

Smart Fun, Strong Kids

South Carolina Summer Camp Programs Information and Suggestions

South Carolina Foster Parent Association 2016

The South Carolina Foster Parent Association is most grateful to Stacey Atkinson for initiating and overseeing the preparation of this publication and helping with printing design and cost. We also applaud Stacey's ongoing assistance in getting our word out to the community and providing positive opportunities for our children and teens.

We thank Bethany Martin (Columbia College 2016) for her painstaking work in finding camps that were new to us, looking into camp scholarship possibilities, compiling information for this publication, and helping with its design and completion.

Kudos and thanks to the Auntie Karen Foundation for the cover design and to the Youth Learning Institute, Clemson University, for the outside photo.

And finally, thanks from Jean W. Ross, who manages Smart Fun, Strong Kids and Kids Make Music, to SCFPA directors and staff for supporting these programs from the beginning and to all those contributors, program directors, caseworkers, and foster parents who have made them a success.

WHY SUMMER PROGRAMS MATTER

Summer programs are offered in almost dazzling variety at a time when children have more leisure than usual and you want their energy directed in channels that will enhance their knowledge, sharpen their social skills, and shape their values. These activities are an investment in a child's future in so many ways. Together we can make them possible.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Most of the camps described here are overnight, though some also offer day and weekend programs. An (S) designation by a camp's name means that it may offer scholarships. An (R) means that it is a camp with support from a religious body and possibly religious programming. Camp information is taken from the Web and is as accurate as we can make it, based on that source. A camp's listing here doesn't constitute our endorsement; we're just passing along the best information we have. Costs vary and depend on length of sessions. Prices and schedules, like other details, can change year to year, so the information here is only a beginning guide. You'll need to do research at least by Web and/or phone to find the best camp for your child. Then let us know how we can help.

COASTAL AND LOW COUNTRY

4-H Summer Camp (S). Summerton. A Clemson Youth Learning Institute camp offering team sports, water sports, paintball, archery, nature hikes, a ropes course and climbing tower, and arts and crafts. It also has a mini session for younger, first-time campers. Coed: minicamp 6-9, regular camp 8-14. 803-460-7145; <http://4hsummer.camp/sessions/>

Adventure Camp. Charleston. Focuses on opportunities for team- and skills-building and environmental awareness. In addition to enjoying the traditional activities, campers can personalize their camp experience through "accessory" programs tailored to their individual interests. Coed 10-12. 843-795-4386; <http://www.ccprc.com/1572/Adventure-Camp>

Camp Low Country (S). Cordesville. Girl Scout camp offering partial-week and full-week sessions featuring traditional activities on a historic site near Charleston. Financial aid is available only to currently registered members of Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina and is awarded on the basis of need and the availability of funds. Girls 7-17. 843-336-3251; www.girlscoutseasc.org

Camp St. Christopher (S) (R). Seabrook Island. Episcopal Diocese camp offering a variety of traditional activities with worship in the mix. Sessions designated by age group. Coed rising 3rd to 12th grades. 843-768-0429; www.stchristopher.org/index.php?SummerCamp

Camp Sewee. Awendaw. A Clemson Learning Institute Camp set in a coastal wildlife sanctuary, allowing kids to explore local ecosystems and wildlife, practice fishing, and discover the wonders of marine science along with other activities. Coed 8-16. 908-472-4740; <http://seweesummer.camp/>

Camp Wildlife. Basic and intermediate, Summerton; advanced, Georgetown. A Clemson Youth Learning Institute camp for kids who want to shoot, hunt, fish, explore local ecosystems and wildlife, and learn survival skills. Coed 8-16. 312-919-1295; <http://wildlifefsummer.camp/>

Ripley's Aquarium. Myrtle Beach. Several 2-day opportunities for kids to explore life in the ocean, on the beach, and in the aquarium, along with other activities. Coed 5-12. 843-916-0888 extension 3226; <https://www.ripleyaquariums.com/myrtlebeach/education/summer-camp/>

Royal Family Kids Camp (S) (R). Summerville. Based on a specific model designed for kids in foster care, this free camp offers all the traditional activities and, true to its name, treats campers like very special people. Coed 7-11. 843-871-2755; <http://summerville.royalfamilykids.org/>

