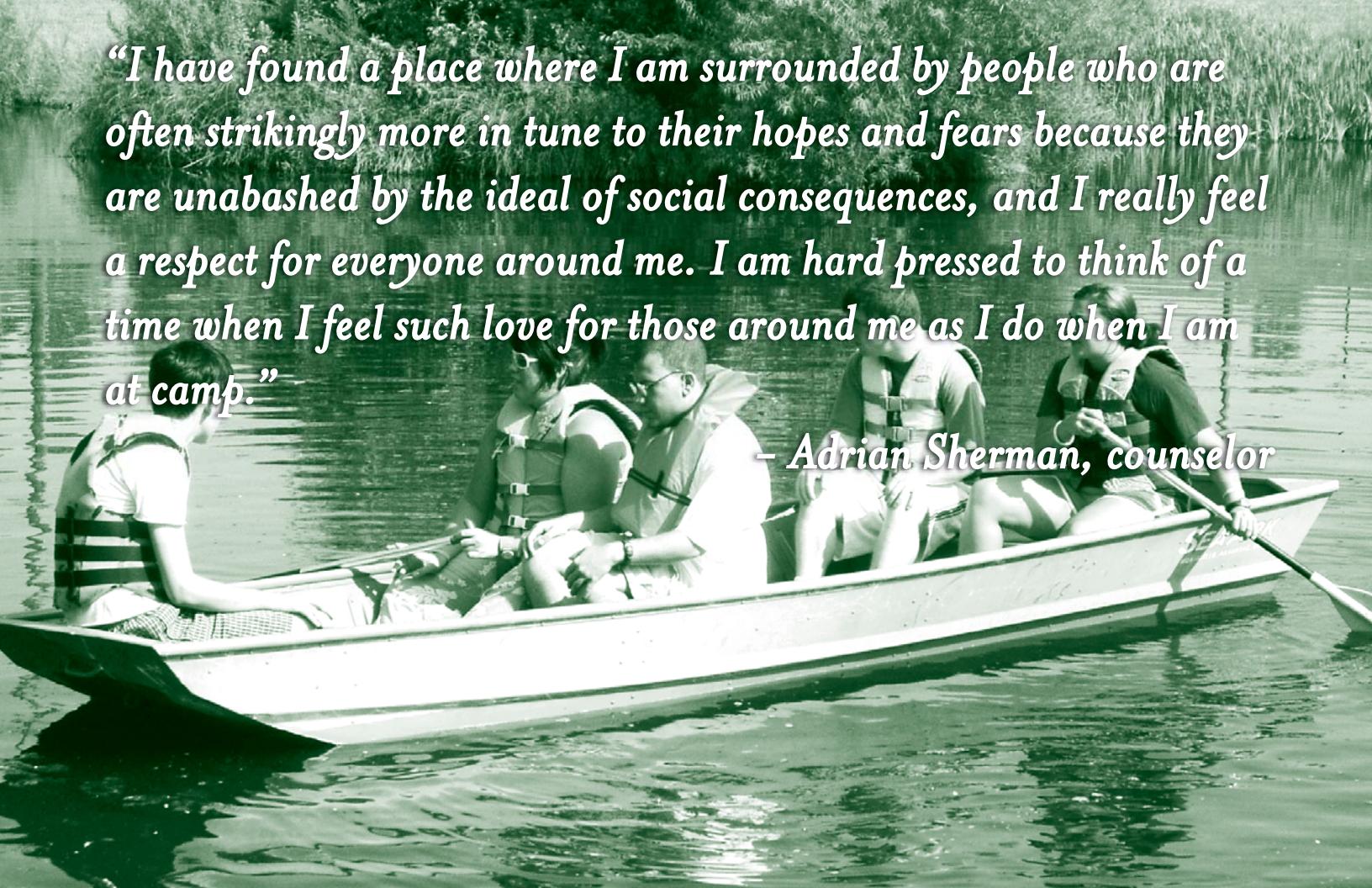


Autism Society of NORTH CAROLINA Summer Camp





“I have found a place where I am surrounded by people who are often strikingly more in tune to their hopes and fears because they are unabashed by the ideal of social consequences, and I really feel a respect for everyone around me. I am hard pressed to think of a time when I feel such love for those around me as I do when I am at camp.”

– Adrian Sherman, counselor



Overview of the Summer Camp Program

The Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC) began its residential Summer Camp Program, which serves individuals with autism spectrum disorder, in 1972 with six campers attending a week of camp.

