



# Camp Directory

**2026 Summer | Creating Connection through Collaboration**  
Powered by Autism Ontario and Variety Ontario



# Who We Are

## Autism Ontario

Autism Ontario supports autistic people and their families at every stage of life. Through programs, resources, and advocacy, the organization works to build understanding, acceptance, and inclusive communities across Ontario. Autism Ontario connects families with trusted information, meaningful supports, and opportunities to learn, grow, and feel supported — always guided by the voices and experiences of the autism community.

## Variety – the Children’s Charity of Ontario

Variety – the Children’s Charity of Ontario helps children and youth with disabilities discover their strengths, build confidence, and have fun. From inclusive camps and adapted sports to access to specialized equipment and family supports, Variety creates opportunities for kids to participate, belong, and thrive. At the heart of Variety’s work is a belief that every child deserves the chance to be included and celebrated.

## Autism Ontario & Variety Ontario Camp Partnership

Together, Autism Ontario and Variety – the Children’s Charity of Ontario offer Camp Connect, an inclusive camp experience designed with autistic campers and their families in mind. By combining autism-informed support with fun, accessible recreation, Camp Connect creates a welcoming environment where children feel safe, supported, and excited to be themselves. Families can feel confident knowing their child is cared for by trained, compassionate staff in a camp community that encourages friendship, personal growth, and joyful summer memories — creating connection through community.



## A Trusted Source

We are an accredited member of the Ontario Camps Association, part of a unique group of camps who maintain the highest standards of safety, food services, leadership, programs, and administration.

# What We Offer

## **1:1 Camper to Staff Relationships**

Our camp maintains a 1:1 camper-to-staff ratio to ensure every child receives the care, attention, and support they need to feel safe and successful at camp. This dedicated support allows staff to build strong, trusting relationships with campers throughout the week and truly get to know their interests, strengths, and preferences. With this individualized approach, staff can tailor each camper's experience while encouraging choice, independence, and autonomy, empowering campers to take an active role in shaping their own camp experience.

## **Camp Groups**

Our camp offers six age-based program groups, each with a maximum of eight campers. This small-group, low-ratio environment allows for personalized support while fostering meaningful peer connections, creating a welcoming and inclusive experience for campers of all ages.

## **Summer Social Skills Institute (SSSI)**

SSSI is our only camp that does not offer 1:1 support, intentionally designed to encourage independence and peer connection. For youth and young adults ages 14+ with Level 1 autism,

participants build social skills in a small group with a 1:3 mentor ratio. Guided community activities support friendship-building, communication, and real-life skills in a structured, positive environment.

## **Structured Programming**

Each week at camp is filled with fun, structured activities tailored to each group's age and developmental level. Campers enjoy special in-house activities and swimming, room-specific community outings, exciting camp-wide trips, and themed celebration days to wrap up the week. Families receive a detailed weekly schedule with full programming and trip details. With a mix of indoor and outdoor experiences, our program offers a balanced, engaging, and memorable camp experience for every camper.

## **Camp Location**

Trillium Woods Public School, 18 Alamo Heights Dr.  
Richmond Hill ON, L4S 2P3

## **Camp Hours**

Camp runs weekdays with drop-off from 9:00–9:30 a.m. and pick-up from 3:00–3:30 p.m. Daily programming is from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

# Camp Programs

## Adventure Partners

Adventure Partners is a 1:1 support program designed for campers ages 4+ who benefit from individualized guidance throughout their camp experience. Each camper is paired with their own dedicated counselor to ensure consistent safety, support, and encouragement throughout the week.

Campers are grouped into five age-based camp groups, allowing programming to remain age-appropriate while giving participants the opportunity to build friendships and share experiences with peers. Days are thoughtfully planned to include engaging on-site camp activities as well as carefully supervised off-site adventures such as swimming and bowling.



