



Lynn Special Needs Camp  
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## **Mission Statement**

The Lynn Special Needs Camp's mission is to provide children with special needs an opportunity to experience recreational and educational activities with their peers in a welcoming, non-discriminatory setting. Here at the camp we focus on helping the camper develop a sense of responsibility and respect for others. Special emphasis is placed upon building self-esteem and independence to help enrich the lives of children with special needs.

## **About Us**

Set against the backdrop of the Lynn Woods Reservation, the Lynn Special Needs Camp is situated on the periphery of 1200 acres of beautiful woodlands and bordered on two sides by picturesque reservoirs.

The Camp offers comprehensive recreational services to qualifying special needs children, age 5-21, who reside within the Greater Lynn community. Established as a non-profit organization to provide a program for children with special needs, the Lynn Special Needs Camp (formerly Camp Kiwanis) received initial support from the Kiwanis organization, which donated the original building site in 1957. The Camp is presently funded through a combination of sources, including the state and the city of Lynn, as well as through private donations. The Camp operates within the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works, whose Director, Lisa Nerich, is also the Camp's Administrative Director.

With proximity to Lynn Woods, Lynn Special Needs Camp facilitates communal enjoyment of nature. In fine weather, children are guided through a variety of outdoor activities including hiking, gardening, swimming, various sports and sledding.

During the school year children participate in a variety of off-site field trips including apple and pumpkin picking, Topsfield Fair, Plaster Fun Time, and tours of fire stations. During summer months, the program is augmented with various field trips to museums, zoos, amusement parks, aquariums, and local sporting events.

The success of the Camp through the years can be directly attributed to the dynamic group of people who support its activities on a daily basis. A full-time staff of senior counselors, in conjunction with a tireless group of parents and volunteers, has turned Lynn Special Needs Camp into a strong and responsive community asset. Because of the foundation established by these people, the Camp's future looks bright.

The Lynn Special Needs Camp promotes self-esteem, independence, health, and safety. Its goal is the emotional and psychological well-being of the children who participate. All who participate are encouraged to grow to the best of their abilities by giving them an opportunity to interact with peers and adults on a variety of recreational and social levels. The Camp tailors the individual programs to fit the needs of the participants.

The Camp operates as a comprehensive program. At the nucleus is the belief that **play** can have a positive, residual impact on human development in the areas of sensory, motor, cognitive, communicative, and social behavior. Children who participate strengthen gross and fine motor skills, daily living skills, as well as sensory, social and academic skills.

Family support, which is available at the Camp, provides support for parents of children with special needs by giving those parents some relief from the total care demanded of them. It is a concept based on the realization that the daily stress of life is intensified for parents of special needs children because of constant care and attention required for those children. Lynn Special Needs Camp provides an opportunity for parents under these demands to find qualified help for their children at the same time take advantage of some quality time for themselves.

### **AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM**

Designed to meet the needs of working parents, this program schedules a full complement of individualized recreational activities and field trips for a fee. Transportation to the Camp is provided from all of the Lynn Schools and from the camp by North Reading Bus Company. A nutritious afternoon snack is provided.

#### **HOURS:**

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays  
1:30p.m.-5:00p.m.

Wednesdays  
12:00p.m.-5:00p.m.

### **SCHOOL VACATION PROGRAM**

This program highlights a number of recreational activities, including field trips. The trips are scheduled to coincide with school vacations during the months

of December, February and April. Selected transportation is available, as is respite care. Parents are requested to provide lunches. Fees are charged for this program.

**SELECTED SCHOOL VACATIONS HOURS:**

Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m.3:00 p.m.

**5 WEEK SUMMER PROGRAM**

The Camp schedules a comprehensive Camp format for children during the summer months. Activities include swimming, exercise, field trips, special events, cookouts, and end of camp show. Enrollment in the program is limited. Over the years, this has proven to be one of our more popular and successful programs. We expect this summer to be no exception. Breakfast and lunches are provided for all participants. The program is in session during the months of July and August. A fee is charged for this program.

**HOURS:**

Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m.3:00 p.m.