



# Highbrook Lodge

Established 1928

## 2015 CAMP REPORT

Lindsay Lowe, CTRS, Camp Manager

Larry Benders, President and Executive Director

## Session 1: Celebration June 22 – June 27, 2015



**Attendance:** 26 campers total

15 Male, 11 Female

# From outside Ohio: 1 – Clifton Heights, PA

# From Ohio Outside of Cleveland:     7 – Cincinnati  
  2 – Garfield Hts.  
  1 – Lakewood, Columbus, Cleveland Hts., Mentor, Ravenna,  
  Strongsville, Brookpark, Highland Hts., Parkman,  
  Madison, Solon, East Liverpool, Conneaut

# First Time Campers: 0

### **Summary:**

Celebration session is a collaborative outreach with Cleveland Sight Center's Social Work department, led by CSC social worker **Sherry Raymond**. Campers at this session have multiple disabilities including vision loss, hearing loss, physical disabilities, developmental and intellectual disabilities, psycho-social challenges, and chronic medical conditions such as diabetes and epilepsy. Interpretative services for campers who with hearing loss were provided by contract with **Patty Bettis-Eddie** and **Rosalind Wilkes**.

This session is an important socialization opportunity for our campers with multiple disabilities, including a sizable group from Cincinnati. The accessible and enjoyable programming of Highbrook Lodge allows for individual campers to have experiences that are typically not available during their daily life. Highlights of this program included: **Jungle Bob** and his tactile exotic animal show, a group fishing trip and canoeing trip at **Geauga Park District's Headwater Park**, a visit from the **Great Geauga County Band**, horseback riding with **Summer Wind Stables**, a nature session focused on teaching skills for cooking over a campfire and overnight campouts in the woods. Finally, the campers were able to exhibit their unique talents in the annual talent show and choir event during the last evening of the session.

## Session 2: SYWE Weekend July 3-5, 2015



**Attendance:** 6 campers total

2 Male, 4 Female

# From outside Ohio: 0

# From Ohio Outside of Cleveland: 1 – Barberton, Cleveland Hts., Vandalia, Navarre, Woodsfield, Amherst

# First Time Campers : 6

### **Summary:**

Six individuals from CSC's Summer Youth Work Experience program visited camp for the holiday weekend. Campers enjoyed exposure to traditional camp activities, including archery, t-shirt tie dying, swimming, creating patriotic songs, going on a hike and more! They enjoyed a 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ before leaving for the **Geauga County Fairgrounds** for fireworks.

## Session 3: Adult Resort

### July 6-11, 2015



**Attendance:** 23 campers total

13 Male, 10 Female

# From outside Ohio: 1- Addison, New York

# From Ohio Outside of Cleveland:

- 4 – Cleveland Hts.
- 3 – Euclid
- 2 – Strongsville
- 2 – Fairview Park
- 1 – Rocky River, Berea, Hudson, Canton, Elyria, Lakewood, Lorain, Orrville, St. Mary's

# First Time Campers: 2

#### **Summary:**

This session is designed to offer a variety of activities for the campers to choose from during each activity period. In the evening, all campers come together to share an all-camp program. The theme for the session was Around the World. Each day explored a different continent, and staff developed program activities that corresponded to that day's theme.

Highlights from this session included an optional field trip to the **Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled's** Family Fun & Learning Day, a canoeing and fishing trip at **Geauga Park District's Headwater Park**, overnight campouts in the woods and a performance from the **Chozen Few Band** for Banquet Night on the last evening of the session.

On Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, Adult Resort campers were joined by 7 campers and 1 CSC staff member for a program that provides more individuals a chance to be exposed to camp, and "sample" a variety of traditional camp activities.

The week following this session, we held a one-day shopping trip that was attended by 25 clients.

Clients were taken all around Geauga County to favorite shopping locales such as the **Amish Auction**, the **Middlefield Cheese Factory** and the **Chardon Walmart**.



## Session 4: Bright Futures July 17-19, 2015



**Attendance:** 25 campers total

9 males, 16 females

# From outside Ohio: 0

# From Ohio Outside of Cleveland: 3 – South Euclid      4 – Parma  
3 – Shaker Hts.  
5 – Painesville

# First Time Campers: 17

### **Summary:**

This session was planned in cooperation with **Children and Young Adult Services** under the direction of **Barbara Williams & Brenda Lammers**, and was focused on connecting parents of children who have vision loss with someone who may be able to share similar experiences, challenges, and solutions to problems. This session has been referred to as one of the most important events in the young lives of these camper families.

The theme for the session this year was an Enchanted Weekend. Camp staff provided parent-only activities, as well as activities for children and their families to enjoy together. Activities were designed to allow for families to enjoy fun and playtime together, while also providing information and support to families. Parents got an opportunity to socialize during an optional Parents' Night Out event on the final evening. Children were treated to special medieval themed activities throughout the weekend.



## Summary:

For summer 2015 all three sessions (Cool Kids, Tween & Teens) were held concurrently. In addition, campers were able to choose to come for 6 days (“Express Session”) or for 12 days. Cool Kids are 8 to 11 years old, Tweens are 12 to 14 years old and Teens are 15-21.

