

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Who can attend Camp Burnt Gin?** Camp Burnt Gin is for children 7 through 15, teenagers 16 through 20, and young adults 21-25 years of age who have physical disabilities and chronic illnesses.

**Is this an overnight camp or day camp?** Camp Burnt Gin is a camp where the campers spend the night. You bring your child to camp on the first day of their scheduled session and pick them up on the morning of the last day of the session.

**When should applications for enrollment be submitted?** Deadline for receiving applications is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications received after the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline will be considered depending on available space.

**What are the campers' disabilities?** Some of the more common disabilities are cerebral palsy, spina bifida, seizures, sickle cell anemia, hearing loss, chromosomal disorders, and heart disease. The severity of the disabilities varies tremendously. There are children who require very little assistance from the counselors and there are children who need help with all aspects of daily living.

**Who will take care of my child's medical needs?** Two nurses are available at all times to give medicine, first aid and supervise the children's medical treatments. Sumter Pediatrics serve as our camp doctors and the local hospital is approximately 20 minutes away.

**Who will live with and take care of my child?** In each cabin of eight campers, there is a minimum of three counselors. The counselors are college students who have experience in working with children and who are interested in working with children who have special needs.

**What type of training is provided for the counselors?** The camp staff participate in a week-long training program where they learn about the health conditions of the campers and the special care the campers require. Other training topics include safety and emergency procedures, positive behavior management, camp activities and operating procedures.

**What level of supervision is camp able to provide?** In each cabin of eight campers, there is a minimum of three counselors. Camp Burnt Gin cannot provide one-to-one supervision.

**What is the level of supervision during rest hour and at night?** During these times, one counselor is on duty in the cabin and the other staff have free time. A minimum of three staff members sleep in the cabin with the campers. A staff member sleeps in front of each door exiting the cabin.

**My child has never been away from home. What if he becomes homesick?** Almost all children whether they have special needs or not, experience some homesickness. The camp staff is trained to help children adjust to being away from home. Usually once the children get involved in the camp activities and start having fun, they do fine. If however, a child does not adjust to being away from home, the camp staff will contact the parents.

**When will I find out if my child is accepted to attend camp?** Acceptance is determined on an individual basis. Many factors are considered in determining acceptance including the child's physical disability, medical and personal needs and whether or not the child is able to participate in another camping program. Parents are notified of their child's acceptance in May.

**What is the cost of Camp Burnt Gin?** There is no cost to the family for their child to attend Camp Burnt Gin. However, if you would like, you may make a tax-deductible donation to Camp Burnt Gin. Checks should be made payable to "Camp Burnt Gin" and mailed to Camp Burnt Gin Box 101106, Columbia, SC 29211. Donations will be deposited into the Camp Burnt Gin account and used to support camp programs and activities.

**Is transportation to and from camp provided?** Transportation to and from camp is the responsibility of the child's family.

### **For Additional Information Contact:**

**Camp Director,  
Marie Aimone**  
[aimonemi@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:aimonemi@dhec.sc.gov)  
[www.scdhec.gov/  
campburntgin](http://www.scdhec.gov/campburntgin)  
**803-898-0784**



South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control