CAMP BURNT GIN

Camp Burnt Gin Application Information Sheet

Thank you for your interest in Camp Burnt Gin, a summer camp for children, teens, and young adults with special health care needs operated by the DHEC Division of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN). Information and applications for the next summer session are now available.

If you have any questions about applying or need additional information about Camp Burnt Gin, please contact the CYSHCN main office at campburntgin@dhec.sc.gov or (803) 898-0784, or visit www.scdhec.gov/campburntgin.

Application and Materials

The packet includes

- Summary of eligibility guidelines for campers and frequently asked questions
- Description of routine Camp activities
- Schedule with dates and ages for each session
- Application form

General Information

- "Child" sessions are for campers who are 7-15 years old on the day the session starts; "Teen" sessions are for campers 16-20 years old; and the "Young Adult" session is for campers 21-25 years old.
- **For an application to be considered complete, all pages of the application must be filled out, signed and a current physical and immunization record must be attached.**
- Applications are due to DHEC by April 15th. (If April 15 falls on a weekend, the application is due by 5:00 PM on the Friday **before** April 15.)

Application Review and Notification Process

- Complete applications will be reviewed in the order they were received.
- Written notification of acceptance and session assignments will be mailed by the last working day in May.
- Late applications (those received **after** April 15) will be reviewed in the order received after on-time applications have been processed. Late applicants who are accepted for Camp will be placed on a waiting list. We will contact applicants on the waiting list if all camp slots are not filled, or if there are cancellations.

Please also read additional **important information** about application signatures and the decision making rights of campers age 18 and older **on reverse side.**

Decision-Making Rights of Campers Age 18 and Older

Information for Parents:

DHEC staff cannot provide services, share, or obtain health information without informed consent. If the person to receive services is age 18 or over, he or she must be able and willing to provide informed consent. Informed consent means the person giving consent understands what they are being asked to sign, as well as the potential risks and benefits of the actions to be taken. Parents cannot provide consent for their children after they reach 18 years of age unless a court has given them the authority to do so.

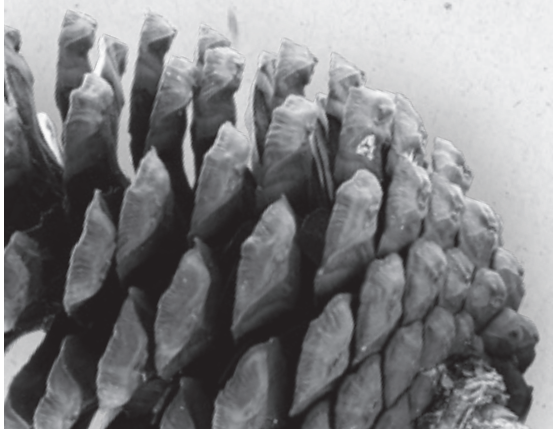
The Camp Burnt Gin application must be signed by a person with legal authority to consent to health-related services, sharing medical information or obtaining medical information on behalf of the person to attend Camp Burnt Gin. Parents have these rights for applicants under age 18. However, these parental rights end at age 18, when South Carolina residents become adults under the law. All adults are assumed to be competent to make decisions affecting their life or health, regardless of special needs.

When a person needs help making decisions about his or her care and well being, guardianship is one option to consider. There are other options called least restrictive alternatives. Least restrictive alternatives encourage independence and allow a person to be involved in decisions about his or her care and well being, while still providing protection for the person.

It is very important for parents of children who are approaching or over age 18 with conditions or disabilities that affect capacity for informed consent explore decision-making options for their child.

Resources:

- Family Connection of South Carolina and Able South Carolina can provide information about guardianship, supported decision making and other options to consider.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to seek advice of a licensed attorney. In many areas, an initial 30-minute legal consultation can be arranged for no more than $50.
- South Carolina Bar Referral Service provides assistance in locating attorneys that specialize in this type of law. Contact them at 1-800-868-2284 or www.scbar.org/public/get-legal-help/find-lawyer-or-mediator.
- The Legal Aid Telephone Intake Service (LATIS) can help determine if you qualify for free or reduced fee services. Call 1-888-346-5592.



Eligibility Guidelines

Camp Burnt Gin's mission is to improve the quality of life for children who have special health care needs by providing a camp experience designed to improve self-esteem, promote independence and foster the skills necessary to develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The child must have a physical disability or chronic illness.
- The child must be 7 through 20 years of age and young adults must be 21 through 25 years of age.
- Benefits from participating in camp are beyond respite for the caregivers.
- The child's supervision and personal care needs can be met in a setting that provides a ratio of three staff to eight campers.
- The child does not exhibit aggressive, self-abusive or inappropriate sexual behavior.
- The child's medical needs can be met in a rustic camp setting and do not require 24-hour nursing services (emergencies and unexpected illnesses are the exceptions).

Other Factors to Consider:

- Can the child participate in group activities with assistance?
- Can the child tolerate heat?
- Does the child have sleeping problems (inability to go to sleep, wakes frequently)?
- Are there any concerns about the child wandering away from the group and becoming lost?
- Can the child and parent adjust to the separation?
- Is the child able to easily adjust to a change in their daily routine?

