



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As Summer 2026 approaches, the John J. Nerden RTC Camp staff is happy to welcome back our many old friends, and reach out to the new ones by sending out our camper application. As a refresher for returning families, and to first time camper families, we send along the following information to help you prepare for a great camp season:

Camp will run from: **June 22 - August 7, 2026.**

1. ELIGIBILITY: Children and adults with intellectual disabilities are eligible to enroll at camp. Camper age may range from 6 years through adulthood. Eligible campers are those who the camp directors feel will benefit from the program, and whose behavior will not seriously interfere with the physical and material welfare of other campers, volunteers, or staff. Eligibility decisions are made at the sole discretion of the camp directors and may be changed at any time throughout the summer season, if needed.

Please note: Our camp is designed as a recreational program and does not follow Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 Plans. We are unable to provide dedicated 1:1 staff or volunteers for children who may require this level of support. However, if you wish to provide your own 1:1 support person that is perfectly acceptable. We simply just ask that you notify us in advance to arrange a meeting prior to camp's starting date to discuss proper protocol. Thank you for your understanding! Please reach out with any clarifying questions.

2. CAMPER APPLICATION: Please complete and return. Applications must be mailed to P.O. Box 2617, Meriden, CT 06450 or scanned/emailed to campnerdendirector@gmail.com. Applications must be received by **May 31st** or brought to the Open House on Sunday, **June 7th** between **12:00 pm-2:00pm**. **We will accept applications throughout the summer, as long as it is completed before your camper arrives for their intended start camp date to ensure all paperwork is completed.** Incomplete applications will not be processed. *Please note: No child will be allowed at camp without access to parent or emergency contact person by phone at all times.*

3. REGISTRATION: Camp is open for 7 weeks. Campers can sign up for any days/weeks that work for their schedule. This application will be reviewed by the camp directors and medical staff. You will be contacted if there are questions concerning the application. *For returning campers* once paperwork is sent in, unless you hear from us, your child MAY begin camp on June 22, 2026. *New campers* are **not allowed** to start unless there has been a confirmation from the director that the camper is all set.

All forms must be completely filled out and signed before a child can attend camp.

4. MEDICAL FORMS: Please have your child's Doctor complete the attached forms. (A copy of the school physical done within the last three years is acceptable.) The Medical Forms **MUST** accompany the application in order for your child to attend camp and must be signed by a parent and physician.

Please be sure to sign ALL MEDICAL FORMS. **Medical Forms I, II and III** are to be completed and signed by the medical doctor before camp starts.

5. MEDICATION: If your child is required to take medication at camp, a copy of the Doctor's prescription **MUST** accompany the original pharmacy bottle. This must be brought on the first day. Meds must be dropped off/ picked up by a parent or guardian.



- 6. ABUSE AND NEGLECT:** It is the policy of the John J. Nerden RTC Camp to follow the state law and report child abuse or neglect. A full and complete written statement of our policy and procedure is posted at camp. John J. Nerden Regional Training Center Camp, Inc. is a community supported facility for people with intellectual disabilities
- 7. TRANSPORTATION:** For Meriden/Wallingford residents, please refer to the Bus Schedule. ***Please write your bus stop on the camper application.*** Scheduled times for pick-up and return may vary slightly the first week, as we try to accommodate all of our campers. It is recommended that you arrive at the bus stop 10-15 minutes early. ***Please indicate what the transportation will be if not one of our buses.***
- 8. CLOTHING/PERSONAL BELONGINGS:** Please clearly label all clothing. A bathing suit and towel are needed daily. Sneakers are required. Flip flops/sandals are only permitted when in the pool area. If your child is prone to accidents, please send a change of clothes. Please also send in sunscreen. We recommend keeping a sweatshirt in campers' bags for cooler weather conditions. We are not responsible for any lost or stolen items and strongly discourage bringing any valuables to Camp; *this includes cell phones, electronic devices, and toys.*
- 9. LUNCH:** Campers need to bring a bag lunch with a drink every day.
- 10. CAMP HOURS/DROP OFF:** Camp runs from **9:00 AM until 3:00 PM**. Campers may begin arriving by bus or other transportation at 8:55 am. Please note we do not accept drop offs before 8:55 am.
- 11. DISMISSAL:** Buses leave camp at **3:00 PM**. If a camper has their own transportation they need to be picked up at 3:00 PM, and need to check out with appropriate camp staff before leaving.
- 12. ACTIVITIES:** Our camp activities are Arts & Crafts, Music, Outdoor Recreation, Indoor Recreation and Swimming, which begin at 10:00 AM preceded by Opening Ceremonies and Group morning meetings starting at 9:30 AM.
- 13. REACH:** This will be the twenty-seventh year of our REACH PROGRAM (Recreational Entertainment After Camp Hours). This program of special activities and dinner runs from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Tuesday and Thursday for five weeks out of the seven-week session. **All** participating campers will be picked up by parents at 8:00 PM. **If your child is selected to participate for a REACH Night, an application form will be sent home with your child. This program costs \$15 per session. Camper participation in REACH is by invitation only at the discretion of the Camp Directors.*
- 14. RAINY DAYS/SEVERE HEAT:** Please use your judgment in sending your child to camp on a rainy day. Even though we are open on rainy days, we have limited indoor facilities. Directors may make the decision that the Rainy Day program is not appropriate for certain campers. Parents should be prepared to make alternate arrangements if necessary. Additionally, when severe heat is forecasted, we may send home a notice discouraging attendance due to limited facilities with air conditioning.
- 15. OPEN HOUSE:** We will host an Open House on Sunday, **June 7th** from **12:00 PM to 2:00 PM** at camp. *We strongly encourage all new families to attend.*



If you have any questions, please feel free to call Director Evelyn Nassif at (203)-819-6094 or Assistant Director Conor Walsh at (203) 584-1235.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Nassif campnerdendirector@gmail.com

Conor Walsh campnerdenad@gmail.com