

A MOST EXCELLENT RACE

Benefiting the Achievement Centers for Children's Camp Cheerful

Camp Cheerful

"Going to Camp Cheerful is like taking a vacation from my disability!"

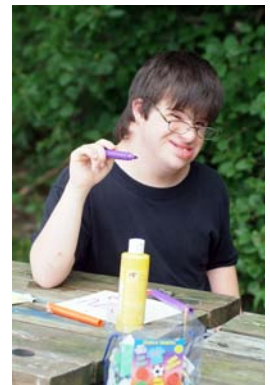
Camp Cheerful Camper

In 1947, Camp Cheerful, located in the Cleveland Metroparks Mill Run Reservation in Strongsville, opened as Ohio's first camp for individuals with disabilities. Today, years later, campers with physical, developmental, medical and sensory disabilities continue to enjoy and benefit from typical camp activities in a barrier-free environment.

At Camp Cheerful, children and adults with disabilities participate in a variety of recreational activities that encourage confidence and independence, and create opportunities for lifelong friendships while having fun and improving their quality of life. In 2010 Camp Cheerful was selected by the National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET) as a NASSET Blue Ribbon Camp, **one of only four camps nationwide** that achieved this distinction.

Through the Residential and Day Camp programs, campers enjoy all the traditional camp activities including: hiking, swimming, fishing, canoeing, arts and crafts, nature study activities, games, campfire activities, music and sports as well as a new state-of-the-art, fully handicap-accessible high ropes challenge course. In 2010, more than 1,700 campers enjoyed Camp Cheerful, with a ratio of one staff to four campers.

The therapeutic riding program was introduced in 2005. Last year, 4,048 therapeutic riding lessons were given. North American Riding for the Handicapped Association certified Camp Cheerful as a Premier Accredited Center Program, one of only ten in Ohio. More than 250 volunteers assist with the therapeutic riding program. Camp Cheerful also offers specialized programs for children with autism.



Camp Cheerful Campers having fun!

