



Policy Regarding Students With Special Needs

Student campers at Kid's Camp must be able to function appropriately with a camper to chaperone ratio of 7:1. Students must be able to obey directions, follow accordingly, and obey rules for their own safety. In addition, students must be able to handle themselves appropriately during activities such as free time, when general supervision is provided for the entire campground. (Students are not always specifically with their own chaperone. At times throughout the day, they are provided with general supervision – such as adults throughout the campground during free time, or some adults directing a service while the others are in a meeting, etc.)

We would love to see every student attend our camp; however, we have limitations due to our volunteer staff and financial considerations that confine us to our basic ratios of 7:1. Should a student require further assistance due to physical, mental or social disabilities, the guardian may choose an alternative arrangement for their child, in coordination with the camp director. Other reasonable accommodations requested will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Alternative Options

(1) **Guardian/church arrange for a specific chaperone**

In this case, the student's guardian and church arrange for a chaperone that the child knows to be a part of our camp staff. This chaperone would follow our normal application procedure, serve on the camp staff and would be responsible for more than this student. However, at the church's request, it is likely that we could lower the student to chaperone ratio to 4:1 for that specific cabin.

(2) **Guardian arranges for a "private chaperone" of same gender as child**

In this case, the student requires a higher level of care and needs a 1:1 camper to chaperone ratios. The guardian must arrange for a private chaperone and cover the food/lodging expenses for the leader (in addition to the child's registration). The student and private chaperone would be placed in a room with other students (for the "camp experience") but that chaperone would only be responsible for the specific child.

For security purposes, the private chaperone must still complete a volunteer application with background check form. However, the private chaperone will have no other responsibilities during the week except to watch and be with that specific student at all times.

(3) Guardian arranges for a “private chaperone” of the same or opposite gender as child who is a family member

This option is available when either: the needs are great; or it would not be appropriate for the child to stay in a room with other kids; or the guardians cannot arrange for a same gender chaperone. This option provides for a family member (who may not be the same gender) to provide personal care for a child with special needs while still allowing the child to participate at camp.

In this case, the private chaperone must be a family member (since they will be staying alone with a student. The guardian must arrange for a private chaperone and cover the food/lodging expenses for the adult (in addition to the child's registration). For security purposes, the private chaperone must still complete a volunteer application with background check form. However, the private chaperone will have no other responsibilities during the week except to watch and be with that specific student at all times.