What We Cannot Do:

- **Overnight G-Tube Feedings:** We cannot accommodate children who receive overnight g-tube feedings. Children who receive g-tube feedings during the day will be considered on an individual basis as staffing allows (maximum of four feedings per day).
- **Tracheostomies and Ventilators:** We are unable to meet the needs of children with tracheostomies and ventilators.
- **Extensive Medication Administration:** Nursing staff are not available for medication administration after 10 p.m. or before 7 a.m. except in emergencies. Camp nurses are not able to administer vitamins and herbal supplements.
- **Diabetes Management:** Children who have diabetes must be able to self manage their care. A statement from the child's physician verifying their ability to comply is required.

If you have questions regarding a child's eligibility or appropriateness for Camp Burnt Gin, please contact the camp director, Marie Aimone, at **(803) 898-0784** or **aimonemi@dhec.sc.gov**.

You can also visit **www.scdhec.gov/campburntgin** for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can attend Camp Burnt Gin?
Camp Burnt Gin is for children 7 through 15, teenagers 16 through 20, and young adults 21-25 years of age who have physical disabilities and chronic illnesses.

Is this an overnight camp or day camp?
Camp Burnt Gin is a camp where the campers spend the night. You bring your child to camp on the first day of their scheduled session and pick them up on the morning of the last day of the session.

When should applications for enrollment be submitted?
Deadline for receiving applications is April 15th. Applications received after the April 15th deadline will be considered depending on available space.

What are the campers' disabilities?
Some of the more common disabilities are cerebral palsy, spina bifida, seizures, sickle cell anemia, hearing loss, chromosomal disorders, and heart disease. The severity of the disabilities varies tremendously. There are children who require very little assistance from the counselors and there are children who need help with all aspects of daily living.

Who will take care of my child's medical needs?
Two nurses are available at all times to give medicine, first aid and supervise the children's medical treatments. Sumter Pediatrics serve as our camp doctors and the local hospital is approximately 20 minutes away.

Who will live with and take care of my child?
In each cabin of eight campers, there is a minimum of three counselors. The counselors are typically college students who have experience in working with children and who are interested in working with children who have special needs.

What type of training is provided for the counselors?
The camp staff participate in a week-long training program where they learn about the health conditions of the campers and the special care the campers require. Other training topics include safety and emergency procedures, positive behavior management, camp activities and operating procedures.

What level of supervision is camp able to provide?
In each cabin of eight campers, there is a minimum of three counselors. Camp Burnt Gin cannot provide one-to-one supervision.

What is the level of supervision during rest hour and at night?
During these times, two counselors are on duty in the cabin and the other staff have free time. A minimum of three staff members sleep in the cabin with the campers. A staff member sleeps in front of each door exiting the cabin.

My child has never been away from home. What if he becomes homesick?
Almost all children experience some homesickness. The camp staff is trained to help children adjust to being away from home. Usually once the children get involved in the camp activities and start having fun, they do fine. If however, a child does not adjust to being away from home, the camp staff will contact the parents.

When will I find out if my child is accepted to attend camp?
Acceptance is determined on an individual basis. Many factors are considered in determining acceptance including the child's physical disability, medical and personal needs and whether or not the child is able to participate in another camping program. Parents are notified of their child's acceptance in May.

What is the cost of Camp Burnt Gin?
There is no cost to the family for their child to attend Camp Burnt Gin. However, if you would like, you may make a tax-deductible donation to Camp Burnt Gin. Checks should be made payable to "Camp Burnt Gin" and mailed to Camp Burnt Gin, 2100 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201. Donations will be deposited into the Camp Burnt Gin account and used to support camp programs and activities.

Camp Activities

In each cabin group of 7 to 9 campers, there is a minimum of three counselors. Depending on the needs of the campers, additional staff may work with the group. The counselors accompany the campers to all programs and adapt the activities to meet the campers' special needs. Leaders of each program area have knowledge and experience in the activity area they direct. Activities in all areas are planned according to the campers' ages, interests, physical and developmental levels. Campers and staff are instructed in the safe use and care of equipment and the rules of each area.

Sports and Games Program

The emphasis in the Sports and Games Program is on cooperative play and developing recreational skills. Planned activities may include: kickball, volleyball, relay races, parachute games, card and board games.

Arts and Crafts Program

This program is designed to encourage creativity and help the campers develop hobbies. Activities and projects may include: drawing, painting, making things out of clay and paper mache, bird houses, necklaces, bracelets and tie dying.

Nature Program

The Nature Program is designed to teach campers about the earth, stars, plants, and animals. Nature activities include: gardening, identification of plants, bug and butterfly collecting, nature walks, and fun facts about animals.

Fine Arts Program

The Fine Arts Program gives campers the opportunity to expand their imagination and express themselves through music, drama, and dance. Activities may include musical games, rhythm band, skit writing, acting and dressing up in costumes.

Swimming Program

Swimming is supervised by staff who are certified in CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard Training. Counselors also receive training in basic water safety and rescue techniques. In addition to lifeguards, the counselors are buddied with the campers in the pool. Depending on the camper's needs, the staff-to-camper ratio may be 1:1 or 1:3. On the first day, the campers are tested to determine their swimming ability. On the following days, the counselors teach the campers basic swimming and safety techniques.

Boating Program

Lifeguards supervise boating activities. Canoes, kayaks and paddle boats are available for the campers and counselors' use. Counselors always accompany campers and lifejackets are worn by everyone.

Camp Outs

Each cabin group may spend one night at the campsite which is located on the campgrounds. They sleep in tents and cook their food over the fire. Evening activities include singing, storytelling, star gazing and roasting marshmallows. Campers are not allowed to build the fire nor play around it. Counselors are responsible for cooking the food and assisting campers with the roasting of marshmallows.

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