LIONS CAMP BADGER



Operated by the Empire State Special Needs Experience, Inc.

About Lions Camp Badger

Lions Camp Badger is located in Spencer, NY, and is a project of the MD-20 Lions. Learn more at <u>www.lionscb.org</u> The mission of Lions Camp Badger is to provide services that enhance the educational, vocational, personal growth and independence of differently-abled youth and adults.

CAMP CORNER

An opportunity for an "inside view" of Lions Camp Badger, by camp director Pat Gillule

Lions Camp Badger Offers Valuable Programs and Opportunities

Twenty year old Ryan slowly types on his communication device to share what Lions Camp Badger has meant to him. *"I rather love it," he explains, "because I am isolated a lot since I am nonverbal. At camp, we are able to achieve our potential and make friends."*

Ryan, like many other young adults with disabilities, lives in a world that offers limited opportunities for individuals who need a higher degree of support. Once he turns 21 and leaves high school, these options will reduce significantly, as they are no longer mandated through public education. Many times, there are waiting lists for programs and limited job training, leaving families with tough decisions on how to best provide a productive life for their adult children. It can be both frustrating and exhausting for even the most resourceful parents. Lions Camp Badger seeks to change that!

At Lions Camp Badger, we make a difference:

- When campers come to our programs, their families enjoy a respite and can recharge.
- Campers have social opportunities, making new friends and reconnecting with old ones.
- Campers participate in wellness activities such as swimming, arts & crafts, boating, athletics, music and drama.
- Most campers stay overnight, leading to the development of independent life skills.
- Opportunities exist for vocational training in food service, helping our campers establish a greater potential for future employment.
- Families network with one another, sharing resources and creating supports that help.
- Our counseling staff develop excellent communication, teamwork and leadership skills that are transferable to virtually any job setting

At Lions Camp Badger, YOU make a difference:

- Your donations help us to provide solid programs, safe surroundings, and a dedicated staff that make camp a positive and meaningful experience for all.
- Your support helps to fill a gap in services that helps equalize opportunities for all!

Thank YOU for making a difference!

Did you know that Lions Camp Badger is celebrating our <u>40th</u> birthday as a MD20 Lions state project?

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A Project of the Lions, Leos and Lionesss of New York State & Bermuda