Campers enjoy active recreation, meaningful social time, and age-appropriate experiences both at camp and in the community. With highly trained counselors supporting participation and facilitating social opportunities, campers explore new environments, enjoy sensory and developmental experiences, and build confidence in a safe, structured, and positive setting.

<b>Program Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Help each camper feel safe, supported, and confident with their dedicated counselor by their side.</li><li>- Encourage campers to try new adventures, whether at camp or out in the community!</li><li>- Celebrate each camper's unique strengths, interests, and successes every single day.</li><li>- Most importantly, make sure every camper has a fun, positive, and memorable summer experience!</li></ul>
<b>To join this program, participants need to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Be within the program's eligible age range (4+).</li><li>- Have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)</li><li>- Be able to participate safely in a 1:1 supported camp setting.</li><li>- Be comfortable with (or willing to work on!) participating in community outings and offsite adventures.</li><li>- Come ready for a week(s) of fun, movement, learning, and new experiences!</li></ul>

## Social Skills Summer Institute (SSSI)

The SSSI program supports youth and young adults ages 14+ with Level 1/2 (low support needs) autism who are ready to build independence and social confidence. In a small, supportive group with a 1:2 mentor ratio, participants practice real-life skills through guided community activities such as dining out, shopping, and event planning.

With a focus on friendship-building, communication, and essential life skills like budgeting and decision-making, participants learn by doing in a structured, positive, and encouraging environment—gaining confidence, connections, and practical skills for everyday life.

<b>Program Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Help each participant feel supported, respected, and confident with their dedicated counselor.</li><li>- Encourage participants to build meaningful friendships and enjoy positive peer interactions.</li><li>- Promote active participation in fun offsite activities like swimming, bowling, and other community outings.</li><li>- Create opportunities for participants to experience success, belonging, and personal growth.</li><li>- Most importantly, ensure every participant enjoys a fun, engaging, and memorable summer in a safe and supportive environment.</li></ul>
<b>To join this program, participants need to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Be within the program's eligible age range (14+).</li><li>- Have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)</li><li>- Be able to participate in a 1:2 supported program setting.</li><li>- Be willing and able to take part in community-based outings and recreational activities (with support).</li><li>- Be ready for a summer filled with social opportunities, new experiences, and fun activities!</li></ul>



# A Week At A Glance

A week at our camp is packed with fun, adventure, and new experiences! Each day is a mix of hands-on activities, outdoor play, swimming, and exciting challenges designed just for each age group. Campers go on group-specific outings, join camp-wide trips to places like the zoo or water parks, and celebrate themed special days with games, crafts, and laughter. With a 1:1 camper-to-staff ratio, every camper gets personal support while also having the freedom to make choices, try new things, and lead their own camp adventure. From making friends to exploring new skills and creating unforgettable memories, every week is full of joy, discovery, and summer magic!

## Sample Weekly Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-9:30 a.m.	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival	Arrival
9:30-10:00 a.m.	Camp Tour and Introduction	Bus to Trip	Outdoor water fun	Bus to Trip	Games
10:00-10:30 a.m.	Sensory & Science	Day Trip & Restaurant Lunch	Special Guest	Day Trip	Camp Wide Event led by SSSI Group
10:30-11:00 a.m.					
11:00-11:30 a.m.	Arts & Crafts		Arts & Crafts		
11:30-12:00 p.m.					
12:00-12:30 p.m.	Lunch		Lunch		Lunch
12:30-1:00 p.m.	Walk to Pool				Walk to Pool
1:00-1:30 p.m.	Swimming		Splash Pad		Swimming
1:30-2:00 p.m.					
2:00-2:30 p.m.	Walk to Camp		Walk to Camp		
2:30-3:00 p.m.	Games	Bus to Camp	Games	Bus to Camp	Games
3:00-3:30 p.m.	Departure	Departure	Departure	Departure	Departure

