FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I register for AAC Camp Alberta?

- Registration opens each year about 4-5 months before camp starts.
- Registration forms are digital and can be filled out online. Forms will be posted on the camp website (<u>uab.ca/aaccamp</u>).
- There is typically an early bird registration deadline and a final registration deadline - check the camp webpage (<u>uab.ca/aaccamp</u>) for current registration deadlines.
- Registration applications will be reviewed after each deadline to make sure space is available. You will be notified of acceptance within a week after the registration deadline.

Where is AAC Camp Alberta located?

- The 2025 camp is being held at Easter Seals Camp Horizon, located just 11 km southwest of Bragg Creek. This is approximately 50 minutes west of Calgary and 3½ hours south of Edmonton.
- Find Camp Horizon on Google Maps

How much does it cost to attend AAC Camp Alberta?

- The 2025 cost is \$650 (or \$550 early bird) for the camper and up to two family members. Additional family members are welcome to join us and this will cost \$175 per person (or \$125 early bird) for the weekend. This covers food, accommodations and all programming throughout the weekend.
- If you are unable to attend due to cost, please contact us to discuss options for subsidy.

Who is with my camper?

- Each camper is paired with a graduate student in the SLP, OT, or PT program, supervised by licensed SLPs, OTs, and PTs.
- Counselors engage with your camper and support their participation in camp activities and encourage the use of the camper's device and paper-based communication tools.
- Parents are responsible for daily care activities, such as assistance with changing clothes, toileting, and feeding.

• Our focus is on embedding communication opportunities within all camp activities throughout the weekend.

Can my camper attend without a parent or guardian?

 No. AAC Camp Alberta is a "family camp," and at least one parent or guardian must attend with the camper.

What kind of activities are there to do at AAC Camp Alberta?

- At Camp Horizon, campers and siblings can go on the high and low ropes courses, play in the splash park, participate in archery, try adapted bikes and pedal carts, have fun around the campfire and more!
- Parents have time to socialize, take sessions to support their camper's communication skills as well as their own, and have a special "Parent's Night Out!"
- There are central areas in the dorms for socializing and relaxing when scheduled activities are done.
- Campers have access to a quiet area as well as a sensory zone to meet their unique sensory needs.

What is a typical day at camp?

- Families and volunteers go to the main hall for all of their meals, which are served "family style."
- In the morning and afternoon, camper teams will rotate through activity stations with their counselors and team leader.
- Sunday morning will include a special "family activity" that provides parents and siblings with opportunities to practice aided language modeling with the campers.
- On Friday evening, all campers and family members can join the campfire sing-along after dinner.
- This year there will also be a dance party in the main hall on Saturday evening as part of the special "10th Anniversary Gala!"
- A detailed schedule will be provided to all families before camp starts.

Do you have a social story to help my camper get ready for camp?

 We sure do! Your camper's counselor will share this with you before camp starts.

What will my camper's siblings do all day?

 Have fun! They join a "sibling group" with student counselor(s) to participate in camp activities and to learn ways of supporting their sibling's communication. Older siblings are also welcome to join some of the parent sessions.

How accessible is the camp? Is it accessible to people in wheelchairs?

- AAC Camp Alberta is an inclusive experience, with the philosophy that ALL campers have the opportunity to participate in all of the activities.
- Activities such as archery and high ropes have been modified to ensure they can be accessed by participants with wheelchairs as well as those needing access with switches.
- The Camp Horizon facilities and activities are fully accessible for wheelchair users.

What if my camper needs a modified diet?

- Please be prepared to modify the food served at camp by bringing a blender or other items (e.g. thickener).
- The camp dining staff will do their best to accommodate allergies and common dietary restrictions (e.g. vegetarian, dairy-free, gluten-free).
- Camp Horizon has a strict nut-free policy.

My child is a picky eater. Can we bring our own food?

 You may bring special food items for your camper. However, Camp Horizon asks that no one eat or store food in their cabins. There is a small shared refrigerator in the main hall that families can use. Be sure to label any food you bring.

What are the sleeping accommodations at camp?

- Overnight accommodations at Camp Horizon are "rustic."
- Most families will be placed in older cabins (with 2-4 bunks per cabin).

- Families with children in wheelchairs, etc., may prefer accommodations in a newer dormitory-style lodge, but may need to share a room (10 bunks per room) with another family or families.
- All bunks have mattresses but you must provide your own bedding or sleeping bags.
- Please see examples of these accommodations here

I missed the deadline for registration. Can I still sign up for camp?

 Late registrations will be considered on a case-by-case basis, if there is space available. You may also be placed on a Wait List in case another family cancels.

What if I need to cancel my family's registration?

 If you must cancel your registration due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances, please contact aaccamp@ualberta.ca as soon as possible. Registration fees are refundable, minus a \$50 administrative fee, prior to May 1, 2025. Please note that refunds after May 1 are not possible.

How do I get in contact with the AAC Camp Alberta organizers?

• Please feel free to contact us at aaccamp@ualberta.ca