PEE DEE

Francis Marion University Summer Camps. Florence. A variety of programs including baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis, and volleyball. Coed 5-12 depending on program. 800-368-7551 or 843-661-1231; www.fmupatriots.com/news/Summer_Camps_GENERIC

Wildlife Action Adventure Camp. Mullins. Featuring outdoor experiences at Fork Retch Wildlife Action Refuge to raise awareness of natural resources along with traditional camping adventures. Coed 6-16. 843-464-8473 or 800-753-2264; <http://www.wildlifeaction.com/AdventureCamp/AdventureCamp.htm>

MIDLANDS

Bethel Christian Camp (R). Gaston. Traditional camp activities in sessions determined by campers' ages and including Christian teaching and worship. Coed 7-17. 803-926-5511; www.bethelchristiancamp.org

Camp Barstow. Batesburg. Waterfront Boy Scout camp that offers canoeing, kayaking, sailing, swimming, fishing, waterskiing, 5-stand shotgun shooting, rifle range, archery, climbing, rappelling, and more. Boys and young men 6-10; girls and young women 14-20. 803-873-4375; <http://www.indianwaters.org/iwcn/CampBarstow.aspx>

Camp Gravatt (R). Aiken. A camp that "exists to create a Christian environment for spiritual learning and growth." Coed grades 1-12. 803-648-1817; <http://www.campgravatt.org/camp/>

Camp La Vida (S). Winnsboro. A missions camp open to all students 2nd-12th grade with specific camps for ages and genders. 803-227-6205; <http://www.scwmu.org/camp-la-vida/>

Carolina Master Scholars Adventure Series (S). University of South Carolina's academic enrichment offerings for talented and gifted students. Opportunities in forensic science, social work, law and criminology, robotics, exercise science, writing, Web design and development, and medicine. Day option in addition to residential. Coed rising 6th-12th grades. 803-777-9444; <http://saeu.sc.edu/adventures/index.html>

Summer Institute at Columbia College (S). Columbia College's weeklong residential program focusing on leadership qualities and development for rising 9th-12th grade girls. 800-277-1301; <http://columbiasc.edu/academics/the-institute-for-leadership-and-professional-excellence/center-for-leadership/summer-institute/9-about/administration/1557-summer-institute>

See <http://www.sciway.net/summer-camps/columbia-sc-summer-camps.html> for camps and similar opportunities in Columbia and Richland County.

FOOTHILLS AND GREATER CHARLOTTE AREA

Asbury Hills Camps (R). Cleveland. Methodist camp offering traditional outdoor activities along with band, worship, and teaching. Coed grades 2-12. 877-255-7559 or 864-458-2071; <http://asburyhills.org/all-about-summer-camp/>

Bethelwoods (R). York. Residential and day programs that offer Bible study, games, canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, swimming, and much more. Coed 3rd grade (rising) through 18. 803-366-3722; <http://www.bethelwoods.org/summer-programs.html>

Bob Jones University Summer Camps (S) (R). Greenville. A wide range of camp programs focusing on fine arts, music, drama, sports, and academic and technical subjects (even cosmetology, automotive, and aviation). Coed grades 4-12, depending on program. 864-242-5100; www.bju.edu/events/youth/summer-camps

Camp Canaan (S). Rock Hill. On its 100-acre site, an island in the Catawba River, this facility offers a variety of programs including day, residential, and family camps. Coed 5-16. 803-327-6932; info@campcanaan.org; <http://campcanaan.org/discover-camps/summer-camps/overnight-camp-2011>

Camp Chatuga. Mountain Rest. Offers more than 30 activities from which campers can choose, including some unusual ones such as animal care, creative writing, and mountain biking. Coed 6-16. 864-638-3728; www.campchatuga.com

Camp Cherith in the Carolinas (R). Pendleton. A Christian-oriented camp offering horseback riding, water-skiing, target sports, and other activities. Coed, grades 3-12 (rising). 423-991-3419; www.carolinacherith.com

Camp Fellowship (S) (R). Waterloo. A Christian-oriented summer camp that offers a total of twelve different day and residential programs tailored to interests that include arts, horseback riding, sailing, rock climbing, hiking, and other activities. It also offers a special week for youths with special needs who might not fit comfortably into the other programs. Coed K-12. 864-998-3400; <http://www.campfellowship.org/summercamp/>

