

**Help finding summer camps and activities.
Offerings to explore.
Activities and classes.
Vacations and trips.
Possible financial assistance.**

The following was compiled by the Allegheny County Office of Developmental Supports (ODS) (www.alleghenycounty.us/Services/Human-Services-DHS/DHS-Offices/Office-of-Developmental-Supports). The list is not exhaustive or in any particular order, and inclusion doesn't imply endorsement. Not all are specifically for those with special needs or a disability. Each has its own eligibility and costs. Some are family opportunities. There is an Allegheny County focus.

Other ideas can be found on the ODS document at www.alleghenycounty.us/files/assets/county/v/1/services/dhs/documents/dhs-offices/ods/opportunities-for-social-recreation-and-lifelong-learning.pdf. These include free and low cost community activities and volunteer ideas.

Don't forget to explore your libraries and community centers.

Reach Mary.Evrard@AlleghenyCounty.us with questions or suggested changes and additions.

3-25-2024

Help finding summer camps and activities.

Call 2-1-1 or search camps and summer camps at <https://uwsdpa.org/>

Kidsburgh's 2024 Summer Camp Guide for the Pittsburgh region at www.kidsburgh.org/kidsburghs-2024-summer-camp-guide-more-than-60-camps-in-the-pittsburgh-region/

Kids Out and About Guide to Summer Camps in the Pittsburgh, PA area at <https://pittsburgh.kidsoutandabout.com/content/guide-summer-camps-pittsburgh-pa-area>

Pittsburgh Summer Camps at <https://pittsburghsummercamps.com/>

A Second Chance, Inc. : Free and Affordable Summer Camps in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, March 16, 2023 at www.asecondchance-kinship.com/free-and-affordable-summer-camps-in-pittsburgh-and-philadelphia/

Pittsburgh Parent at www.pittsburghparent.com/resource-directories/camps/

Allegheny County Out-of-School Time
www.alleghenycounty.us/Services/Children-and-Families/Children-Initiatives/Out-of-School-Time

Offerings to explore.

Text from websites unless italicized.

Many of these organizations also have year-round offerings.

Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD) Summer Camp

www.wpsd.org/parent-outreach-services/community/summer-camp-2023/

...one week co-ed camp and open to deaf and hard of hearing youth ages 10 to 18. Activities include baseball, robotics, pickleball, video productions, hiking, art, swimming, standup paddle boarding and more.

Camp HERO www.gocamphero.org/

...is a [camp for children ages 8 through 17](#) who are deaf and hard of hearing. The camp runs from Monday, July 29th to Friday, August 2nd, 2024. All forms of communication are supported at Camp HERO. The camp promotes social growth, creativity, self-expression and self-confidence. The campers enjoy activities such as swimming, paddle boating, fishing, rock wall climbing, bonfires, scavenger hunts, crafts, activities associated with the yearly theme, and building friendships that will last a lifetime. Camp HERO is located at the [Camp Victory facility](#) in Millville, PA. [Camper Application deadline](#) is May 1, 2024.

The NAD Youth Leadership Camp (YLC) <https://youth.nad.org/ylc/>

...an intensive educational four-week summer program for deaf and hard of hearing high school sophomores and juniors. Campers are referred to as Leaders throughout the program. The camp provides leaders the ability to develop their scholarship, leadership, and citizenship (SLC) qualities outdoors. Leaders experience self-discovery, learn about self-identity, confidence, and self-esteem and understand many things about themselves.

Always B Smiling www.alwaysbsmiling.org/

...engage our participants in healthy activities...smiles while facing health challenges...B Independent addresses the need to develop independent life skills...B Together are fun, interactive events supporting social well-being.

IDEAS Summer <https://ideassummercamp.com/>

...designed to provide WOW experiences and PEAK moments for campers and parents alike.

Carnegie Science Center <https://carnegiesciencecenter.org/programs/summer-camps/>

Programs are offered for ages 4–14...The Science Center offers Summer Camps for kids in Pittsburgh that are exciting, fun, active, and enriching.

Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History <https://camps.artandnaturalhistory.org/>

*camp*s vary some include...outdoor activities, games, and gallery visits.

Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and MuseumLab

<https://pittsburghkids.org/summer-camps/>

... where kids can explore art, making, storytelling, nature, game design, metalworking and more on the largest children's campus in the country.

