



# Specialty Summer Programs 2023



*Focusing on programs for people who are blind or visually impaired*

*The following list of programs is informational only and is listed in no particular order. We are not in a position to recommend one program over another and encourage you to contact programs to determine which may best meet the needs of your child.*

## WISCONSIN PROGRAMS

### EmployAbility Program

**Where:** Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Contact:** David Ballmann: 608-758-6149 / [david.ballmann@wcbvi.k12.wi.us](mailto:david.ballmann@wcbvi.k12.wi.us)

**Dates:** *Pre-employment activities:* March 31-April 1, *On-campus classes:* June 19-30, and  
*Employment experience:* July 9-28

**Ages:** 16-21

**Limit:** Eight students

**Description:** It is geared for Wisconsin students who are blind or visually impaired who are ready and willing to participate in two weeks of classes to learn Employment Skills, Independent Living Skills, and Orientation and Mobility/Community Safety and then take those skills and have two weeks of employment experience. Jobs will be on-campus or virtual on campus.

**Website:** <https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/outreach/employability/>

### WCBVI Adult Program

**Where:** Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Contact:** David Hyde: 608-758-6152 / [david.hyde@wcbvi.k12.wi.us](mailto:david.hyde@wcbvi.k12.wi.us)

**Dates:** June 13-16

**Description:** Learn daily living skills and connect with other adults who are blind or visually impaired to discuss life's challenges.

**Website:** <http://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/>



## WSBVI Youth Programs

**Where:** Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

**Contact:** Dan Wenzel: 608-758-4925 / [dan.wenzel@wcbvi.k12.wi.us](mailto:dan.wenzel@wcbvi.k12.wi.us)

**Dates:** Program I: July 9-14 **We Are All Makers**

**Ages:** Wisconsin Elementary & Middle School aged students who are blind or visually impaired

**Description:** Students will create hands on projects as well as participate in accessible coding, 3D printing, and laser cutting activities.

**Dates:** Program II: July 17-20 **Adulting 101**

**Ages:** Wisconsin High School aged students who are blind or visually impaired

**Description:** Students will discover and explore: dinner parties, planning a vacation, book clubs, accessible voting, woodworking and other adult hobbies, self-advocacy and more.

**Interest forms due:** May 8 <https://forms.office.com/r/aKU698a5Qz>

**Website:** <https://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us>

## KAMP-OUT 2023

**Where:** Hartman Creek State Park near Waupaca

**Contact:** Diane Gafney: [kampoutwisconsin@gmail.com](mailto:kampoutwisconsin@gmail.com)

**Dates:** June 23-25, 2023

**Ages:** Wisconsin families who have a student who is blind or visually impaired. The child must be between the ages of **three (3) and 21**, who is currently receiving services from a Teacher of the Blind/Visually Impaired.

**Description:** KAMP-OUT (Kids\* Active\* Motivated\* Physical - OUTdoors) experience for families. Families will have many activities to choose from. The park has biking and hiking trails, a beach, playground and equipment rental options.

A waiting list will be started once the maximum 15 camper families' applications have been received.

**Limit:** 15 families. An additional five (5) families are welcome to be "day campers" on Saturday

**Deadline:** May 1 (registration will be open April 1-May 1, first come first serve)

**Website:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1K3saZ9kzxYp-ifPHfw4K8XKPMhUouMfXpB2HE8r-zk/edit>





## Wisconsin Lions Camp

**Where:** Wisconsin Lions Camp, 3834 County Road A, Rosholt

**Contact:** (715) 677-4969

**Dates:** Adults who are Blind or Visually Impaired: June 4-9 (ages 18+)

Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired or with Epilepsy: June 11-15 (ages 6-17)

**Description:** The Wisconsin Lions Camp, a part of the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc. has offered quality programs for Wisconsin youth and adults with disabilities since 1956.

