

Frequently Asked Questions about Highbrook Lodge

- **What is Highbrook Lodge?**

Highbrook Lodge is a residential summer camp in Chardon, Ohio that serves people of all ages who experience vision loss or blindness. Founded in 1928 by the Cleveland Sight Center, Highbrook Lodge has provided a positive summer camp setting for thousands of children, families, and adults for over 90 summers.

- **What kind of programs does Highbrook Lodge offer?**

Over the summer (June-August) we offer programs specifically designed for families with young children, young people, and adults. All of our sessions vary in length – we host day programs, weekend and week-long sessions, and one 12-day session. We also offer occasional day and weekend sessions during our off-season (October-May).

- **Why is camping important for people who experience vision loss or blindness?**

There are countless benefits to those who attend our camp. Our campers have opportunities for adventure, skill building, risk taking, and personal development. They have a chance to grow within a community where one can socialize, feel safe and comfortable, and one where they can connect with others who experience vision loss and blindness. At camp they also experience the beauty of nature, while unplugging and recharging away from outside pressures. All of our campers also have the space to play, laugh, and create.

- **What kinds of activities happen at your camp?**

Highbrook Lodge offers many traditional camp activities that are adapted to meet individual needs and interests. Activities include: nature walks, canoeing, swimming, archery, music, dance, drama, arts and crafts, field games and sports, field trips, bowling, fishing, camp-outs, story telling, water balloon fights, group games, special guests, and so much more.

- **What does a typical day at camp look like?**

The daily schedule at Highbrook Lodge varies, depending on what session we are hosting. Campers who wake up at Highbrook Lodge can expect: breakfast around 8:00am; activities from 9:00am-12:00pm; lunch at 12:00pm; rest hour at 1:00pm; activities from 2:00pm-3:00pm; swimming from 3:00pm-5:00pm; down-time from 5:00-

6:00pm; dinner at 6:00pm; evening activity from 7:00pm-8:30pm; campfire at 8:30pm and cabin-time/free time from 9:00pm until bedtime.

- **What are the facilities on the property like?**

Our beautiful 63-acre wooded facility is located on the outskirts of Chardon, Ohio. Our property features a variety of activity spaces and lodging accommodations to meet the unique needs of our campers and staff. Some of our buildings have been around since we first opened in 1928, while our newest cabin, Tall Timber, opened in 2007. All meals and meetings take place in our Smith Lodge building, which also houses our kitchen, camp office, nurse's station, and fireplace room. Further, we have several buildings where group activities take place, such as Sears Hall and the Wolf Arts and Nature Center. We also have a heated-pool, an outdoor bowling alley, sports fields, camp grounds, hiking trails, and a non-denominational chapel.

- **What are the sleeping arrangements like?**

Campers are housed in gender-specific cabins with peers of similar age and ability. All of our sleeping cabins have single, un-bunked twin beds where our campers sleep. Some of our cabins have private and semi-private rooms, while other cabins have 6-8 beds in a large, shared space. Each camper is given their own wardrobe or dresser to house their personal items. We also provide each of our campers with sheets, a pillow, and a blanket. Every cabin has electricity, indoor attached restrooms, and showers— most of which are wheelchair accessible. Up to four counselors stay in the cabins with our campers in shared staff rooms that are attached.

- **Who is eligible to attend Highbrook Lodge?**

Eligible applicants must have vision loss as diagnosed by a medical professional. They also must be of appropriate age for session requested; be able to benefit physically, psychologically, emotionally, and/or socially from camp programs; be able to adapt and function safely within a group environment by functioning within our 2 staff to 6 camper ratio; and be at a level of health that is manageable in our camp setting. For a more compressive description of our eligibility requirements, please click [here](#) or call camp staff at (216) 658 4596.

- **What are the current campers at Highbrook Lodge like?**

Highbrook Lodge has a very diverse camper-base. While the majority of our campers reside in northeast Ohio, several of our campers travel from neighboring areas and states. Our campers also range in age, gender, race, socio-economic status, physical ability, levels of vision, cognitive functionality, and they experience varying levels of independence.

- **Are caregivers or relatives invited to stay at Highbrook Lodge, too?**

At this time, caregivers and relatives are not invited to stay at Highbrook Lodge during our residential sessions (outside of our family camp programs).

- **Are pets, emotional support animals, or guide dogs able to stay at Highbrook Lodge?**

Guide dogs are always welcome at Highbrook Lodge. However, pets and emotional support animals are not permitted on our property at this time.

