



Summer Camp Planning 2023 – Kitchener/Waterloo

The following is a summary of important dates and resources to help you get started with your summer planning.

1. Summer Camp Fairs – **January 10, January 16, February 13; Registration open**
2. Summer Camp Planning Workshop – **Thursday, January 12 @7pm; Registration open**
3. How to receive additional support for summer camp planning
4. Funding options for summer camps and support workers for camps
5. Registration dates for local inclusive camps

1. Summer Camp Fairs (virtual)

Are you looking for the right summer camp program for your child or teen? KidsAbility and the Waterloo Region Family Network are partnering to host a series of virtual camp fairs. Join us via Teams to learn about camp options and have your questions answered by the camp directors themselves!

Focus: Overnight Camps - Waterloo Region and beyond
Date: Monday, January 10, 2023
Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Register: <https://virtual-campfair-overnight.eventbrite.ca>

Focus: Day Camps for campers ages 4-12 - Waterloo Region
Date: Monday, January 16, 2026
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm
Register: <https://Day-camps-Waterloo-Region.eventbrite.ca>

Focus: Camps for Teens and Adults - Waterloo Region & Guelph Wellington
Date: Monday, February 13, 2023
Time: 7:00 – 8:30pm
Register: <https://camps-for-teens-adults.eventbrite.ca>

Cost: Free
Who: Everyone is welcome
Registration: Registrants will receive a Teams link via email the morning of the event.
Questions: Contact Meg Shirley at 519-886-8886 x1302 or mshirley@kidsability.ca





2. Summer Camp Planning Virtual Workshop - KW (virtual)

Are you thinking about a summer camp for your child? Come join us for a summer camp planning workshop! This workshop is designed to give parents the information they need to plan a successful summer camp experience for a child with special needs.

In this free parent workshop, you will learn about:

- How to find inclusive and specialized camps in your community
- The different types of inclusion supports available and how to access them
- Funding options for camp fees and specialized supports
- Sharing information about your child
- Preparing your child for camp

This workshop is intended for families who have children with special needs as well as service providers who support families to navigate camp and recreation opportunities. Please join us for this live workshop over Teams. Registrants will receive a Teams link via email the morning of the workshop.

Date: Thursday, January 12, 2023

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Location: Online via Teams

Register: <https://Camp-planning-workshop-KW.eventbrite.ca>

Registration Deadline: February 14, 2022

Questions? Contact Meg Shirley at mshirley@kidsability.ca or ext. 1302

3. How to receive additional support for summer camp planning

Families on our Summer Camp Planning email list will receive emails with additional information to assist with registration, funding, and inclusion supports. To have your name added to this list, please contact Meg at mshirley@kidsability.ca or 519-886-8886 x1302 (Kitchener and Waterloo Sites).

Need more help? Book a summer camp planning consult with a Recreation Therapist. Support can be provided in one or more of the following areas:

- Camp options and registration processes
- Identifying funding options and support with applications
- Camper support options and how to access these supports
- Accessing adapted equipment to facilitate access and participation at camp

Contact Meg Shirley mshirley@kidsability.ca or 519-886-8886 x1302 (Kitchener and Waterloo Sites)

Not a current KidsAbility Client? Contact intake: 519-886-8886 or 1-888-372-2259 ext. 1214



4. Funding Options for Summer Camps: Disability Specific

Autism Direct Funding (summer camp specific fund): <https://www.sdrc.ca/applying-autism-direct-funding/>

Eligibility: Waterloo Region residents with a diagnosis of Autism ages 0-17

Will provide up to \$500 to pay for summer camp, respite support or recreation program occurring between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024. Applications will be accepted from January 1 to January 31, 2023

Deadline: January 31, 2023

Autism Ontario - Summer Camp Reimbursement Funds www.autismontario.com/camp

Eligibility: Diagnosis of Autism

Will cover up to \$600 per child to pay for either the cost of camp or a 1:1 support worker to attend camp with your child. The application is typically available on the website in April. Check the website frequently for updates. You do not have to be a member of Autism Ontario to apply for funding. Selection to receive funds is random.

Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy - Life Enriching Activity Fund: www.ofcp.ca/programs/funding/leaf

Eligibility: Diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy and member of Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy (OFCP)

Will cover up to \$400 which can be used towards the cost of summer camps or Physical Support workers. The application is typically available mid January. Check the website frequently for updates.

Muscular Dystrophy Canada - Community Services Fund: <http://muscle.ca/access-help/personal-support-program/community-services-fund/>

Eligibility: Diagnosis of Muscular Dystrophy and member of Muscular Dystrophy Canada

Will cover up to \$1000 which can be used towards attendant services and fees for formal adapted recreational programs including summer camp.