As the demand for structured residential services has grown so has the ASNC Summer Camp Program. In 1997, the Society opened Camp Royall, a 133-acre facility located near Pittsboro. In 1998, Mountain Adventure opened at the Christmount Assembly in Black Mountain. Today, ASNC's Summer Camp Program is the nation's largest residential camp program for people on the autism spectrum, serving nearly 400 individuals.

The Autism Society of North Carolina Summer Camp Program is designed to provide campers with a week of typical camp activities, such as swimming, hiking, boating, and arts & crafts, in a structured environment. Campers are supervised closely at all times; many counselors have only one camper per week to ensure maximum attention.

Campers are assigned to weeks according to age. Each one-week session begins Sunday afternoon and ends Friday afternoon after the Camper Talent Show. Additionally, there are specific weeks designed for very young campers and for high functioning campers.

*“Thank you
for helping me
understand...
thank you for
teaching me.”
– Corinna
Beckman,
Camper*

The Summer Camp Program Provides...

Recreation Experience: Though the scope of activities and opportunities offered has grown tremendously, the primary focus of camp continues to be to provide a structured recreational experience in a camp setting for children and adults on the autism spectrum.

Therapeutic and Educational Experience: Campers have the opportunity to develop and expand their abilities in areas such as self-help, communication, social behavior, and independence while participating in a wide variety of recreational activities including: swimming, music, group games, hiking, and arts & crafts.

Respite for Families: Caring for an individual on the autism spectrum requires a tremendous amount of physical and emotional energy, attention, and patience. Camp gives families a well-deserved break from these demands so they can have some time to themselves.

Educational Training for Students and Professionals: Camp is a valuable training experience for students interested in a career in Special Education, Psychology, Speech Pathology, and other Human Services. Staff members are trained in a variety of techniques and strategies, and they have the opportunity to interact with any different individuals on the autism spectrum.

Employment and Vocational Training for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum: Camp also provides a place for individuals to learn new job skills. Several adults on the autism spectrum work at our camps, assisting in many areas from cleaning to activity preparation.

Who is Eligible for The Summer Camp Program?

Current North Carolina residents with ASD, ages 4 to adult, are eligible to apply to the Summer Camp program. The Autism Society of North Carolina makes every effort to serve all people on the autism spectrum, regardless of the degree of disability.

Who Works at The Summer Camp Program?

Camp staff members are primarily college students pursuing a degree in education or psychology, although many are majoring in fields not related to autism.

What are the Camper to Counselor Ratios?

Each counselor is assigned one or two campers each week, allowing our staff to give constant, individualized attention.

How are the Staff Trained?

The Autism Society of North Carolina provides a weeklong training session for all new staff prior to the start of camp each year. The training is a collaborative effort between camp program directors and autism professionals, and it includes lectures and seminars on topics such as "What is Autism?," "Behavior Management," and "Communication and Autism." Throughout the training week, small groups of counselors are paired with a trainer and a camper to observe how to work with a camper, and to get hands-on experience interacting with individuals on the autism spectrum.



*“I wish I could live
here. I love camp!
– David Demmer,
camper*

How Much Does the Summer Camp Program Cost?

The cost of camp for each camper is determined by a sliding fee scale that is based on income and number of people in the home. All campers are required to pay a fee for camp, but there are scholarship funds available to assist with that cost when needed. Also, Society members receive a discount on the cost of camp.

*Camp is one of the most rich and rewarding experiences our sun has.
- Mary Kuhr, parent*



How do I Apply?

Complete and mail the registration form, which is available in the winter edition of the Spectrum, the Autism Society of North Carolina's quarterly newsletter, or online at www.autismsociety-nc.org each January. A lottery system is used to select campers for each summer, giving preference to campers who did not attend the previous year. Camp registration forms are typically due in mid-February. Please visit the Society's website for exact dates.

For More Information, Please Complete and Return This Form

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____



I am the parent of an individual with autism spectrum disorder.

I would like information on the following: (check as many as apply)

Summer Camp Registration
 Camp Royall
 Mountain Adventure
 Camp Counselor Positions

Volunteer Opportunities
 The Autism Society of North Carolina
 Add my name to the ASNC mailing list

Mail to: Autism Society of North Carolina Summer Camp, 505 Oberlin Rd. Suite 230, Raleigh, NC 27605



Autism Society
of NORTH CAROLINA
Summer Camp

505 Oblerin Road, Suite 230
Raleigh, NC 27605
919-743-0204