

## **Camp Twitch & Shout – Financial Assistance Policy**

Camp Twitch & Shout provides financial assistance to financially challenged families based on need. When families complete their camp registration forms online, a simple fillable financial assistance application is included. This application requires basic information regarding the number of family members in the household and total pre-tax household annual income (wages, child support, government benefits and other). Additionally, families have an opportunity to provide details of financial or personal circumstances, and a description of how Camp can be or has been a benefit to the camper, that the family wishes to be considered in regard to financial assistance awards.

Camp Twitch & Shout also requires verification of income by uploading the first page of the camper's guardian's Federal IRS 1040 tax form via our secure application system. Financial assistance is awarded on a case-by-case basis with consideration of income and household size combined with extenuating family circumstances (such as job loss, illness, medical expenses, etc.).

Tuition for Camp Twitch & Shout is a tiered scale ranging from \$500 to \$900 per camper; we ask that each family pay as much as they can comfortably afford. The true cost to provide a one-week overnight camp experience at Camp Twitch & Shout is over \$900. Therefore, the lowest tuition tier of \$500 represents a significantly subsidized tuition made possible by generous donors through extensive fundraising efforts.

For Camp Twitch & Shout, full financial assistance will be valued at \$850 (financial assistance applicants are required to pay a \$50 deposit during registration).

We ask families to please request only as much assistance as they need to afford Camp. Many times families will request partial financial assistance. We award partial financial assistance to those who are able to contribute more than the \$50 deposit but less than the minimum subsidized tuition tier of \$500 or the entire \$900 full tuition. It is Camp Twitch & Shout's goal to never turn away a child due to the family's inability to pay tuition.

### **Something to consider...**

Many families do not have the financial resources to afford camp tuition but want to contribute as they appreciate the value of Camp Twitch & Shout. Here is a list of possibilities we suggest you explore prior to applying for financial assistance.

- Contact Easterseals. Several campers have had camp tuition paid in the past by local Easterseals.
- Organize a small fundraiser at your school or in your community. We are happy to help with ideas and to plan your event with you.
- Use our payment plan to be able to pay when it is more feasible.
- Create a crowd sourcing event, such as "GoFundMe", to gather support from others.
- Contact your local school district. Some campers have had their full tuition paid through their public school funding.
- Apply for independent Grants or Scholarships accessible to all school-aged children in the US.
- Rather than accepting material gifts for a child or family member's birthday, request monetary gifts to support the camper's tuition.
- Contact a local civic organization and request financial support in exchange for a presentation outlining the importance of expanded experiences for children with disabilities and the impact of Camp Twitch & Shout. Combine financial support with educational opportunities!