



CAMP KIRK was established in 1993 to offer a direct service to children ages 6 to 13 who have exceptionalities such as Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and to their families.

Camp Kirk is a registered charity # 13655-2643-RR0001 under the corporate name of "Friends of the Learning Disabled, Camp Kirk

CAMP KIRK's MISSION is to provide a residential camping experience for children with exceptionalities that empowers and builds a sense of belonging and self-esteem.

CAMP KIRK'S MANDATE

- **Serve children and youth who have exceptionalities**
- **Provide a safe physical, social and emotional setting**
- **Adhering to the highest recognized "best practice" standards**
- **Design and provide a camp program that will increase children's understanding of self and of their exceptionality**
- **Design and provide a camp program that will teach children social and physical skills that will enable them to become empowered and experience success**
- **Provide staff training that will (i) increase understanding of children with exceptionalities, (ii) demonstrate how best to work with these children, and (iii) encourage and foster personal and professional growth and development**

WHAT CAMP KIRK DOES...

Camp Kirk offers a safe, nurturing and structured social environment where children with exceptionalities can begin to experience themselves in a positive way. The significance of interpersonal relationships in our lives from birth onwards is very clear.

Psychologists talk about the ability to open oneself up to relationships as the fundamental goal of growth and development. Children who have no friends are at a much higher risk of developing mental health issues as adults.

By living together at camp, the children have to negotiate aspects of daily living such as: doing chores (cabin cleanup, setting and clearing

dining room tables); sharing physical space (living in close quarters either a cabin or a tent, sharing program equipment and facilities); working together towards a common goal (going on an overnight or a canoe trip, completing a group task or cabin project); attending to others feelings and behavior in an attempt to have everybody's needs met.

WHAT SETS US APART AND MAKES US "UNIQUE"?

Our environment... Camp Kirk offers a nurturing, family style environment that is both supportive and accepting. Every child at Camp Kirk has some form of exceptionality, thereby eliminating the fear of being bullied or teased. Not only do we accept children's differences, we celebrate them.

Our programme... With our "challenge by choice" philosophy and our non-competitive programming, our campers are encouraged to engage in interpersonal relationships and to take greater emotional and physical risks, thereby boosting their self-confidence and self esteem.

Our staff... Our high staff/camper ratio (32/36) ensures that each camper receives the support, guidance and positive reinforcement they need to experience success. Our staff members are hired because of their keen interest to work with children with exceptionalities. They are well trained to support the specialized needs of each of our campers.

OUR VISION...

Camp Kirk's vision is that all children with exceptionalities

benefit from the "magic" and life affirming impact of the Camp Kirk experience.

Camp Kirk plays a vital role in offering a direct service to a segment of our population which otherwise is all too often ignored or at best marginalized. This is primarily due to the fact that Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorders and Autism Spectrum Disorders are "invisible" disabilities.

We need you to become a champion and a partner in our quest to "do" everything we can for the benefit of these children and of their families.

HOW TO CONTACT US...

Our office is located at 639A Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ontario Canada, M4S 2M9. We can be reached either by telephone at 416-782-3310, or email campkirk@campkirk.com You may also view our website at www.campkirk.com