



# Camp ClapHans



 **A summer camp  
for kids with  
special needs**

 **At the  
J.D. McCarty Center  
in Norman**  
.....  
405-307-2865  
[www.campclaphans.com](http://www.campclaphans.com)



## About the camp

Camp ClapHans is a residential summer camp for children with disabilities. The camp is for kids ages 8 to 18 and offers them a place where they can explore, create, learn, try, play and make new friends.

The camp is located on the J.D. McCarty Center's property at 2002 E. Robinson St. in Norman. It features two cabins and an activities building. The camp is also located next to an 11-acre lake.



### Camp mission

To enrich the lives of children with special needs by offering a camping experience that will build confidence and a sense of freedom through adventure and exploration of the outdoors.



## Camp costs & sessions

The cost for a child to attend a session at Camp ClapHans is \$325.

Scholarships are available to families who qualify and are made possible by donations and fundraisers.

The camp involves a series of four-day camp sessions. Each session begins Sunday afternoon and ends Wednesday evening. Sessions are limited to 12 campers: Six boys and six girls divided into two cabins.

Campers sleep in a large, wheelchair-accessible, climate-controlled cabin, along with counselors. Each camper is assigned to a counselor with the camper/counselor ratio of 1:1. We also have registered dietitians on site to address dietary needs for campers, and a physician and nurses available to assist with medical needs.

### Camp vision

To become the preferred camp for children with special needs where all campers, staff and volunteers are valued, hearts are touched and lifelong friendships are created.

This publication was authorized by Vicki Kuesterstepfen, director and CEO of the J.D. McCarty Center. Five hundred copies have been printed at a cost of \$475 and distributed. Copies of this report have been submitted to the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

# Camp activities

Campers will have the opportunity to try exciting activities that can be adapted to accommodate a child's ability level.

Campers also get to visit Andy Alligator's Water Park in Norman, which features waterslides, splash pads and a lazy river. Here are some other activities offered at camp:

- Archery
- Arts and crafts
- Canoeing
- Campfires and s'mores
- Dances
- Fishing
- Horseback riding
- Movie nights
- Stargazing
- Swimming
- Talent shows

Camp ClapHans also focuses on social skills so that campers will get the chance to learn and practice successful social interactions with other campers in small and large groups. These activities include initiating conversations, taking turns and practicing courtesy.

Camp evenings are also full of fun. We have social nights every evening where campers come together for an all-camp activity, such as a dance or learning about astronomy with the OKC Astronomy Club.





## Staff & volunteers

Interested in working or volunteering at Camp ClapHans? We're always looking for people to join our camp crew.

Our staff members are typically university students working toward a degree in allied health-care fields (physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology); special and general education; outdoor recreation; nutrition; and other related fields. Prior to camp, staff members attend training.

Volunteers also play a huge role in the camp's success. We are looking for:

- Volunteers ages 18 and older to serve as counselors and program/activities leaders.

- Volunteers ages 16 and older to assist with campers and help with programs and activities.

For more information about the camp or positions available, please contact Camp Director Bobbie Hunter at 405-307-2865 or email [bhunter@jdmc.org](mailto:bhunter@jdmc.org). For information about volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Giamelle at 405-573-5342 or email [jgiamelle@jdmc.org](mailto:jgiamelle@jdmc.org).



## The camp's namesake

Camp ClapHans is named in honor of Sammy Jack Claphan, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and an Oklahoma native.

Sammy Jack played football for the University of Oklahoma and graduated with a degree in special education. Afterward, he played in the



NFL for the Cleveland Browns and the San Diego Chargers.

After retiring from football, Sammy Jack returned to Oklahoma and became a coach and a special education teacher.

In 1994, he was inducted into the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame. Sammy Jack died in 2001. He was 45.

**Camp registration starts in January. For more info, visit [campclaphans.com](http://campclaphans.com)**

**We are grateful for the contributions of volunteer Adam Cobble, who took some of the photos featured in this brochure.**