<p>Center for Theater Arts https://centerfortheaterarts.org/summer-camp/ <i>several sessions by age groups...</i> Summer 2023 was fantastic, packed with thrilling performances by our students in every age division.</p>
<p>Emma Kaufmann Camp https://emmakaufmanncamp.com/philosophy/ <i>...the overnight camp of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh. ...Located 70 miles south of Pittsburgh in the beautiful hills and forests along Cheat Lake in Morgantown, West Virginia...</i></p>
<p>Citiparks Pittsburgh https://pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/beta/index.html Citywide events, neighborhood festivals and year-round recreational activities truly enhance the quality of life for the people of Pittsburgh...</p>
<p>Fern Hollow Nature Center https://fhnc.org/summer-camp-2024/ <i>...a variety of nature-themed Summer Camps for children ages 3 to 14.</i></p>
<p>Learn & Earn www.partner4work.org/learn-earn <i>...young people ages 14 to 21 who meet certain income and residency requirements...matched to job opportunities based on interest, experience, and skills....at sites across the county in corporations, nonprofits, and community-based organizations.</i></p>
<p>YMCA opportunities around the county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Y Day Camp, kids will learn new skills by being exposed to new situations and engaging curriculum. www.pittsburghymca.org/summerdaycamp • Our specialty needs camps are traditional overnight, and summer day camp programs for kids with Autism, 22Q, Asthma, Sickle Cell Disease, and Hemophilia. www.ycamps.org/summer/ • ...children and young adults who have physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and communication challenges with opportunities to Achieve, support to become Independent, and encouragement to become Motivated (AIM). www.ycamps.org/camp-aim/
<p>Special Olympics Pennsylvania's Three Rivers Region https://specialolympicspa.org/region-9-home <i>...serves athletes (ages 2+), volunteers, and partners in Allegheny... The mission of Special Olympics PA is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities...All training and competition opportunities are provided free of charge to the athletes and their families.</i></p>
<p>Coed Kid Camps www.theellisschool.org/life-at-ellis/summer-camp/coed-kid-camps <i>... Coed Kid Camps for girls and boys ages 3 to 9... Half-day and full-day camp sessions...several programs available</i></p>
<p>Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy's Frick Park Environmental Center</p>

<https://pittsburghparks.org/learn/summer-camp/>

...unique, age-specific programs held in beautiful Frick Park. Led by Parks Conservancy educators, these camps encourage children and teens to learn, play, and grow...

Allegheny County Parks www.alleghenycounty.us/Parks-and-Events

...including North Park, Boyce Park, South Park, Deer Lakes Park, Harrison Hills Park, Settlers Cabin Park, Round Hill Park, White Oak Park, and Hartwood Acres Park. Each park offers endless recreational activities and events year-round.

JCC Pittsburgh <https://jccpghdaycamps.com/>

JCC Camps support children and teens on a journey of self-discovery as they develop new skills and confidence...kindergarten through eighth grade.

Gemini Children's Theater <https://geminitheater.org/summer-workshops/>

...Summer Acting Workshops...5-day workshops provide hands-on experience in a real theater. Under the guidance of theater professionals, each group creates, writes, produces, and performs their show on the last day.

At **Girls on the Run** Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC www.gotrmagee.org/programs

...teaching essential life skills is the cornerstone of our research-based programs. Trained volunteer coaches facilitate lessons that blend physical activity with life skill development, including managing emotions, fostering friendships, and expressing empathy.

Glade Run Lutheran Services <https://gladerun.org/>

Includes

- Independent Rider Camps...
- Glade Run's Independent Living Experience offers an innovative opportunity for young adults ages 18-35 with autism and/or intellectual disabilities to experience living away from home for six days...
- Specialized Adventures Summer Camp...designed for youth ages 8-18 in need of social skills development and features a variety of hands on activities with plants, animals, and the natural environment.

Horse 'N Soul www.horsensoul.com/camp

...Horse Sense Camp...month of July...ages 8-16

Horses with Hope Summer Camp www.horseswithhope.org/summercamp

...ages 5-11, campers will participate in a riding lesson, horse care and grooming, small animal care, scavenger hunt, games, and more

Hosanna House <https://hosannahouse.org/children-families/summer-camp/>

...8-weeks, ages 3 – 13...camp hours are M-F, 8am-5:00pm...centered around physical health and social wellness. We teach children how to impact their families by keeping active and staying fit.

Jumonville Camp & Retreat Center www.jumonville.org/

www.jumonville.org/event/cat-autism/

Includes C.A.T. Autism is a short-term “respite community” within the Creative Arts (C.A.T.) Camp family that caters to families with children who live with autism or individuals who live with mid to high functioning autism.

Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) Summer B.O.O.S.T. program

www.pghschools.org/BOOST

...a no-cost, summer learning program for current students currently enrolled...grades K-7.

Evolve coaching Future Camp 2024

<https://mailchi.mp/bc7cbcb8eea5/february-2024?e=d47fbd2cc0>

...hosts neurodivergent and neurotypical learners ages 12+ (this includes adults!)

Camp Speak AAC www.campspeak.org/

...a non-profit organization which offers a unique overnight camp for children ages 5-20 who use augmentative communication devices.

