



Camp Avanti provides an intensive occupational therapy program within a rustic camp setting for children ages 6 to 15 who have learning disabilities and/or sensory processing dysfunction (SPD). While campers have average or above average intelligence, they may demonstrate poor coordination, hyperactivity, attention deficits, inappropriate or delayed development, poor self-care skills and/or inadequate adaptive behavior resulting in behavioral problems.

OUR MISSION

We promote the developmental growth of participating campers. We are a catalyst for professional development and growth through the shared expertise of participating professionals. We increase understanding of sensory motor problems and ways to help children.

PROGRAMS

Avanti provides a variety of programs to serve the needs of children, therapists and the community. The children we serve are those who have average or above average intelligence but have diagnosed learning disabilities and/or sensory processing dysfunction. These children may have poor coordination, attention deficits, hyperactivity, inadequate motor planning skills, and/or sensory processing disorders. Because Camp Avanti has been designed for group experience, therapeutic support is geared toward facilitating peer interaction with camp activities. Staff/camper ratio ranges from three to five staff to eight children during daytime activities.

There are three ways for children to experience camp.

- Day Camp (girls and boys, ages 6–8) \$700
- Overnight Camp (girls and boys, ages 8–12) \$1,100
- Challenge Camp (Canoe Trip) (girls and boys, ages 12–15) \$825

Camp Avanti is where we all come together. It is our core summer camp program that combines an exciting camp environment with an intensive sensory integration treatment approach.

Campers participate in a broad range of fun activities that also have a therapeutic benefit. Campers also receive occupational therapy utilizing neurobehavioral theories. **Every camper's program is created in advance for the individual.** It is also updated throughout the week to take full advantage of the experience. The goal is to provide a total treatment environment in the context of a fun camp experience.

WHAT TO EXPECT

One highlight of the experience is during campfire gatherings. This is a special opportunity for singing, self-expression and camaraderie. Demonstrations of Native American lore and drumming are popular. Other activities include:

- Arts and crafts
- Boating: canoeing/kayaking/sailing
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Music
- Nature activities
- Outdoor games
- Swimming
- WonderLab: A Sensory Integration (SI) Therapy-Based treatment activity.

We also offer an advanced experience only for campers who have graduated from Overnight Camp—the Avanti Challenge Camp for ages 12–15.

Camp Avanti 2018 is Sunday, July 1–Friday, July 6, 2018. The location is Camp Icahowan in Amery, Wisconsin. This is a YMCA camp set on a 40-acre island surrounded by Lake Wapogasset. The camp is approximately a 90-minute drive east from the Twin Cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

ABOUT

We believe that all people seek to interact with their environment in a meaningful and purposeful way. Through activity, individuals develop the ability to respond productively. Health, therefore, is the result of a person's ability to participate successfully in tasks that are meaningful and relevant to an individual's age, interests and roles in life.

For the children, Camp Avanti provides a safe environment in which children can develop positive interpersonal relationships and improve sensory motor skills through appropriate and motivating leisure activities. Gaining skills builds a greater sense of self-control, competence and self-esteem.

For our field, we provide documentation on the effects of therapy programs and techniques through our research. We also act as an advanced training center for occupational therapists worldwide.

HISTORY

Our model was conceived and developed by Patricia Wilbarger (MEd, OTR, FAOTA) in the early 1980s. The model combined experience for children with advanced training for therapists. The model joined experience for children with advanced training for therapists.

For the children, the camps are intensive sensory integration and occupational therapy treatment.

For the therapists, it also serves as a unique development opportunity. Both benefit in the camp setting. And, like all camp experiences, our goal is to encourage fun as well!

The first Avanti camp, Camp Cachuma, was held in 1983. Co-directed by Patricia and Julia Wilbarger, the camp was held in the mountains behind Santa Barbara, California. When Camp Cachuma was sold in 1989, no new suitable location nearby was identified. To keep the camp experience alive, permission to replicate the model was granted to Eileen Richter and Nancy Lawton-Shirley who held a camp in 1989 in Hudson, Wisconsin at Camp St. Croix. In 1990, Julia Wilbarger joined the team. The Camp St. Croix location operated successfully through 2009. In 2011, a new program launched at Camp Avanti Icahowan directed by Kris Worrell who has over 25 years of experience working in the Avanti model.

The Avanti Camps have had a major influence on the practice of occupational therapy and sensory integration. Some of the most innovative techniques and theories used in pediatric occupational therapy were developed and expanded upon through the camps. For example, the concept of therapy intensives emerged from the recognition of the power of immersion in the therapeutic process. The Therapressure Program (developed by Patricia Wilbarger) was introduced to the larger occupational therapy community at Camp Cachuma. Avanti also brought an innovative training model for therapists. The instructors for the practicum course held each year at Avanti Camps are acknowledged as world experts in sensory integration. Many of the practicum therapists who have participated in the educational experience at Camp Avanti have become leaders and experts in the field of occupational therapy.

READY TO JOIN US?

Download the Application from our website at www.campavanti.com.