

Children with developmental disabilities benefit greatly from a summer of activity, self discovery and routine. Positive experiences that develop self-confidence and independence are like seeds waiting to bloom when students return to school in the fall.



SumFun is multi-week summer day camp that enables children with disabilities the opportunity to practice fine motor, gross motor, communication and self-care skills on a daily basis. Campers thrive throughout the summer enjoying many activities of traditional camps such as swimming, sports, horseback riding, field trips, arts, crafts, and more. Each activity brings out a new self-discovery and builds a higher level of confidence. By the end of the summer, many campers leave ready to face the new school year.

“The SumFun camp has turned my son into a man. Your caring staff has helped him mingle with others. Keep up your caring, these children need it.”

- Mother of a son with disabilities

Catholic Charities Community Services
Summit County



SumFun

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Catholic Charities



Financial support for SumFun is provided primarily by the County of Summit DD Board. Additional funding is provided by the United Way of Summit County, The City of Akron Recreation Bureau, The City of Twinsburg, foundations and private contributions.



SumFun

building self-confidence.
promoting independence.

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25 Days of Fun in the Sun

Dependable, quality service for decades

Founded in the mid-1960s, SumFun has been providing dependable, quality service for decades. With the cooperation of Boards of DD, schools, and other community entities, SumFun is able to offer most families: multiple weeks of day camp activities, nursing services, door to door transportation, excellent supervision and a reasonable cost for service. With multiple, community-based locations throughout Summit County, SumFun is easily accessible to many families.

Beneficial multi-week summer program

Unlike other week long camp programs, SumFun is a multi-week summer program that provides multiple benefits to campers. Each week, campers build confidence and lessen their anxiety as they become familiar with the day camp routine and staff members. Learning the physical boundaries of the campsite offers campers a sense of security. Establishing a daily routine of activities on which they can rely allows campers to feel a sense of control. Interacting with the same group of campers provides a route to socialization and age-appropriate friendships.



Educated staff that cares about each participant

The staff at SumFun is committed to providing the highest level of service to our participants. With a ratio of not more than three participants per staff member, each participant receives the level of attention that they need and deserve. Throughout the summer, the staff quickly learns about each participant and is able to customize the program to best fit the needs of the individual. Many of the staff have earned degrees in areas such as education, special education, and psychology. Additional staff includes degreed professionals who work closely with college students to provide activities appropriate for each camper. An on-site nurse is present daily at each location.

The staff at SumFun participate in an extensive training program before the season begins. Each staff member must pass a drug and alcohol screening, be fingerprinted and pass a criminal background check.

The Life-Long Benefits of Camping

The foundation of the SumFun Program is the belief that intervention through recreation can have a lasting positive effect on each camper. Some examples of this include:

- Improved motor skills and endurance through field games and swimming
- Development of long time friendships with peers through participation in age appropriate activity groups
- Improved communication skills resulting from songs, story telling and games that require vocalization
- Development of leisure skills through a variety of new experiences that campers may continue to pursue throughout their lives
- Enhanced creativity and self expression through arts and crafts

Participation in SumFun can move each camper toward a higher level of confidence, and greater independence throughout the school year and life.

Who Can Attend:

Participants range in age from 6 - 21 years and must be eligible for services through the County of Summit DD Board. Because the eligibility process can take some time, parents are encouraged to contact our office as soon as possible to register. SumFun welcomes persons of all religions.

Cost:

SumFun will work with any family to find the most effective cost arrangement. Financial assistance may be available for those that qualify. Payment plans can be arranged by request.