# Camp Dates and Fees

Week	Dates	# of Camp Days	Adventure Partners Fee	SSSI Fee
Week 1	July 6, 2026 to July 10, 2026	5	\$1450.00	\$1230.00
Week 2	July 13, 2026 to July 17, 2026	5	\$1450.00	\$1230.00
Week 3	July 20, 2026 to July 24, 2026	5	\$1450.00	\$1230.00
Week 4	July 27, 2026 to July 31, 2026	5	\$1450.00	\$1230.00
Week 5	August 4, 2026 to August 7, 2026	4	\$1160.00	\$990.00
Week 6	August 10, 2026 to August 14, 2026	5	\$1450.00	\$1230.00



# Registration Process

Registration for camp is based on each camper's support needs and available spaces in each age group, so it is not first come, first served. **The registration window opens Monday, March 30, 2026, and closes Sunday, April 12, 2026.** Once the window closes, our team will review all registrations to determine placements for each week.

Families will receive a **confirmation email in mid-May** letting you know which weeks your child is registered for and any weeks they have been placed on the waitlist. We will continue to maintain a waitlist after all weeks are confirmed, and spots will be filled as they become available based on camper needs and group availability, not the order registrations were submitted.

This process ensures every camper receives the support and space they need to have a safe, fun, and meaningful camp experience.

## How to Register

- **Create your [Community Portal](#) account**
  - Create the account using your contact information. You will be prompted to add other members of your household once you have created the account
  - Have key information ready including:
    - Child's name
    - Child's date of birth
    - Emergency contact details
    - Medical or accessibility information
- **Review camp dates in advance**

Browse camps ahead of time so you know which weeks you want to register for once registration opens.
- **Be ready to register online during the two week registration period**

Registration is completed through the [Community Portal](#).

## Paying for Camp

A 50% deposit is required upon confirmation of registration. The remaining 50% balance is due on June 1st. All fees must be paid in full prior to a camper's first day of camp. Payments are accepted online by credit card or VISA debit through the [Community Portal](#).

If you have any questions or require assistance with payment, please contact us.

# Camp Funding

## Funding & Invoicing Information

Invoices can be provided for agencies managing SSAH or Passport funding. Please note that our summer camp is a recreational program and does not qualify for Ontario Autism Program (OAP) funding or Interim One-Time Funding. Therapeutic or clinical interventions are not provided as part of this program.

## Potential Funding Sources

Families may be eligible to use funding from the following programs to support participation in our camps and programs:

- Canadian Tire Jumpstart - [Individual Child Grant](#)
- Ontario Government - [Special Services at Home](#)
- Ontario Government - [Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities Programs](#)
- Ontario Government - [Passport Funding](#)



# Camp Policies

## Behaviour Policy

Your child's participation in our camp program is dependent upon the ability of the camp to meet the needs of your child. Our staff team is trained to deal with most situations that are expected to occur when dealing with autistic individuals. If your child's behaviour, actions, or medical condition is beyond the scope of our staff's capacity, then we will require your input for management advice. If it remains outside of our staff's capacity, then we will notify you to pick your child up from camp. If this occurs, a partial refund of fees may be available depending on the situation.

## Refund and Cancellation Policy

To request a refund for camps, please send an email based on the schedule provided in the chart below. Alternatively, you can receive an in-house credit that can be applied towards other camps, programs, or membership fees, if the guidelines mentioned below are followed.

Exceptions to this policy are only given in the event of a medical emergency supported by certification from a legally qualified medical practitioner not related to the camper. Refunds will not be provided for inclement weather or for days of camp not attended.

We will do everything possible to avoid program cancellations, however we reserve the right to cancel and/or combine sessions of camp due to unforeseen circumstances or if the minimum enrolment is not met. In either of these instances, we will notify camp families one week before the session start date or provide families with a full refund.

Refund requests can be submitted to [campconnect@varietyontario.ca](mailto:campconnect@varietyontario.ca).

Request Date	Refund/Credit	Admin Fee
Before June 1, 2026	100%	\$30.00
After June 1, 2026	100%	\$100.00
Less than 30 days before the First Day of Camp Week	No Refund	N/A