**Space in each camp is limited** and they reserve the right to accept or deny applications.

The Lions Camp also offers programs for Young Adults with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism (June 18-22 by invite only), Youth with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism (June 25-29 & July 2-6), Children with Diabetes (July 9-13 & July 16-20), Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (July 23-27 & July 30-August 3), and Adults who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (August 14-18)

**Deadline:** May 19

**Website:** <https://www.wisconsinlionscamp.com/summer-camp/>

## Wisconsin Badger Camp

**Where:** 11815 Munz Lane, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

**Contact:** (608) 348-9689

**Description:** Each summer, Wisconsin Badger Camp hosts eight one-week sessions and one two-week session specially tailored to meet the needs of each camper. The sessions are separated according to age with eight weeks planned for adults, one week for children (ages 3-13) and one week for teen campers (ages 14-21).

### **Dates/Age/Cost: Main Camp**

W1: June 11-16/18+/\$800 | W2: June 18-23/18+/\$800 | W3: June 25-30/14-21 (*Teen Week*)/\$800 | W4: July 2-7/18+/\$800 | W5/6: July 9-20/18+/\$1,600 | W7: July 23-28/18+/\$800 | W8: July 30-August 4/18+/\$800 | W9: August 6-11/3-13 (*Kids Week*)/\$800 | W10: August 13-18/18+/\$800

### **Dates/Theme/Age/Cost: Primitive Camp**

W1: Lost in Space/June 11-16/18+/\$800 | W2: Story Tellers & Music Makers/June 18-23/18+/\$800 | W3: Teen Week Horseback Riding/June 25-30/14-21/\$900 | W4: The Great Outdoors/Canoeing/July 2-7/18+/\$800 | W5/6: Two-Week Myths and Legends Camp/July 9-20/18+/\$1,600 | W7: Horseback/July 23-28/18+/\$900 | W8: Makers and Inventors/July 30-August 4/18+/\$800

### **Dates/Destination/Age/Cost: Travel Camp**

W1: Dyersville/IA (June 11-16)/18+/\$1000 | W2: La Crosse (June 25-30)/18+/\$1000 | W3: Lake Wisconsin/Baraboo (June 18-23)/14-21 (*Teen Week*)/\$1000 | W4: Milwaukee (July 02-07)/18+/\$1000 | W5: Minneapolis/Mall of America (July 09-14)/18+/\$1000 | W6: The Apostle Islands (July 15-20)/18+/\$1000 | W7: EAA Airventure/Oshkosh (July 23-28)/18+/\$1000

**Website:** <https://www.badgercamp.org/programs/>



## DAY PROGRAMS

### Rainbow Day Camp

**Where:** The Albert & Ann Deshur JCC Camp in Fredonia  
W3985 Trails End Road, Fredonia, Wisconsin 53021

**Contact:** Emily Zajork: 414-615-0179 / [ezajork@vision-forward.org](mailto:ezajork@vision-forward.org)

**Description:** Featuring adapted sports, kayaking, art, music, cooking and more! Children will make connections with other youth with vision loss as they participate in a variety of activities at the beautiful 110-acre campsite.

**Dates:** July 17-20, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Fees:** \$40 per person

**Ages:** 5-18

**Deadline:** June 27

**Website:** <https://vision-forward.org/summercamp2023>

### BOLD: Blind Outdoor Leisure Development

**Where:** Generally Southeast Wisconsin

**Contact:** 262-224-5517 / [Tweedale@charter.net](mailto:Tweedale@charter.net)

**Description** BOLD's purpose is to allow the blind and visually impaired to experience outdoor sports and leisure activities while developing their social and athletic skills.

**Activities:** Year-round and vary with the season, includes downhill skiing, pumpkin farm trip, holiday parties, picnics, bike rides, swimming, canoeing, snow tubing, water skiing, hayrides, bowling, roller skating, organized games, hikes, and much more.

**Website:** <https://www.wisconsinbold.com/index.php?p=home>





## Other Wisconsin Summer Programs of Interest:

*Both traditional and day*

[ARCh Camp Pow Wow](#)

[Camp AweSum](#)

[Camp AweSum Family Camp](#)

[Camp David](#)

[Camp Woodbrooke](#)

[Challenge the Outdoors](#)

[Chatter Matters! Communication Camp](#)

[Easter Seals Summer Respite Camp](#)

[Joyful Hearts Camp](#)

[Milwaukee Public School Recreation Division Enrichment Camps](#)

