



Camp Season 2010

Dear Campers and Families:

I am happy to present to you our new application packet for AbilityFirst Camp Paivika for the summer of 2010. As you are most likely aware by now, the state-run regional centers will no longer be providing funding for camp programs. This has necessitated us to make numerous changes to our program, policies and application materials. Regardless of whether you are a first-time camper or this is your 10th year, *it is essential that you read all materials carefully*. By doing this you will minimize the chance of missing any information that could slow the processing of your application and avoid misunderstandings throughout the application process.

Application Forms on Line

We are pleased that all application forms are now available for you to download from our website at www.abilityfirst.org/camppaivika. Please print these forms out on your computer as we do need original hard copies of all documents with signatures to complete you/your camper's enrollment. Please be sure to download all forms and mail them together to the camp address.

Changes to Forms

You will notice that many of our forms have a new look. The forms are self-explanatory but please read the included policies (new) for camp fees as well as the campership policies.

Securing Your Spot at Camp

It is important that you send back your completed application packet as quickly as possible to secure your spot for the session you are interested in. You must include a \$100 non-refundable deposit with your application. Applications will not be processed nor session assignments made until we receive your deposit. If you are waiting for your doctor's appointment to complete the medical form, you should send in the other completed forms with a note telling us the date that your appointment is scheduled and when you will be sending the medical form in to us. As always, camp sessions will be filled on a first come basis.

Program Changes

Session Schedule: Based on the survey that we conducted earlier this year, we have re-designed this summer's schedule. We will re-evaluate the success of this model again at the end of the 2010 summer season.

Age Groupings: In an effort to offer as many session choices as possible we have combined our children and teen groups to an age grouping of 11 to 17 and adults aged 18 and older. Please be assured that within these sessions we will be grouping campers into cabin groups based on age-appropriate peer groups. For example during the children's session, we will group 11-14 year olds together and 15 to 17 year olds together. For the adults we will group the young adults together and the older adults in separate cabins.

Arrival Times: This year campers will arrive after lunch on their scheduled day, which in most cases will be on a Sunday. This will help us to provide sufficient time off for our camp staff in between sessions as well as make travel for camper families more convenient.

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Multiple Session Participation: Campers now have the option of attending more than one session during the summer. Campers may attend as many sessions as they like within their age category. A multiple session discount will be offered for every session after the first session attended. Camperships will not be available for campers attending more than one session.

One to One Staffing Option: During sessions 4 through 7, we will be offering a one to one staffing option. Campers seeking a one to one staff assignment will be screened by the Camp Director and will pay an additional \$50.00 per day to cover the additional cost. The one to one staff will be selected from the existing Camp Paivika staff but with careful consideration of the individual needs of each camper.

In-Camp Activity Scheduling: This summer, all camper groups will be attending activities on a pre-scheduled rotation with their cabin groups. This will eliminate the possibility that your camper misses out participating in a particular program due to scheduling issues. If a camper does not want to participate in a given activity or has a restriction for that activity, an alternate program will be offered.

Camp Assistant Program on hold: This year with the numerous changes and funding issues that we face, we will not be offering the Camp Assistant Program.

Please feel free to contact myself (ext. 101) or Brenda Starkins (ext. 102) if you need clarification on any of these changes or policies. Please send all correspondence and application materials directly to us here at Camp Paivika to ensure efficiency. We also recommend that you make copies of all forms in the event that something is misplaced.

I wish to close by thanking those of you who have helped us carve out this new plan for AbilityFirst Camp Paivika. I am confident that we will continue to grow and improve our program despite the challenges of today. I cannot wait to see you all at camp in 2010!

Most Sincerely,

Kelly Kunsek

Kelly Kunsek
Camp Director