

# ADA FACT SHEET: SUMMER CAMPS ARE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES

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All children with disabilities have the same rights to attend summer camp as their peers. They cannot be denied participation in a summer camp program because they have a disability.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Maine Human Rights Act (MHRA) require summer camps (both private and those run by towns or municipalities) to provide reasonable accommodations to enable campers with disabilities to participate in camp programs. This includes possible modifications of camp policies, practices and procedures.

## ***Helpful Tips:***

- Reach out to camps ahead of time to talk about potential accommodations your child may need.
- Camps must evaluate each child individually.
- Equal access to both programs and facilities must be provided. This includes having accessible entrances and restrooms for campers who may need them.
- Camps may not require parents to pay the cost of a reasonable accommodation or modification that may be necessary for their child to fully participate in camp activities.
- Camps must train staff to administer daily medicines required by campers with disabilities, such as insulin (via pump or shots), and emergency medications, such as Glucagon and Diastat.
- Accommodation or modification requests must be reasonable. If a request would fundamentally alter the program or service, or cause an undue burden, a camp may not be required to provide it.

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*This bulletin is intended to provide basic information regarding the ADA and summer programs. It is not a substitute for legal advice. If you have questions or would like assistance with specific issues, please contact Disability Rights Maine.*

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