Camp Hannon Adventures. Sunset. A Clemson Youth Learning Institute camp "for the bravest explorers and outdoor enthusiasts," offering 6-day excursions in the Blue Ridge Mountains of both South and North Carolina in which campers learn wilderness safety, teamwork, and more. Coed 10-15. 864-878-1041; <http://adventuresummer.camp/>

Camp McCall (R). Sunset. South Carolina Baptist Convention mission camp offering more than twenty activities in several different camping programs. Boys 7-14+. 864-878-6025; www.scbaptist.org/campmccall

Camp Thunderbird. Lake Wylie. Nationally recognized water programs including wakeboarding and water skiing, as well as more than 28 land activities. Coed 7-18. 800-732-3855 or 704-716-4100; www.campthunderbird.org

Camp Voyager. Pickens. A Clemson Youth Learning Institute camp for techies, gamers, and creative explorers who also want to enjoy paintball, water sliding, wall climbing, and ziplining, among other activities. Coed 8-14. 540-207-5249; www.voyagersummer.camp

Camp WaBak. Marietta. Girl Scout camp offering traditional camping activities along with arts programs and team sports. Vegetarian. Girls 7-17. 864-836-3932; <http://www.campchannel.com/summer-camps/Camp-WaBak-3576.html>

Camp Wildwood. Blacksburg. Weeklong environmental coed camp for 10th-12th graders. Focuses on nature and environmental studies. 803-720-9299; <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/campww/about.html>

Clemson Sports, Scholastic, and Traditional Camps. Clemson and other locations. Soccer, baseball, golf, tennis, “high-tech adventure,” academic and special-interest subjects as well as traditional overnight camps. Coed grades 2-12 depending on program. 864-878-1103; www.clemson.edu/summer/camps/; information on traditional summer camps (also listed separately in this guide by regions) at www.clemson.edu/yli

Converse College Summer Programs. Spartanburg. Several residential programs including Crime Scene Investigation, Young Writers Workshop, Theatre Summer Workshop, and Visual Arts Summer Workshop. Early registration necessary. Coed grades 10-12 depending on program. Various phone contacts, depending on program (see Website for specifics); www.converse.edu/summerworkshops

Furman University Summer Youth Camps. Greenville. These include Summer Scholars programs (rising high school juniors and seniors) in academics and arts, with field trips and laboratory experiences; tennis, soccer, and other programs. Coed 5-18, depending on program. For all, 864-294-6000; www.furman.edu/campsandconferences

Mike Ayers Team Camp at Wofford College. Spartanburg. Designed for teams and individuals who are looking for a way to become better football players; fundamentals of the game are taught through individual instruction. Grades 6th-12th. 864-597-4103; http://athletics.wofford.edu/sports/2008/2/26/FB_0226085840.aspx?id=80

Rod Ray Tennis Camp at Wofford College. Spartanburg. Several programs under the leadership of tennis coach Rod Ray, whose aim is to teach both technique and tactics and help players develop “a better mental game” by understanding the role of emotions. Coed 7-18. 864-809-8827; www.rodraytenniscamp.com

YMCA Camp Greenville. Cedar Mountain. Offers a wide variety of traditional and adventure activities including rock climbing and emphasizes cabin life to teach self-reliance and decision-making away from home. Coed 7-17 with Mom and Me program for ages 5-6. 864-836-3291; www.campgreenville.org

CAMPS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Camp Adam Fisher (S). Summerton. Special opportunities in a Lake Marion setting for kids who face the “unique challenges” of diabetes. With 24-hour medical monitoring and care available. Siblings and friends also welcome. Coed 6-17. 803-434-2442; www.campadamfisher.com

Camp Burnt Gin. Wedgefield. A DHEC-hosted camp for children with physical disabilities and chronic illnesses. Coed 7-15.
<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/ChildTeenHealth/ServicesforChildrenwithSpecialHealthCareNeeds/CBG/Overview/>

