



Autism Ontario York
Camp Families – Summer 2020 Communication
February 2020

Hard to believe it, but registration for summer 2020 is almost here. Our online registration will be open from February 15 through to March 15, 2020 for the following summer day camp programs:

Autism Ontario Kids Camp (AOK)
Autism Ontario Adult Summer Program (AOA)
Social Skills Summer Institute (SSSI)

Autism Ontario York Region Chapter is dedicated to offering these summer programs for our community and would like to remind all families that these programs are NOT FOR PROFIT and we are a charitable organization.

Camp costs are approximately \$1,500/week for each camper at AOK & AOA and SSSI actual costs are approximately \$900/week. Fundraising is necessary. Your help with fundraising is critical.

Our programs cannot sustain themselves without significant volunteer contributions and fundraising support. We encourage you to READ this entire memo so you understand what is required to ensure the sustainability of our program for the 2020 summer season.

Registration will be open for 30 days, from February 15 through to March 15, 2020. As always, registration is **NOT** first come, first served. Here is how we allocate camper registrations:

- 1) Access to camp is first given to those families who volunteer with Autism Ontario York Region – priority is given to volunteers who contribute to the running of our local Chapter with more than 40 hours of volunteerism annually.
- 2) Next priority is for all other volunteers – those who contribute a few hours here and there throughout the year for events, fundraising and any other volunteer opportunities that arise.
- 3) Members of Autism Ontario get next priority – without any volunteering. Membership is \$50/year.
- 4) Lastly if you are not a member of Autism Ontario and do not volunteer, then we will strive to allocate you one week of requested camp, but cannot guarantee we will have enough supply to be able to do this. The non-member fee is an additional \$250 on top of camp fees.

FEES:

Fees for the 2020 season will be increasing by \$25.00 per week to cover the cost of living over the past two years. This is the first increase since the increase that was a result of minimum wage adjustments in 2017. We hope to not have to increase the funds again for another couple of years, in thanks to the fundraising that members so diligently undertake. This support is critical to help us maintain fees as low as possible. Again this year we will have two levels of registration fees:

1 – \$550/week (AOK & AOA) or \$375 (SSSI) and you agree to assist with fundraising where a minimum \$300 of assistance with fundraising is required, in addition to selling 2 Hoedown Raffle ticket books (see fundraising options below)

2 – \$850/week (AOK & AOA) or \$700 (SSSI) if you are not interested in fundraising and would prefer to pay an increased rate for registration (we understand that not everyone is able to or wants to be involved in fundraising)

Because we are a Not-for-Profit, Charitable organization, we need help in our fundraising efforts. Each family is expected to help us fundraise. A **minimum of \$300** of fundraising is required through one of the streams of funding below. More is even better!

- 1) **Magna Hoedown (or other Raffle sales, should York Region not be awarded the Hoedown)** (Sue Walters contact) – Fall 2020

Sell \$300.00 (or more) of raffle tickets (15 in a book - \$100/book – sold in groups of 3 for \$20)

- 2) **Scotia 5km Waterfront Charity Walk** (Jenny Donnell contact) – October 18th, 2020

Set up a team and fundraise \$300.00 (or more), joining on the walk to raise awareness and funds for AOK Camp! or spread the word and sponsor a runner \$300.00 (or more)

- 3) **Do it Yourself Fundraiser** (Susanne Bagnarol contact)

Raise \$300.00 or more through your own event: some ideas and past successes that families have had include garage sales, afternoon teas, selling sporting tickets as a raffle through work, bake sales at your work, Gift card donation, book sales, car wash.

When registration occurs, you will be asked to indicate which fundraising stream you would like to participate in – please select one stream and you will be contacted by the volunteer representative. You of course will be able to participate in more than one stream when they open to the public!!

We thank you all for your thoughtful consideration of how you can support our programs so that we can continue to offer them. I look forward to hearing your area of fundraising and any questions you may have about summer 2019.

Kristen Gage
Autism Ontario York Region
905.780.1590
york.summerprograms@autismontario.com