The theme of the entire 12 days was Harry Potter. Activities were based around the theme, including evening programs. Among other things, campers made “House” banners, wands, Quidditch robes, golden snitches and lava lamps in arts and crafts; had wizarding duels, created sets for magical creature shows, and made up song parodies in music and drama; worked on teamwork in sports and recreation activities such as archery, obstacle courses, and of course, Quidditch; and planted herbs, learned about magical creatures and took hikes in nature. In addition, our teens participated daily in Outdoor Living Skills with longtime staff member turned volunteer **Maxwell Czekala**. Over the course of 12 days they learned survival skills such as fire starting, shelter making, how to collect water, plant identification, camouflage, and how to survive in open water. Evening programs also focused around the theme and included activities such as “House Sorting”, a Harry Potter movie night, a counselor hunt, more Quidditch matches, and a Yule Ball (kids/tweens). The session culminated with the “Tri-Wizard Tournaments” – a team focused, challenge race where campers worked together utilizing all they had learned throughout the week.

Other highlights of these sessions included the following: overnight campouts; trips to **Geauga Park District’s Headwater Park** for canoeing and fishing; a visit from **Jungle Bob’s** exotic tactile animal show; a visit from “**The Old Fossil**”, Tommy Langel, who taught our campers much about fossils and fossil hunting; a visit from the **Cuyahoga Valley National Park** team that put on a show about the Underground Railroad; a visit from **Summer Wind Stables** for horseback rides; a trip to **Mentor Headlands Beach** for the teens for swimming and lunch; and a teen-only trip to the Jewish Community Center-run **Camp Wise**, where campers participated in horseback riding, radio, or adventure course activities alongside Camp Wises’ teens.

Additionally, a week prior to the Kids, Tweens and Teens session, a first time one-day Youth Day Away trip was held at Highbrook Lodge for individuals between the ages of 8-16. This allowed young campers to experience camp for the first time. Eleven campers attended; six were first time campers.









## Session 10: Sports Camp August 7-9, 2015



**Attendance:** 7 campers total

3 Male, 4 Female

# From outside Ohio (list city or states): 0

# From Ohio Outside of Cleveland: 1 – Parma, Parma Hts., Kent, Painesville, Lakewood,  
Cleveland Hts.

# First Time Campers: 1

### **Summary:**

In conjunction with Cleveland Sight Center's Recreation Department, this was the inaugural session of Sports Camp. This session was geared towards active, young adults between the ages of 18 and 40 who were interested in learning more about Paralympic sports. Campers came for the weekend only which allowed working professionals a chance to spend time at Highbrook Lodge. Campers spent the first evening at the **Geauga County YMCA** learning the fundamentals of goalball. Throughout the rest of the weekend campers experienced different sports such as canoeing (done at **Geauga Park District's Headwater's Park**), beeper baseball, basketball, volleyball, beeper bocce ball, archery and swimming. In addition, CSC's Recreation Specialist, **Desmond Kennedy**, led the campers in a physical fitness test.

Sports Camp finished with campers being present at the annual Family and Friends BBQ.

## 2015 Visitors and Guests

Prior to the camp season kicking off, **Progressive Insurance** sent two separate departments out to camp to help prep the camp for the beginning of summer.



In addition, prior to camp starting, **Lubrizol Corporation** spent their Building Bonds day at Highbrook Lodge to help us prepare for the arrival of campers. Among many projects done that day, they created an accessible entrance to our bowling alley. Later in the summer their summer interns came out to camp to help prep for our Bright Futures session. The interns helped deep clean, repair trails, stain pavilions and more.



**Youth Challenge**, an organization that provides sports for individuals with physical disabilities, rented Highbrook Lodge for their annual overnight camp program. Fifty campers, volunteers and staff members made our camp their home for 24 hours. Their campers participated in YC-led activities and they utilized our lifeguards and swimming pool. We have received a lot of positive responses from their campers, staff and Board Members alike!





**Dr. Michael Loovis from Cleveland State University** brought his Adapted Physical Education/Therapeutic Recreation class of 12 students for hands on practical experience.



Friend of CSC and Eagle Scout **Daniel Kilroy** completed his Eagle Scout project at Highbrook Lodge. Daniel has been working for over a year in the idea building, planning, implementing and evaluation of new guide ropes from the fire pit to Tall Timbers lodge. He replaced the old, frayed rope with covered steel, which is proving to be much more durable and safer for campers. In addition, Daniel continued the guide wires all the way to the entrance of Tall Timbers, where previously they went only about half way.



Members of the **Stepping Stones for Success** program spent an afternoon at Highbrook Lodge participating in traditional camp activities and learning skills for different jobs available at camp such as maintenance and kitchen work.

**Gordon Safran** visited during our teen session to deliver bookbags and Brown's hats to our campers. Gordon has been showing his generosity to camp and our campers for over 40 years.



We were once again fortunate to benefit from the volunteerism of several organizations that provided a day of service to paint, rake, and repair and help us keep the camp beautiful and maintained. In addition to above named groups the Delta Gamma Alumni East organization, Rockwell International, Gesu Church and Gilmore Academy joined the efforts during this fiscal year to keep camp beautiful this summer.



## 2015 Camper Attendance

Session	Campers Attending	Session Length (days)	Actual Camper Days Attended
Session 1 – Adult Celebration	26	6	156
Session 2 – SYWE Weekend	6	3	18
Session 3 – Adult Resort	23	6	137
Session 4 – Bright Futures	25	3	58
Session 5 – Cool Kids	5	12	56
Session 6 – Tweens	5	12	60
Session 7 – Teens	10	12	120
Session 8 – Youth Express	17	6	98
Session 9 – Adult Express	19	5	95
Session 10 – Sports Camp	7	3	21
LVSG Day	38	1	38
Adult Day Trip	7	1	7
Adult Shopping Trip	25	1	25
Youth Day Away	11	1	11
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>900</b>







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