

### **Essential Eligibility Criteria for Ijams Nature Center Day Camps (Ages 6-12)**

At Ijams Nature Center, we consider the needs of each camper to promote success and provide a safe and positive camp experience. We seek to find ways to accommodate individual camper needs, and we also need to be honest about our facility, program, and staff limitations. **We are NOT able to provide an attendant (one-on-one staff member) to address a camper's personal needs**, nor can we accommodate medical conditions or impairments requiring treatment beyond the scope of our staff.

Before enrolling a child with special developmental, physical, medical, or emotional needs, please contact us to discuss potential accommodations; disclosure of special needs will not preclude participation. All activities are open to all individuals who meet the following essential eligibility requirements by themselves or with an aide provided by the participant. To assure the maximum enjoyment of the program by all participants, **please review the following requirements with your child.**

#### **Campers will:**

- Participate fully in the outlined activities in the camp/program description and for the duration of the camp session.
- Have the ability to participate in an environment with an age-specific staff to child ratio.
- Participate in varied environments and weather, both indoors/outdoors and in cold/hot temperatures.
- Stay with the group, while following a varied schedule that involves multiple transitions between activities and locations and occasionally managing free time.
- Exhibit appropriate group behavior that does not disrupt the flow of teaching and learning.
- Show respect to all participants, staff, facilities, and nature.
- Demonstrate social and emotional skills in managing stress and conflict.
- Refrain from abusive behaviors, physical or verbal, toward self and others (including staff). Examples include hitting, biting, scratching, spitting, kicking, excessive swearing, excessive or inappropriate yelling or verbal degradation, and inappropriate touching or fondling.
- Work effectively as part of team/group. This may require problem solving and a willingness to accept differences.
- Understand and follow directions of staff.
- Use equipment, supplies, and facilities as instructed.
- Communicate needs and concerns to staff.
- Refrain from putting themselves and others in danger.
- Stay alert and focused for hazards during activities such as tripping hazards, cliffs, loose ground/rocks, and fast moving water.
- Always wear closed-toe shoes.

## **Personal Needs**

- Assume responsibility for personal care/hygiene, such as eating in amounts adequate for nutritional support, staying hydrated, dressing oneself, and using the restroom, and doing so over the course of 7 to 9 hours per day, with minimal to no assistance.
- Is toilet proficient, which means able to use the toilet for all bodily functions, as well as appropriately and thoroughly themselves after. Pull-ups are not allowed.
- Perform daily outdoors skills necessary to stay generally healthy and safe, including protecting oneself from the elements (sun, rain, etc.) and avoiding environmental injuries such as hypothermia, sunburn, and allergic reactions to poison ivy and insects to the degree possible.
- Carry weight of personal belongings as applicable (lunch, change of clothes, towel, water bottle) in a daypack and keep track of all items throughout the camp session.
- Does not have personal care requirements that would necessitate additional staff, training, or accreditations.
- Does not have a medical condition or impairment carrying a substantial risk or likelihood of complication or injury.
- Does not pose direct threats to themselves or others that cannot, with or without reasonable accommodations, be eliminated or reduced below the level of direct threat. Direct threat means a substantial risk of harm including highly contagious conditions such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, open or draining wound or rash, topical parasite, or other conditions spread through casual human contact.

## **Motor Needs**

- Is able to perform gross motor functions and fine motor functions with reasonable guidance.
- Is able to ambulate independently or with a mechanical device over various distances (up to 5 miles in a day) and terrain including, but not limited to, gravel trails, rocky ground, and creek crossings.

## **Personal Aide Requirements**

- Must be at least 18 years of age with at least one year of aide experience, or be a family member who is at least 18 years of age. Must be provided by the participant.

**NOTE:** Registration and attendance for Ijams Nature Center Day Camps are a privilege (NOT a right) and are based on participants being able to reasonably meet the requirements listed above. In the event that Ijams staff determine that a child is unable to meet these requirements independently and/or requires excessive attention from camp staff, we will request a meeting with parents to discuss necessary changes and/or potential accommodations. If staff continue to find that a child requires too much attention from our staff and/or a child's needs or behavior detract too greatly from the experiences of other campers, Ijams reserves the right to dismiss or request the withdrawal of the camper. When such becomes necessary, there is no refund on registration fees or tuition.