

Summer Camp Opportunities Abound for Kids of All Abilities!

Authentic Voices Camp, University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, helps campers who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices learn to communicate more easily. The camp provides opportunities for children to increase their self-confidence and to have fun with other AAC users, ages 12 to 21. For more information, go to

<http://www.uww.edu/conteduc/camps/othercamps/ava.php>

Camp Oz at Camp Idhuhapi in Loretto, Minn., is for children, 8 to 18, who have epilepsy. Contact the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota at 651-287-2308 or 800-779-0777 (toll-free) or at <http://www.efmn.org>.

Courage Center offers residential camping for children and adults who have physical disabilities. It also offers camps for children and teens who have learning disabilities or speech, language and hearing impairments and for adults who have Asperger syndrome. Contact Courage Center at 763-520-0504 or camping@couragecenter.org. For schedules and online applications, go to <http://www.couragecenter.org/camps>.

YAAAKK (Young Adult Augmentative and Alternative Kommunikation Kamp) for ages 18 and up in Maple Lake, Minn is for adults who are successful users of AAC devices. The session is designed to assist AAC users who want to initiate conversations, learn the art of small talk, and increase the speed of their communication exchanges. Contact: Phone: 763-520-0504 or camping@courage.org.

EX.I.T.E. camp: Middle-school girls who have disabilities are invited to apply for the IBM Exploring Interests in Technology and Engineering (EX.I.T.E.) camp at PACER Center. The August day camp helps girls investigate the world using technology and hands-on activities. Visit

<http://www.PACER.org/stc/exite/camp.asp> for more information and applications, or call the Simon Technology Center at 952-838-9000.

Friendship Ventures offers resident and day camps for children, teens and adults who have developmental, physical or multiple disabilities. Contact Friendship Ventures at 952-852-0101 or 800-450-8376 (toll-free), or visit its Web site at www.friendshipventures.org for schedules and applications.

Kids on 2 Wheels uses adapted equipment and techniques to teach children who have disabilities how to ride increasingly challenging bikes. Children must be 8 or older and be motivated and physically able to ride. Go to <http://www.kidson2wheels.org>.

Muscular Dystrophy Association Summer Camp offers activities for children and youth, 6 to 17, who have neuromuscular conditions. Contact the camp at 952-841-0533 or <http://www.mda.org/clinics/camp> or minneapolis@mdausa.org.

Opportunity Partners Career Camp provides opportunities for students, 16 to 21, who have developmental disabilities, brain injuries or autism, to explore the world of work and develop skills for success. For more information, call 952-930-7688. For schedules, go to www.opportunitypartners.org and click on Programs & Services/Youth in Transition/Career Camp.

Wilderness Inquiry leads integrated wilderness trips for people of all ages and abilities. This summer, Wilderness Inquiry offers family adventures in the Apostle Islands, Yellowstone National Park, and other places. For more information and a complete list of trips, go to <http://www.wildernessinquiry.org>, or call 612-676-9400 and ask for a trip schedule. Financial assistance, based on need, is available.