

CAMP OASIS FAQ



What is Camp Oasis?

Camp Oasis is the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation's summer camp program that enriches the lives of children with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis by providing them with a safe and supportive camp community.

What are the dates of Camp Oasis?

Sessions run throughout the summer. Visit our [Find a Camp](#) page to learn more.

Where is Camp Oasis located?

There are a total of 11 residential Camp Oasis locations throughout the country. Please visit our [Find a Camp](#) page to find the one closest to you. We also offer a virtual session ([CampOasis@Home](#)) for those unable to join us in-person.

How is camper eligibility determined?

Any child entering 2nd through 12th grade in the Fall with medically stable inflammatory bowel disease is invited to apply. Capacity, session dates, and application deadlines vary by site. See our [Find a Camp](#) page for more information.

What is the LIT program?

The Leaders in Training (LIT) program is a special leadership development program for our oldest campers. It runs for the duration of each session and combines the fun of camp with additional age-appropriate responsibilities and leadership building activities. On a typical day, LITs might attend a leadership meeting, assist with a special activity, help entertain a group of younger campers, or participate in several camp activities alongside their fellow campers. While this program develops leadership skills, participants are still considered campers and will be supervised within age-appropriate ratios. The age range for the LIT Program varies by site, so please visit our [Find a Camp](#) page for more information. All age-eligible attendees must apply to be part of the LIT program.

Is there on-site medical care?

Each camp is equipped with a 24-hour on-site health center staffed by physicians, nurses, mental health professionals, and dietitians experienced in working with IBD patients. Careful steps are taken to ensure that campers follow all medical treatments prescribed by their doctors back home.

How does Camp Oasis select its counselors and activities staff?

Many of the staff at our Camp Oasis sites are adult volunteers with IBD who have experience working with kids & teens. Many have worked at Camp Oasis before and some have even been campers. All are carefully screened, including background checks, and trained to ensure a safe and comfortable setting.

What do campers/LITs do all day?

The typical camp day starts around 8:30AM and ends at approximately 9:30PM, though bedtimes vary by age. The daily schedule usually includes several activity periods (swimming, arts and crafts, team sports, etc.) and an evening activity (campfire, Talent Show, Scavenger Hunt, etc.), as well as three meals, a snack, a rest hour, and time for showering and cabin clean-up. While all camp sessions have a similar schedule, each site has its own unique activities and programming.

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What are the cabins, bathroom facilities, and meals like?

At Camp Oasis, we want the kids to focus on having fun, so we provide comfortable enclosed cabins that are either equipped with or located very close to sanitary bathrooms and shower facilities. We also ensure there are bathrooms located throughout camp for easy access all day and strive to provide IBD friendly meal and snack options.

Can I see what the camp looks like for myself?

Due to our host sites' busy schedules, we cannot accommodate on-site visits, but you are more than welcome to view the host site's website. Simply enter their name in your browser for a sneak peak of the facility, activities, and fun!

Can I volunteer at camp if my child attends?

One of the most important outcomes that our campers experience is an increased sense of independence. To foster that outcome, we do not allow parents of campers to serve as on-site volunteers. If you are interested in helping in other ways, some of our sites could use Travel Chaperones and/or Check-in Volunteers. Please visit our [Find a Camp](#) page to apply.

Can I talk to my child during camp?

Due to the busy nature of our camp schedule, campers cannot receive unplanned phone calls, but letters are always welcome. We distribute mail to campers daily. Additionally, you may send your child with self-addressed stamped envelopes as there will be time each day for letter writing.

What does my child need to bring to camp?

Just the basics - active clothes and footwear, toiletries, and linens. Please do not pack anything expensive, sentimental, or anything else you don't want to potentially get lost or broken. We'll send you a complete packing list several weeks prior to camp.

How does the application process work?

1. Choose your camp and apply online:

- Visit our, "[Find a Camp](#)" page and select your preferred location.
- Complete the online application for that camp.
- Remember to apply each year you want to attend, even if you've been before.

2. Complete additional forms:

- After submitting the online application, you'll receive a confirmation email with downloadable forms.
- Fill out these forms with help from designated parties (like parents and doctors).
- Send the completed forms to the Foundation's National Camp Office.

3. Meet the deadline:

- Check the website for application deadlines and make sure your forms are submitted on time.
- Applications are only considered complete when all required forms are received.

4. Application review:

- A medical professional will review each application to ensure camp readiness.
- LIT applicants will have an additional review, including a phone interview, to assess leadership skills.

5. Notification and next steps:

- You'll receive an email once your application is reviewed.
- The email will include further camp information and next steps.

For a visual guide, check out our [Camper/LIT Application Process Flowchart](#).

How much does it cost to attend camp?

While there is a fee for Camp Oasis, attendance scholarships are available to those who qualify. Additional information can be found in our [Camp Oasis Attendance Fee, Scholarship, & Travel Stipend FAQ](#).

Is transportation provided?

Some of our sites offer transportation to/from the camp that serves your region. Contact the Director of Camp Oasis, Lori Butterfield, at (646) 477 - 4765 / lbutterfield@crohnscolitisfoundation.org to see what arrangements might be available in your area.

Is travel assistance available?

We understand that many of our families travel a long distance to bring their child to camp. To assist with the cost, we offer \$75 travel stipends if you must drive more than 100 miles one-way to camp. You can also request airfare assistance to get to your regional camp location. You may apply for this assistance when submitting your online application.

Are international campers or volunteers allowed to apply?

We welcome everyone who wishes to attend or volunteer at camp to apply. You can apply to any of our camp locations, but please be aware that precedence will be given to campers and volunteers who reside in the camp's region. After you have applied, please contact the Associate Director of Camp & Community Engagement, Daniel Marinoni, at (646) 771 - 0455 / camp@crohnscolitisfoundation.org to make them aware of your situation.

How do I donate?

You can make a financial contribution to the Camp Oasis program using this [donation form](#). Please note that as we do not own or operate any of the camp facilities, we cannot accept in-kind donations.

How can I stay in touch with my camp friends in the off-season?

A great way to keep in contact and get together with your Camp Oasis friends is by creating a Take Steps Camp Oasis Team. Invite your family, friends, and fellow campers to join your team and join with others across the US as we raise money for a cure. Visit www.cctakesteps.org and choose the Camp Oasis National Team.

I have additional questions about camp. Who should I contact?

Please contact the Associate Director of Camp & Community Engagement, Daniel Marinoni, at (646) 771 - 0455 / camp@crohnscolitisfoundation.org