Camp Fellowship (S) (R). Waterloo. A Christian-oriented summer camp that offers a total of twelve different day and residential programs, tailored to interests that include arts, horseback riding, sailing, rock climbing, hiking, and other activities. It welcomes youth with special needs but also offers a week for those who might not fit comfortably into the other programs. Coed K-12.
<http://www.campfellowship.org/summercamp/>

Camp Happy Days. Charleston. Weeklong residential camp for children with cancer and their siblings. Ages 4-16. To be eligible, a child must have been treated for cancer within the past five years; but once children are part of the organization, they can continue to attend to age 16. Siblings of children with cancer may also participate. All programs free. 843-571-4336;
www.camphappydays.org

Camp Sertoma. Clemson. Residential camp for children with speech and/or hearing impairment and other disadvantages. Coed 7-12. 866-737-8662 (toll-free) or 864-654-4945;
www.campsertomasc.com

Pleasant Ridge Camp and Retreat Center. Greenville County.
<http://pleasantrydgcampandretreatcenter.org/contact/about>. Owned by Greenville County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism, this facility hosts three camps for children with special needs:

- **Camp Courage.** A program of the Greenville Children’s Hospital offering a variety of programs that feature recreational experience for children and teens with cancer or blood disorders. Coed 5 and older. 864-455-8741; <http://www.ghschildrens.org/camp-courage.php>
- **MDA Camp.** A program of the Muscular Dystrophy Association offering a wide range of activities for children 6-17 affected by neuromuscular diseases. For more information, contact <http://pleasantrydgcampandretreatcenter.org/contact/about>
- **Camp Spearhead (S).** Creates “an environment of unconditional acceptance” for youth (8+) and adults with special needs and disabilities. Residential camps in summer and weekend programs throughout the school year. 864-288-6470;
<http://pleasantrydgcampandretreatcenter.org/contact/about>

- **Camp Sweet Escape. (S)** For children 6-17 with Type 1 diabetes; their close friends are also welcome. Provides glucometer/supplies and insulin/supplies; does not include any insulin pump supplies (cartridges and sites). One week, two locations: Upstate and Midlands. www.campsweetescape.com

FINDING OTHER OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING DAY PROGRAMS

There are many other opportunities for our children, including day programs and non-camping possibilities. To attempt to capture the information here would be too vast an undertaking. We suggest you check with the following sources and possibly others you know about in your county and community.

- The South Carolina Foster Parent Association's program Kids Make Music
<http://www.scfpa.com/pdf/KidsMakeMusic.pdf>
- Colleges, technical colleges, and university extensions
- South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics
<http://www.scgssm.org/outreach-camps>
- Churches, including Sunday School classes and circles
- Youth organizations such as YMCA and Scouts
- Parks and Recreation Department as well as specific city, county, and state parks
- Equestrian facilities
- Large-event facilities
- Dance, music, and art studios including any DARLA programs established in your area
- Kindermusik (search your locale for classes)
- Museums
- Carolina Wildlife Care and a zoo if your community has one
- Sports organizations, civic clubs, United Way
- Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts
- Boys and Girls Club
- South Carolina Information Highway, Camps <http://www.sciway.net/bus/summercamps.html>
- Your child's school and teacher(s)
- Professionals on your child's team, including DSS workers, doctors, therapists
- Other parents
- Newspaper listings
- Out-of-state sources if out-of state camps and other programs would be convenient

SOME FINAL SUGGESTIONS

Always talk with your DSS worker to be sure there are no restrictions on the camping and other possibilities you're considering for your child. Be aware that camp applications may ask or assume your permission to have your child included in photographs; protect your child from being included

in photos or other situations that would violate DSS policy on confidentiality and subject your child to embarrassment, now or in the future.

If you have identified a program for your child, don't be ashamed to ask the program staff about scholarships or other forms of help. At least a limited number of these are usually available, and you won't know unless you inquire. Though we have marked with an (S) those that we know offer scholarships under certain conditions, it never hurts to ask, wherever you'd like your child to go. Many programs offer discounts for multiple campers and return campers. Advocate for your child in any appropriate way you can to get a price break.

For additional help and to see if there is possible supplemental funding for programs, required equipment, and unusual travel expenses, please contact Jean W. Ross at 803-727-7633 or jeanwross@bellsouth.net. We want our foster children to have every opportunity for growth and enrichment, and we'll do what we can to make that possible.