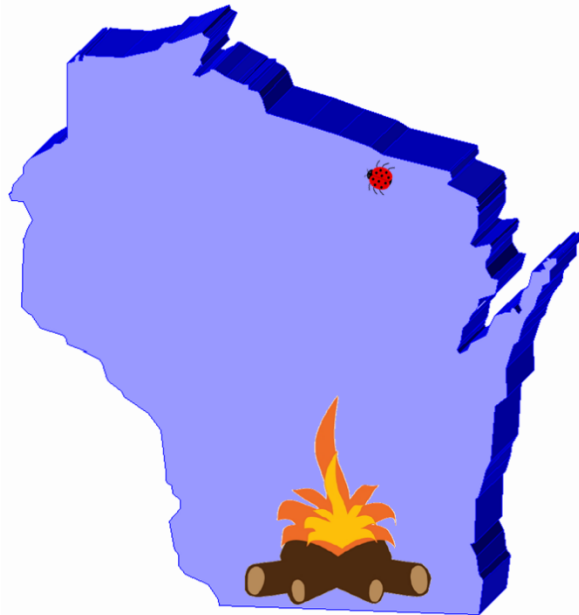
[Team Up! For Fun Day Camp](#)

[UW-W Coed Wheelchair Basketball Camp](#)

[WisconSibs](#)

[Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum](#)

[YMCA Camp Glacier Hollow](#)





## Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

### OUT OF STATE PROGRAMS

*Providing information regarding outside and out of state programs is informational only and is not meant as an affirmation of the quality of the program.*

#### Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind

**Where:** Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Contact:** Aric Wallace: 248-227-9855 / [aricwallace@gmail.com](mailto:aricwallace@gmail.com)

**Dates/Ages/Fees:** June 18-23 Cooking and Serving Camp (ages 10-19) – \$25  
June 25-30 Discovery Camp with Day Camp Option (ages 7-14) – \$25  
June 30 Family Day – all are welcome – FREE!  
July 2-4 Bicycle Camp (ages 7-19) – \$25 Day Camp option  
July 5-7 Chicago Mini-Trip \$100  
July 9-14 Cooking and Jamming Camp (ages 7-14) – \$25  
July 19-26 Adventure Camp to Devil's Lake State Park near Baraboo, Wisconsin (ages 12-19) – \$150

**Website:** <https://www.oubmichigan.org/camps-and-events-schedule/>

#### Lions Bear Lake Camp

**Where:** Lapeer, Michigan

**Contact:** 810-245-0726 / [info@bearlakecamp.org](mailto:info@bearlakecamp.org)

**Dates:** July 9-15

The session is developed and coordinated by a teacher of the blind and visually impaired. While they are having fun, they are developing self-concepts and social skills. The programs are also designed to support the development of orientation and mobility, independence with daily living skills. Campers are also introduced to outdoor recreation skills with a focus on the independent mastery of skills.

**Ages:** 5-16

**Website:** <https://www.bearlakecamp.org/index.php/summer-camps/blind-and-visually-impaired-youth-session>

#### BLIND Inc. : Buddy Program

**Where:** Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Contact:** Michell Gip: 612-872-0100, Ext. 231 / [mgip@blindinc.org](mailto:mgip@blindinc.org)

**Dates:** June 11-25

**Ages:** 9-13

**Description:** "Buddies" will gain important blindness skills along with the empowering attitudes about blindness and exposure to the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) while exploring and experiencing the wonderful Twin Cities.

**Deadline:** April 15

**Website:** <https://www.blindinc.org/programs/youth-programs/buddy-program-2023/>



## **NFB BELL Academy**

**Where:** Varies with program

**Dates:** In home: July 24-August 11 (via Zoom)

**Contact:** [BELL@nfb.org](mailto:BELL@nfb.org)

**Deadline:** Space is limited

**Ages:** 4-12

**Description:** This summer sessions of NFB BELL Academy will take place at 11:00-noon a.m. EDT and at 6:00-7:00 p.m. EDT. It is expected that students will attend one session daily (morning or evening) for the entirety of the three-week program.