- **How are camper's daily living needs met at camp?**

We employ a staff of 20+ seasonal employees who are explicitly trained to ensure that our campers have a safe and healthy time while at Highbrook Lodge. Our staff members are qualified and available to help our campers with many of their daily living tasks – such as assistance with bathing, eating, and orientation. Laundry is available on site as needed.

- **And what if there is a medical emergency at camp?**

A licensed medical professional – usually a Registered Nurse – is always on site while we are hosting programming at Highbrook Lodge. This professional serves as our 'Camp Nurse' and is responsible for dispensing daily medication, assisting with medical emergencies, and monitoring the health and wellness of our campers.

- **Who does Highbrook Lodge employ?**

Cleveland Sight Center employees three year-round staff members to manage the day-to-day operations of Highbrook Lodge and to serve on our leadership team. [Click here to learn more about our Camp Manager, Assistant Camp Manager, and our Camp Ranger.](#)

Each summer, we also employ 20+ seasonal employees. Most of these employees are college-aged students. Some of these staff members experience vision loss or blindness. All of our staff is interested in working with diverse populations and providing a quality camp experience for you or your camper.

All of our staff members undergo pre-employment screenings and receive extensive trainings – including first aid, CPR and AED.

- **What types of meals are served at Highbrook Lodge?**

Highbrook Lodge has a contract with Normandy Catering to provide all of our meals, using our fully licensed kitchen. In partnership with Normandy Catering, we strive to serve our campers and staff a healthy and interesting variety of meals, snacks, and desserts. Our kitchen is able to accommodate some special diets, such as vegetarian; gluten or dairy free; and mild allergies. At this time, we are **not** nut or allergen free.

- **What should I bring to camp?**

[Click here](#) for our standard packing list.

- **Is there transportation available to camp?**

Transportation to Highbrook Lodge is typically only available for adult sessions for a low fee. We can provide either door-to-door transportation to/from your home address (for individuals living in Cuyahoga County) or to/from Cleveland Sight Center.

We normally do not provide transportation for our youth and family sessions, as we like to meet our camper's family during drop off and pick up. However, we do not want transportation concerns to be a barrier for camp attendance. If you are apprehensive about how you, your child, or family will get to/from camp – please let us know and we will work with you to determine if there are transportation options available.

Additionally, if you do not live locally, we are happy to discuss airport pick ups and drop offs to/from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport or other transportation hubs.

- **How much does it cost to attend Highbrook Lodge?**

The Cleveland Sight Center works hard to keep Highbrook Lodge affordable for all eligible campers. Campers can anticipate paying the following for our various sessions:

- **Adult Fall & Winter Weekend Sessions:** \$75.00
- **Adult Day Programs:** \$15.00 to \$45.00
- **Youth Day Programs:** Free – \$20.00
- **Summer Sessions:** An applied deposit fee of \$50.00-\$75.00 (session depending) and a tuition fee, which ranges from \$75.00 to \$900.00.
- **Family Camp:** Family camp participants can expect to pay a flat fee per family, adult, and child. Families of 5 expect to pay under \$300.

- **Is there financial assistance available?**

Absolutely! Many third party organizations have funding dollars available to sponsor campers interested in attending our programs. Click here for a list of just some of these funders.

In addition, campers may apply for a Cleveland Sight Center scholarship by filling out this Financial Aid Application and submitting at least one of the following by June 1:

- The first two pages of the most-recently filed U.S individual Tax Return
- Copies of forms showing other income sources (like a social security letter)
- Copies of recent bank statements

All campers are expected to cover their applied deposit fee, at minimum.

- **How do I register myself or another to attend a session at Highbrook Lodge?**

All applications must be either completed online using our registration system or over-the-phone with one of our camp team members. Click here for our step-by-step directions on how to register.

Returning campers can enroll using this link:

<https://highbrooklodge.campmanagement.com/campers>

New campers can begin enrollment using this link:

<https://highbrooklodge.campmanagement.com/enroll>

- **How do I pay for camp?**

Payments can be made by check, with cash, or with a credit card.

To pay in person (check, cash, or credit), visit the 'Eyedea Shop' at Cleveland Sight Center.

To pay by mail (check or money order), mail your payment to:

Cleveland Sight Center

PO Box 92944

Cleveland, OH 44194

** Put 'Highbrook Lodge – *Campers Name*' in the check's memo **

To pay with a credit or debit card, please call: (216) 658 4554

- **How do I contact Highbrook Lodge?**

Phone Number: (216) 658 4596

Fax Number: (216) 791 1101

Camp Address: Highbrook Lodge
12944 Aquilla Rd.
Chardon, OH 44024

Business Address: Cleveland Sight Center
1909 East 101st St.
Cleveland, OH 44106

Email: camp@clevelandsightcenter.org