



What Makes A Successful Susan Curtis Camper?!

Camp Susan Curtis is an award-winning program that welcomes 500 Maine students each summer. Because we want all campers to be successful, here are things to keep in mind for nominations.

- 🌱 **Campers MUST qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch, Food Stamps, TANF, or be in the care of the State (this includes Foster Care)** Families are expected to pay a \$35 Registration Fee for the 1st camper and \$20 for every camper beyond that. The remainder of the tuition (\$1,300) is raised yearly by the Susan L. Curtis Foundation. **PLEASE NOTE:** Our mission and funding are based on the fact that 100% of new campers meet the Free/Reduced Eligibility requirement. We know there are many students in untenable situations and we do have to turn them away if they do not meet eligibility criteria.
- 🌱 **A student with limited summer opportunities.** Camp Susan Curtis was created to offer Maine youth with *limited* opportunities a summer experience. Because of our waiting list, we do ask that you consider students who do **not** attend other *residential* camp programs. Day programs are fine.
- 🌱 **A student who can meet the challenges of the camp environment.** As a recreational learning program, we encourage you to refer students who will embrace living, learning, and playing in a highly social outdoor group setting. If they find socializing a challenge at home, school, or other activities then they may not find camp to be a good fit for their personality.
- 🌱 **A student who is physically and emotionally healthy.** Campers must be able to perform basic hygiene tasks independently (shower/ toilet), navigate rough terrain, and follow safety instructions. We are unable to accommodate youth who require 1-on-1 assistance, have a history of psychiatric hospitalization, violent behaviors, severe mental or physical health needs, have not stabilized on medications, or are enrolled in day treatment or residential programs. We are often mistaken for a behavioral program. While we do have youth with a variety of assets and abilities, we are not equipped to serve campers with serious mental, emotional, social, or physical challenges.
- 🌱 **A student with good attendance.** We want campers to be successful when they return to the school environment. Students with good attendance are more likely to attend camp and return to school with new and/or improved skills for learning.
- 🌱 **A student with a family who is willing to let them have their own experience.** Families who say “we will try it for a week” or “I need to speak with my child daily” are not ready for camp. These families tend to not show up for their session, can be anxious or homesick, or do not complete the session because they have been promised that they can leave when challenges arise.
- 🌱 **A student who can adjust to new situations.** Camp can be hot, wet, cold, buggy and without screen time. Food may be new, the living situation is new, and there are new friends and new activities. Though most campers find this an exciting adventure some may be overwhelmed by the newness.
- 🌱 **A family that can provide or arrange for transportation.** In most situations, transportation is the responsibility of the family. This does not *just* include the transportation back and forth but may include transportation to pick up a camper in an emergency or behavior situation.

CSC relies on the Referral Partner to nominate the best candidates. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions about your potential referral. We place no restrictions on acceptance for those that meet the above criteria and we encourage diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, family composition, learning ability, and political belief.