Camp Tapawingo Accessibility Policy

Camp Tapawingo strives to make camp a place where diversity is celebrated, with the goal of fostering an authentic and inclusive community. Camp Tapawingo is committed to upholding each person's dignity and ensuring that everyone who enters our camp feels valued, respected, and fully included. To ensure this commitment is fully realized, the following outlines our approach to physical disability, neurodiversity, and chronic illness.

Our facilities and grounds are rustic. At this time, our physical environment cannot reliably ensure the dignity of campers who use mobility aids (e.g., wheelchairs, cruisers, walkers), require 1:1 assistance with personal care, or have significant vision impairments. Please see the attached photos of our facilities and grounds, as well as a list of camps that may be better equipped to meet these physical accessibility needs (e.g.,. Camp Easter Seal, CLASI Day Camps, Autism Services and other options in different parts of the province).

Camp Tapawingo welcomes neurodiverse campers and strives to support a wide range of learning and behavioural needs. Camp Tapawingo staff receive training to support campers with a wide range of needs; however, they are not specialists in neurodiversity. We do not have the ability to safely support campers who may experience/exhibit physical aggression or profound emotional dysregulation which could be brought on by the busy nature of camp. Our Board of Directors brings a wide range of professional expertise working with youth of all abilities and provides guidance and coaching to supplement staff skills, ensuring support that is informed, compassionate, and grounded in best practices.

To maintain the dignity and safety of all campers, Camp Tapawingo is committed to being a violence-free space. Our staff is unable to provide direct 1:1 care for campers.

We are open to discussing the possibility of a family-funded personal caregiver supporting your camper, provided the caregiver has a valid vulnerable sector check. This option is considered on a case-by-case basis, ensuring that any additional support aligns with our camp environment and your camper's needs. While days at camp

typically follow a predictable routine, they are long days outside with limited downtime, and we welcome conversations about what this camp experience might look like for your child. We also recommend that a parent or guardian stay somewhere at Candle Lake or ensure a secondary emergency contact is available nearby, in case your camper needs more support than we can safely provide on site and requires a pick-up or a short break from camp.

Camp Tapawingo recognizes chronic illness (e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, severe allergies) as a form of disability and encourages families to share any ongoing health condition that may affect a camper's daily life, participation or safety so appropriate reasonable accommodations can be identified. Daily management needs such as pacing, rest, hydration, or environmental considerations are addressed through the same collaborative intake process used for all disabilities to ensure consistent and equitable support. When medication, monitoring, or treatment is required during camp, a Medication Administration Record (MAR) process will be initiated to determine necessary supports and emergency protocols. No camper will be excluded or limited due to chronic illness when reasonable accommodations and the MAR process can safely support their inclusion.

If you are wondering if Camp Tapawingo is the right fit for your child:

1. Review the camp information and reflect on your child's needs.
2. Contact our Executive Director at info@camptapawingo.net.
3. Our team will arrange a meeting/phone call with your family, our Executive

Director, and a representative of our Board of Directors. This conversation helps us get to know your camper, review the daily schedule and facilities, and understand how your child manages at school and home.

4. Decide collaboratively if Camp Tapawingo is a safe, supportive, and realistic fit for your child.

Camp Tapawingo is committed to treating every camper with dignity and fostering an inclusive community. While our setting and staffing create some limitations, we rely on families to be open and honest about any challenges their child may experience, so our team can prepare appropriately. It is always better for us to have information and not need it than to be unprepared for a situation we didn't anticipate and cannot support safely. We remain committed to working closely with families to understand each child's needs and determine whether our camp is a safe, supportive environment for them. We value the trust families place in us and remain dedicated to creating a respectful, welcoming space for all.