Open Up www.open-up.org/

...mission is to teach mindfulness tools through movement and art practices that center people living with disabilities. Our programs are open to all who identify as having a disability and those who do not...Through inclusive, engaging, enjoyable activities - such as yoga, movement, breath work, dance, games, and more - participants learn and explore new tools to help navigate social settings.

Spring Break Camp www.open-up.org/spring-break

...free 1-week spring enrichment program that is focused on movement, mindfulness, and art and centers students living with disabilities...

FireFly Camps and Retreats Summer Camps and Weekend Retreats Spina Bifida

Association of Western PA <https://sbawp.org/firefly-camps-retreats/>

...for Youth and Teens (6-21) and Adults (21+)... The mission of the FireFly Camps and Weekend Retreats Program is to provide opportunities throughout the year for personal development, skills building, and family respite.

Epilepsy Foundation www.epilepsy.com/lifestyle/summer-camp

...camps are located throughout the country. Most programs are one week and offer scholarships based on financial need.

PALS www.palsprograms.org/

... PALS mission is to create inclusive camp experiences for people with and without Down syndrome.... Our model is based on one-to-one pairings between similarly-aged individuals with and without Down syndrome.

The Woodlands <https://mywoodlands.org/>

Year around...children and adults with disability and chronic illness find the freedom and empowerment to experience programs that enrich lives....committed to facilitating social, cultural, environmental, recreational and spiritual growth through hands-on experiences...

East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) www.eecm.org/childrenandyouth
Year around. Children and Youth services include Summer Camp, In-School/After-School Outreach and Recreational Programs. Also offers Community Food Services and Housing & Employment Services.

The Kingsley Association www.kingsleyassociation.org/
...offer a variety of services, including after-school programs, adult education classes, recreation activities, and much more. We also host a wide range of events, such as book clubs, workshops, and community gatherings. Includes The Teen L.E.A.D. program emphasizes (Leadership. Education. Assistance. Development.) for youth, ages 13-19 and a Family Center.

CCAC (Community College of Allegheny County) Kids Summer Camp of Discovery www.ccac.edu/workforce-and-community/community-education/youth-programs.php
Community Education youth classes gives youth an opportunity to continue to learn and grow outside of school.

Lutherlyn www.lutherlyn.com/summercamp/
...offers a variety of week-long, half-week, and day programs for children entering 1st grade through those who have finished their senior year of high school.

Manchester Craftsmen's Guild (MCG) Youth Programs www.mcgyouth.org/programs
MCG Youth's programming and courses are designed to open the creative potential of our participants...

National Aviary of Pittsburgh www.aviary.org/programs-encounters/camps/
Whether you have a toddler or a teen, the National Aviary has exciting programming to encourage, to teach, and to inspire!

North Hills Art Center Camps <https://northhillsartcenter.org/summer-camps>
...artists ages 6-11 who have completed Kindergarten...half-day and full-day camps.

Orchard Hill Church Kidsfest www.orchardhillchurch.com/kidsfest
... week-long fun-fest packed with sports, water fun, live music, and more...first through sixth grade, your camper will be a part of a small team with other kids of the same age and gender.

Pine Richland Youth Center (PRYC) www.pryc.org/summer-camp
...a wide range of programs for sports, exercise, social events, education, and more....both seasonal and year-round options for a wide range of ages and interests.

Pittsburgh Center for Arts and Media <https://pghartsmedia.org/camps/>
...outstanding art-focused camps for school-aged children (6-17).

Pittsburgh CLO Academy www.pittsburghclo.org/education/summer-semester

...summer semester is designed with the active student in mind...1-week & 2-week sessions

Pittsburgh Musical Theater (PMT) <https://pittsburghmusicals.com/education/smt/>
PMT Conservatory Summer Musical Theater Camp is a positive and energizing learning environment where everyone is rooting for you.

Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium www.pittsburghzoo.org/zoocamp/
Spend a week this summer exploring some of the most amazing creatures on the planet through fun-filled, educational Zoo Camp programs!

Sarah Heinz House www.sarahheinzhouse.org/programs/summer-programs/registration-summer-camps/
Our programs focus on providing a safe and fun environment for our kids to explore and grow. Below you will find a vast array of programs for the entire family to participate in.

School of Rock www.schoolofrock.com/music-camps
Throughout the year, School of Rock offers music camps and workshops perfect for musicians of all skill levels who play guitar, bass, drums, keyboard, and vocals.

Snapology of Pittsburgh www.snapology.com/camps/
STEAM summer camps and workshops...

Winchester Thurston School Camp www.winchesterthurston.org/lifeatwt/summercamp
Campers age 3 (Jr. Pre-K) – grade 12 can choose from an array of options in adventure and play, sports and physical fitness, creative and visual arts, and academics.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania (BGCWPA)
<https://bgcwpa.org/summer-camp>
STEM, sports, arts, meals, mentors and more, from morning to evening, kids are listened to and surrounded by community.

