

It's almost time for camp season and there are several in the area, many to help students with disabilities hook up with others who have the same disabilities. This can be a great opportunity to help kids realize they are not unique; that there are others going through the same things they are going through. It also is a chance to get specialized help while they are having fun.

**Camp Joy in Clarksville** [www.camp-joy.org](http://www.camp-joy.org) has several weeklong overnight camps for students from 7-17. There are specialized camps for students with heart disease, juvenile arthritis, spina bifida, cancer, diabetes, mental health issues, plus camps for children in foster care, as well as camps for typical students. These camps all focus on fun, fellowship, and building leadership skills.

**Stepping Stones Camp Allyn in Batavia** [www.steppingstonesohio.org](http://www.steppingstonesohio.org) , has several summer day camps for students with any disabilities from 5-12. There are weekly theme camps including Pixar Productions, Commotion in the Ocean, and Rainforest Adventures. Camp is from 9-3:30 daily.

**Camp Nuhop in Asland County**, [www.nuhop.org](http://www.nuhop.org) , has several weeklong overnight camps for students with ADHD, LD, Asperger's, Autism, and other behavioral difficulties. There are weeklong theme camps for art, sports, science, and exploration with highly trained counselors and therapists.

**Camp Dovetail** (937-366-6657) is a 4 night camp for handicapped students 9 and up, or a three day camp for students 4-8. It will be held from June 20-24 at Rock Fork Lake Campground in Hillsboro. Each camper will be assigned a volunteer partner for the duration of camp to experience the freedom of growing accompanied by the security of a helping hand when needed.

**Camp OYO** [www.oyocamp.org](http://www.oyocamp.org) is Ohio's camp for students who are deaf or hard of hearing and will be held from July 31- Aug. 6. ASL, lip reading, oral communication, and/or Assistive Technology are all used. The camp provides unique, challenging opportunities to help build self-confidence.

**Countryside YMCA** [www.countrysideymca.org](http://www.countrysideymca.org) has several weeklong (both full day and ½ day) camps in several areas for all students including gymnastics, aquatics, high adventure, sports, art, and Camp Discover. These camps run from age 3 yrs-17 yrs, and are primarily held at the YMCA facility in Lebanon but there are some alternate locations.

**Camp Kern** [www.campkern.org](http://www.campkern.org) in Oregonia has from 1-8 week sessions for students ages 5-16 . Weekly themes include superheroes, Star Wars, Percy Jackson, The Hobbit, and minecraft.

All these camps include the typical camp activities of swimming, games, and arts/crafts. Many include additional exciting and challenging activities such as horseback riding, fishing, canoeing, boating, and other outdoor adventures. Most have scholarships or financial aid available.

In addition there are four locations in the area for therapeutic riding to help disabled children find freedom and joy through their interactions with horses. All these programs utilize PATH certified instructors as well as trained volunteers. They include Bridge Riding in Lebanon, Stepping Stones Ranch in Clarksville, CTRH (Cincinnati Therapeutic Riding and Horsemanship ) between Owensville and Milford, and Cherry Ridge Farms in Georgetown. For more information on any of these programs call 783-2681 ext. 2991