**Ages:** 4-12

**Where:** In person: [Arizona](#), [Idaho](#), [Illinois](#), [Louisiana](#), [Missouri](#), [Montana](#), [New Jersey](#), [Tennessee](#), [Texas](#), [Utah](#), [Washington](#)

**Contact:** [BELL@nfb.org](mailto:BELL@nfb.org) / 410-659-9314, extension 2418

**Cost/Deadline:** The cost to attend and deadlines to apply differ

**Ages:** 4-12

**Website:** [https://nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-bell-academy?mc\\_cid=88a0ce9a58&mc\\_eid=63986be140](https://nfb.org/programs-services/nfb-bell-academy?mc_cid=88a0ce9a58&mc_eid=63986be140)

## **Heather's Camp**

**Where:** Elmdale, Kansas

**Contact:** [programs@envisionus.com](mailto:programs@envisionus.com)

**Dates:** July 30-August 2

**Ages:** 7-18

**Description:** An outdoor adventure camp experience where youth who are blind or visually impaired can leave the stress of their lives behind them. At camp, they will be just kids- having fun as any typical child would, in a safe, adventurous and nurturing environment. The experiences and connections made at camp last a lifetime and set children up for a positive and healthy mindset.

**Registration:** \$100 (nonrefundable)

**Deadline:** July 22

**Website:** <https://www.envisionus.com/youth-programs/heathers-camp-for-bvi-kids>





## Other Out of State Programs of Interest:

- [Camp Abilities Four Corners](#) - Arizona
- [Camp Abilities Tucson](#) - Arizona
- [Camp Tatiyee](#) - Arizona
- [Beyond Blindness](#) - California
- [Camp Bloomfield](#) - California
- [Camp GDB](#) - California
- [Enchanted Hills Camp](#) - California
- [YES Academy](#) - California
- [Colorado Lions Camp](#) - Colorado
- [Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind](#) - Florida
- [Lighthouse Of Collier](#) - Florida
- [Georgia Lions' Camp for the Blind, Inc.](#) - Georgia
- [Camp Lions](#) - Illinois
- [Camp Courageous](#) - Iowa
- [Iowa Educational Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired](#) - Iowa
- [Lions Camp Crescendo](#) - Kentucky
- [Louisiana Lions Camp](#) - Louisiana
- [Camp Lawroweld](#) - Maine
- [Pine Tree Camp](#) - Maine
- [The Carroll Center for the Blind](#) - Massachusetts
- [Camp Tuhsmehta Outdoor Adventure Camp](#) - Michigan
- [Leader Dogs for the Blind Summer Experience Camp](#) - Michigan
- [North Star Camp](#) - Minnesota
- [Camp Barnabas](#) - Missouri
- [Missouri School for the Blind](#) - Missouri
- [S.O.A.R.](#) - Missouri
- [Nevada Blind Children's Foundation](#) - Nevada
- [Camp Allen](#) - New Hampshire
- [Helen L. Diller Vacation Home for Blind Children](#) - New Jersey
- [Camp Abilities Brockport](#) - New York





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[Lions Camp Badger](#) - New York

[VCB Family Week](#) - New York

[Visions](#) - New York

[Camp Dogwood](#) - North Carolina

[S.E.E. Outdoor Adventure Camp](#) - North Carolina

[Ohio State School for the Blind](#) - Ohio

[OWL Camp](#) (Oklahomans Without Limits) - Oklahoma

[Camp Spark](#) - Oregon /Washington

[Adventures Beyond Site Summer Camp](#) - Pennsylvania

[Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh](#) - Pennsylvania

[Blind Sports Organization](#) - Pennsylvania

[Connxions Children Program](#) - Pennsylvania

[Camp Leo](#) - South Carolina

[Sunset Lake](#) – Washington

## For more specialized summer programs, please explore...

[Very special camps](#)

[NeedyMeds camps list](#)

[NeedyMeds camps in Wisconsin](#)

[Council of Schools and Services for the Blind](#) list of camps

[KidsCamps.com](#) list of camps for children with visual impairments

[National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability](#) list of camps

[American Camp Association](#) - find a camp page (can search by disability)

[National Camps for Blind Children \(NCBC\)](#) list of camps for children with visual impairments

The information in this document is strictly informational. With the exception of the events held here, the Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired does not endorse nor are we affiliated with any of the programs listed above. Please contact the camps to verify the information provided here. This is not an all-inclusive list, and some programs have residency requirements.

**Please confirm camp status and  
all information prior to travel.**



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