Allegheny County Camp Cadet www.alleghenycountycampcadet.org/
...designed to give...a better understanding of law enforcement activities... The camp program is staffed by local PA State Police, Allegheny County Police, Allegheny County Sheriff's and local Municipal Police Officers who serve as counselors and instructors.
...between the ages of 12 thru 14 and who are in good physical condition.

ENVISION Blind Sports www.envisionblindsports.org/about
To provide sport and physical activity opportunities for individuals who are blind or visually impaired to promote lifelong wellness. Includes Summer Sports Camp.

Tourette Syndrome Family Camp
The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance is a non-profit organization that promotes awareness and acceptance, provides education, and assists families, schools and communities while advocating for individuals with TS. <https://patsainc.org/events/ts-family-camp/>

After School & QT Camp

An annual summer day camp, QT camp offers a week of innovative programming and recreational activities for youth 12-18.

Activities and classes

– year around – some especially for people with disabilities.

Band Together Pittsburgh uses music as an instrument for change. We provide innovative programming, experiences, and vocational opportunities to enhance the lives of those on the autism spectrum. <https://bandtogetherpgh.org/>

Open Up's mission is to teach mindfulness tools through movement and art practices that center people living with disabilities. Our programs are open to all who identify as having a disability and those who do not. www.open-up.org/

For over 25 years, the **CLO New Horizons** program has been teaching performing arts to people with disabilities...Musical Theater Classes: Adults and Children with Disabilities, Creative Expression Classes: Children on the Autism Spectrum
www.pittsburghclo.org/education/new-horizons

Creative Citizen Studios (CCS) uses art to bring people of all abilities together.
www.citizenstudios.org/

Not Forgotten Home & Community Services (NFHCS) includes **Studio Forget-Me-Not!** and Art and lifestyle classes. www.nfhcs.org/

Three Rivers Community Care...includes a community center in Carnegie, PA...a blend of free and low cost groups that are inclusive to all. Activities include games, crafts/art, BINGO, chair yoga, science experiments, and bi-monthly socials.
www.3riverscommunitycare.com/social-and-support-groups

PA Connecting Communities (PACC)...our mission...to empower individuals with disabilities and provide opportunities to improve their quality of life. 2024 events schedule at <https://paconnectingcommunities.org/events-2022/>

Evolve Coaching...Providing support to individuals with disabilities and our community through education, employment, and the arts. www.evolve-coaching.org/

CCAC (Community College of Allegheny County) Spring 2024 Special Needs Class Schedule/Calendar www.ccac.edu/_resources/documents/special-needs-calendar-feb-may-2024.pdf *Check back for updated schedules*

Friendship Circle of Pittsburgh...programs engage youth and adults with diverse abilities in a full range of social activities...a community-based program that brings together people of diverse abilities and interests. www.fcpg.org/about-us/the-friendship-circle-mission/

Miracle League of the South Hills...“Every Child Deserves A Chance to Play Baseball.”... a custom-designed field with a cushioned rubberized surface to help prevent injuries, wheelchair accessible dugouts and a completely flat surface...also...“Buddies” program.
www.miracleleaguesouthhills.org/about-us.html

After School & QT Camp

...after school programming YIPPIE connects youth with enriching learning experiences in identity-affirming environments. <https://hughlane.org/youth-and-family-services/#qt-camp>

Vacations and trips

Following text from websites – unless italicized

Autism on the Seas <https://autismontheseas.com/>

...collaboration with Royal Caribbean International...developing cruise vacation services to accommodate adults and families living with children with Special Needs, including, but not limited to, Autism, Asperger Syndrome, Down Syndrome, Tourette Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and all Cognitive, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. *Financial assistance available. Also refer to financial assistance resources in this document.*

Exceptional Vacations www.exceptionaltrips.com/

...Provides High Quality Vacations for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities... with an emphasis on inclusion.

Possible financial assistance

Ask the agency / organization about financial assistance and scholarships.

Home and Community Based Services **Waiver funding** - work with your Supports Coordinator or other person who is in the role of a ‘case manager.’

Allegheny County Music Festival Fund (ACMFF) at

www.alleghenycounty.us/Services/Human-Services-DHS/News-and-Events/Events/Allegheny-County-Music-Festival/Allegheny-County-Music-Festival-Fund

Achieva grants at <http://achievafamilytrust.org/charitable-residual-account/> and www.achieva.info/cecilanddavid

Jaimes Dream Team at www.jamiesdreamteam.org/

ASERT Funding and Grants for Children with Disabilities at <https://paautism.org/resource/funding-grants-money/>