Waterloo Wellington Down Syndrome Society (WWDSS) - Camp Bursary Application:

<https://www.wwdss.ca/programs/camp-bursary/>

Eligibility: Diagnosis of Down syndrome ages 4 - 21 and a member of WWDSS

Camp Bursaries are available to assist when the cost of sending a member to camp will be above and beyond the costs for a typical week of camp. For example, the bursary program will pay 50% of the cost of a specialized camp designed for children with special needs, or will cover the cost of a support worker to attend camp with the participant. Families are required to complete 10 hours of volunteer work for WWDSS during the current calendar year to receive this bursary.

Other Funding Options:

- **Special Services At Home (SSAH)**
- **Autism Childhood Budget**
- **Region of Waterloo Childcare Subsidy** (some camps are able to accept this funding)



Funding Options for Summer Camps: Income based

Leisure Access Card - City of Kitchener: www.kitchener.ca/feeassistance

Eligibility: Residents of Kitchener with low income

Details: Will provide \$300 per person, per year to be used to cover the cost of city run programs.

Leisure Access Card - City of Waterloo: www.waterloo.ca/feeassistance

Eligibility: Residents of Waterloo with low income

Details: Will provide up to \$300 per person, per year to be used to cover the cost of city-run programs (including camps), affiliated minor sports, or affiliated arts and culture programs.

Jumpstart: <https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/individual-child-grants>

Eligibility: You must be between the ages of 4 - 18 with financial need

Details: Will cover up to \$300 per activity, \$600 per year for sports or physically active camps. The application is typically available in January.

Fee Assist - YMCA of Three Rivers Camps (Cambridge & K-W): <https://feeassist.ca/>

Eligibility: Financial need

Details: Will help cover registration cost of YMCA summer camps for up to two weeks. More information and step by step instructions are available here: https://www.ymcacambridgekw.ca/en/camp-outdoor-centre/Register-Now-For-Camp.asp?_mid_ =31861#WaterlooRegion

House of Friendship Summer Camp Sponsorship (Family Outreach Program):

<https://www.houseoffriendship.org/how-we-help/family-neighbourhood-supports/family-outreach-program/>

Eligibility: You must be 17 years of age or younger with financial need and living in Waterloo Region

Details: Will help cover registration costs for local day camps

5. Registration Dates for Local Inclusive Camps

Please see the chart below for information regarding registration dates for several local inclusive and specialized camps. As additional information becomes available, it will be updated at the following link. Additional information about other camps in our region (Cambridge, Guelph) is also available at the following link:

Camp Information: <https://www.kidsability.ca/camp-info>

More information about each camp including descriptions about the supports they provide can be found in the inclusive camp directory located here:

Camp Directory: <https://www.kidsability.ca/camp-directory>

Therapeutic Recreation



Children's Camps	Website	Ages	Registration
YMCA Day Camps	https://www.ymcathreerivers.ca/camp-registration	4-12	January 17
Camp Pride	https://www.pridestables.com/programs-riders/camp-pride/	6-12, 13+	Late January
ESQ	www.uwaterloo.ca/engineering-science-quest	Grades 2-9	TBD
Hidden Acres	www.hiddenacres.ca	5-12, 12+	Early Feb
Camp K	www.campk.on.ca	5-16	March 1
City of Kitchener	https://www.kitchener.ca/en/recreation-and-sports/summer-programs.aspx	4-12, 11-17	March 21
City of Waterloo	www.waterloo.ca/en/things-to-do/camps-and-pre-school.aspx	4-12	March 8
Woolwich Township	www.woolwich.ca/en/living-here/SummerCamps.aspx	5-14	March 7
Sunbeam MFTD	www.sdrc.ca/	4-18	March 1
KW Gymnastics	https://www.kwgymnastics.ca/pd-day-camp		Feb 21
Arts Abound	www.artsabound.ca/camps-events/	4-teen	TBD
AIM KW School	www.aimkwschool.com	JK- Gr. 8	TBD
Beechwood Brainerly	https://bbrainery.ca/shape-your-future/summer-programs/	4-14	TBD
KidsAbility (Firefly)	Will not run in 2023	n/a	n/a
Arts Express	Details not yet available	TBD	n/a
iCan Bike	Will no run in 2023	8-21	n/a

Teen/Adult Camps	Website	Ages	Registration
Adults in Motion	www.adultsinmotion.org	16+	Ongoing
Aldaview	https://tcmhomes.com/	High School	Ongoing
Camp Pride	www.pridestables.com	13+	late January
Hidden Acres SYAC	www.hiddenacres.ca/	16-35	Early Feb
Lighthouse Programs	www.lighthouseprograms.com		Ongoing
YOUth Sense and All About YOUth	www.kitchener.ca/en/recreation-and-sports/programs-for-those-with-disabilities.aspx	11-14, 13-17	March 21
Carousel Dance	www.carouselcentre.ca		TBD
Youth Exploring Possibilities (YEP)	https://www.kwhab.ca/services/youth-exploring-possibilities-yep/	13-21	April/May
Extend-A-Family	www.eafwr.on.ca/programs/summer-program/	13+	March 1
Sunbeam MFTD and Summer Fun Days	www.sdrc.ca/	4-18, 18+	March 1

