CSM CAMPER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

We stand strong in our belief that all campers have the right to attend camp and we welcome all campers that meet our eligibility criteria into our programs. Just as the benefits of a positive camp experience are vast and indisputable, the effects of a negative camp experience can be detrimental. We have found the two leading causes of a negative camp experience are campers not being ready and CSM not being the best fit for a particular camper. The eligibility criteria is a tool for families to help decide if their camper is ready to attend, including determining if CSM is a good fit. Our staff is committed to working with camper families and welcome conversations about their particular camper’s circumstances.

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| **CHARACTERISTIC OF CSM** | **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** | |
| **BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC INFO:**  • Nonprofit co-ed traditional summer camp that provides a values-based camping environment.  • Independent, self-supporting entity of Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester that is non-conversional.  • Offer beginner, day, overnight, leadership and year-round programs for campers aged 5+.  • Financial aid made available to provide a more diverse group of campers the opportunity to experience the benefits of camp. | **Campers must**:  • Meet specific program age/school-grade requirements.  • Be confident in their ability to spend longer periods of time away from their caregivers (without cell phones).  **Please note**: Campers are not required to be affiliated with any faith or religion. Financial aid (Campership) applications can be obtained by reaching out to our office staff. | |
| **CAMP LAYOUT:**  • 33 acres situated on a hillside.  • Bordered by a lake, roadways and woods.  • Property not enclosed by fence.  • Elevated footbridge utilized to cross over road. | **Campers must**:  • Be physically capable of walking extended distances, up and down hills and stairs, without the assistance of another person or walking aid (e.g., crutches, walker, wheelchair).  **Please note**: Because of our campus layout, campers that tend to run away as a means of dealing with frustration are not a good fit and for their safety are most often sent home on a first occurrence. | |
| **STAFF QUALIFICATIONS & SUPERVISION**:  • Counselors are trained in various topics of child behavior management.  • Counselors are not certified child development professionals.  • CSM does not employ psychologists, social workers or any other specialist for the sole purpose of providing support for kids who learn and think differently.  • CSM is not able to provide 1-to-1 staff members to support individual campers.  • Department of Health (DOH) and American Camp Association (ACA) staff to camper ratios are always met or exceeded.  • Level of structure provided varies depending on time of day and specific activity.  • Situations range from campers only being with their cabin and their counselors, to all of camp being together and not having access to their specific counselors.  • Open program times have the benefit of allowing campers the opportunity to make their own decisions and freely move about within a supervised area, but also require a higher degree of self-advocacy. | **Campers must**:  • Demonstrate age-appropriate social and emotional skills in managing personal boundaries, relationships, communication, stress, and conflict.  • Be able to participate fully in all scheduled activities and programs.  • Be able to identify and avoid health/safety risks.  • Be able to emotionally self-regulate, follow directions and self-advocate in a variety of environments and with many different authority figures.  • Be able to manage the sensory stimulation of a frequently large, loud, and energetic group environment.  • Maintain proper nutrition and hydration from the camp menu.  **Please note**: The school and camp environment share more similarities than most would expect. Both environments require about the same level of executive function, and many times the demands are actually higher at camp. For this reason, campers that are in self-contained classrooms or have 1-on-1 aides in school; those that exhibit behavioral issues in less structured environments (such as lunch or passing times); or those that have a history of bullying, violence or anger management almost always have similar struggles at camp and are most often dismissed early. Along these same lines, campers that take medications to assist with executive functioning in school are most successful when they continue their medication regimen at camp. | |
| **CHARACTERISTIC OF CSM** | | **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** |
| **HEALTH CENTER/MEDICAL:**  • Medical staff are on camp and available 24/7.  • Health center is open and actively staffed 7:30a-9:30p.  • Medical staff are RNs, EMTs and/or staff with DOH-approved advanced first aid training.  • RN dispenses all medications, prescription and over-the-counter (OTC).  • Cabin counselors are given a list of their campers that will need to report for scheduled meds, to help ensure consistency.  • Campers are promptly tracked down by staff if they do not report for a scheduled medication.  • In the case of a medical emergency or significant injury/illness parent/guardian/emergency contact will be contacted by the medical staff. | | **Campers must**:  • Be reasonably self-reliant and stable regarding any of their medical conditions (including mental health).  • Be able to refrain from unsafe and/or harmful behaviors toward self and others (including self-harm).  • Be compliant with medication regimen (as indicated by parent and in conjunction with prescriber’s order).  • Be able to visually recognize their medications, have an age-appropriate understanding of its use and immediately speak up to nurse if they think something is not correct.  **Please note**: A history and/or current diagnosis of most mental health conditions does not preclude a camper from attending. Disclosing a diagnosis on a camper’s health history form sets your camper up for success by allowing us to best meet your camper’s needs. |
| **CABIN LIVING**:  • Campers are assigned to cabins based on the age and gender designated during registration.  • Campers whose developmental age does not align with their relative age or that do not fit into the gender binary will be placed in a cabin that is decided by the camp director and parent/guardian to be the safest accommodation.  • Cabins are relatively close living quarters, with bunkbeds and house 9-15 campers and 2-3 counselors.  • Cabins have lights and electricity, but no air-conditioning or capability for individuals to use electrical outlets. | | **Campers must**:  • Feel comfortable living in a semi-rustic environment (e.g., no air-conditioning, varying weather conditions, insects/animals, grass/dirt/mud).  • Be able to adapt to a group living environment with close/confined quarters, little time alone and limited personal space.  • Be able to maintain modesty and respect the privacy of others, especially as it pertains to changing clothes.  • Exhibit tolerance and respect for everyone in their cabin (and on camp), regardless of perceived differences or personal opinions. |
| **BATHROOM ACCOMODATIONS:**  **•** Bathrooms are not inside cabins, but centrally located.  • Single-occupant toilets are gender-neutral and available for use by any person.  • At least one single-occupant toilet is adjacent to every major programming area.  • Multi-stall bathrooms are designated by gender and use is aligned with campers’ cabin assignment.  • All showers are single occupancy, and each has a private undressing/dressing area.  • Campers can utilize showers in the bathrooms that are aligned with their cabin assignment or accommodations can be made ahead of time to utilize the gender-neutral shower.  • There are two sets of outdoor showerheads that are utilized to rinse off after swimming in the lake. Campers are also welcome to use these outdoor showers to bathe (while wearing at least a swimsuit). | | **Campers must**:  • Be self-sufficient in and assume responsibility for hygiene and other personal-care tasks.  • Be toilet independent.  • Respect privacy and intended limitations of access set by physical barriers in bathrooms. |

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| **VIEW ON YOUTH DYNAMICS** Youth is a time of exploration and identity formation. During childhood and adolescence, deeply held aspects of identity can be questioned. From hair color and clothing to piercings and gender identity, exploration of their identities and interests is a normal part of their development. We believe it is essential to allow children to consider different identities in a safe and affirming environment. We encourage our campers to develop self-confidence, embrace their creativity, explore their surroundings and create relationships with those that may be different from them. CSM embraces diversity and we hope that through their experience, every camper will discover more about the person they want to become. |