

## Eligibility Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions

The purpose of Camp Burnt Gin is to provide a summer camping experience for children who have a physical disability and/or chronic illness. The goals of Camp Burnt Gin are to offer an experience which will be fun and safe; provide the kind of experience and stimulation which will encourage continued social, physical and emotional growth; help campers realize and reach their maximum leisure abilities; and emphasize the importance of each person to help increase self-esteem.

### 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 attends school.
- 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?
- Can the child's summer therapy be discontinued during the week of camp?
- Does the child have other recreational opportunities?

### 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.
- **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](mailto:aimonemi@dhec.sc.gov).*

*You can also visit [www.scdhec.gov/campburntgin](http://www.scdhec.gov/campburntgin) for more information.*

### **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 March 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications received after the March 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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, one counselor is 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 whether they have special needs or not, 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 Box 101106, Columbia, SC 29211. Donations will be deposited into the Camp Burnt Gin account and used to support camp programs and activities.

### **Is transportation to and from camp provided?**

Transportation to and from camp is the responsibility of the child's family.

