41 years of exceptional kids!

www.talismancamps.com     1-855-LUV-TALI (588-8254)
About Us
For 41 years, Talisman Summer Camp has provided exceptional programming for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADHD and similar Neurodevelopmental Disorders in a traditional camp environment. Our activities are designed to increase confidence, promote responsibility, and enhance communication and social skills. We teach problem-solving and conflict resolution through group discussions, modeling and practice. Our highly-structured schedule and supportive staff provide a safe environment in which to build friendships and independence. Most of all, our campers have fun!

Our campus is located in Zirconia, NC, between Asheville, NC and Greenville, SC and in easy reach of Atlanta, Charlotte, and Knoxville.

The Story of the Talisman
A talisman is an object that holds special meaning for its’ owner. It is meant as a physical token to represent a memorable experience that the holder wants to retain. Each Talisman camper receives a talisman at his or her closing ceremony. The talisman is passed around the group and imbued with memories, praise and encouragement by staff and peers, to act as a reminder of their camp experience and growth throughout the coming year.

The Talisman Mission:
Talisman Programs provide young people with learning differences exceptional opportunities to increase self-confidence, independence, motivation, and social competence in a safe and nurturing environment.
Our Staff
Positive and appropriate relationships are crucial to guiding children effectively and safely. Our counselors are carefully screened for competence, responsibility, compassion, and understanding of our camper profile. They are typically college students or graduates planning a career in education, psychology, outdoor leadership or social work. Our comprehensive staff training program includes certifications in CPR, Wilderness First Aid, and Lifeguarding, as well as professional-level training on Autism, learning disabilities, and other issues affecting our campers. Using our interactive training model and following the American Camp Association guidelines, staff learn to utilize the camp environment to build social skills, independence, and confidence in our campers. All staff go through a national background check and pre-hire drug screen.

Base Camp Programs versus Teen Adventures Programs
All of our programs work on the same skill sets at every level. We meet our campers where they are in terms of developmental skills social, communication, independent, and conflict resolution and begin to introduce new skills with practice and reinforcement. We focus on developing social interactions, frustration management, and effective communication, thus increasing self-esteem, sensory management, and friendship-making skills. Every day is highly structured and filled with adventures, plus regular downtime. Greater independence is developed through daily goal setting, group living, and problem-solving sessions.

“I am still blown away with how much my son liked camp and how well prepared the camp counselors were to deal with his challenging behavior at times.”- Parent
Base Camp programs (Discovery, Foundations, Sight, Insight, and Young Adults) are created and operated around our campus. Groups of 8 campers with their 3 staff live in the cabin and have daily adventures both on and off campus. These groups spend most nights in a cabin except for their overnight camp adventures in our on-campus campsites. This provides a strong and consistent structure that feels more “home-like” than our Teen Adventure programs. This allows for optimum levels of support and a tighter schedule in terms of consistency.

Our Teen Adventure programs follow an expedition model. These programs start on-campus as campers and staff get to know each other. Once the group has formed, they head out on their themed adventures. All Teen Programs spend at least 50% of their days camping out and away from campus. Our teen programs offer wilderness adventures focused on skill mastery while building personal responsibility, leadership and decision-making skills. Here we blend campers with Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD and similar Neurodevelopmental issues, as a model in which to teach appreciation for differences and tools for living in a diverse peer group. The variety of programs allows campers to choose the session that interests them most. Teen Adventures are for campers who are more advanced, have some camping experience, want to come to camp and want to be challenged by the outdoors.

All programs (except Discovery) participate at some level in the following activities:

- Hiking
- Science fun!
- Canoeing
- GAGA
- Fishing
- Funyaking
- Field games
- Swimming
- Rock climbing
- Arts & Crafts
- Archery
- Slingshots
- Technical Tree climbing
- Campus-Wide events

Let us help you choose the right program for your child!
Call us at 855-588-8254, we are happy to assist you.
Discovery
Ages 6-7
Offered Session 4
7-day overnight adventure

Discovery is designed for children ages 6 and 7 who may have ASD, ADHD, learning disabilities, or social anxiety. In just seven days, campers enjoy many of our popular on-campus activities. The Discovery program model emphasizes both consistency and compassion, as campers build foundational skills in social communication and independence within a developmentally appropriate peer group. This is a great introduction to camp.

“He talked non-stop the entire two hour ride back home about all the fun things he did at camp. He came back to us so much happier and out of defense mode.
- Parent

Foundation
Ages 8-13
Offered every session
7-day, 13-day and 19-day sessions

For children with ADHD, Talisman’s Foundations program is specifically tailored to help campers who struggle with social and executive functioning needs. Campers learn to take responsibility for their own behaviors as they explore the connection between choices and consequences. Special emphasis is placed on focus, goal completion, and thoughtful decision-making.

“I finally got to go to camp like my sisters. They think my camp is more fun than theirs is and they are right. My staff were the best. See you next year!!!!”
- First time camper
Sight

**Adventures for children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder**

**Ages 8-13**

Our Sight program is designed specifically for young people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, including Asperger’s Syndrome, PDD, high functioning Autism, and similar Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

**Offered every session**

7-day, 13-day and 19-day sessions

*“WOW! He went to camp a quiet and withdrawn boy. I got back a chatterbox who wants to go to the climbing gym all the time now. You are all amazing!”*  
- Parent

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Insight

**Journey for Teens with an Autism Spectrum Disorders**

**Ages 14-17**

The Insight program provides an appropriate challenge for teens with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Insight provides a gradual introduction to adventure activities, with a higher level of structure and support than our Teen Adventure programs.

**Offered every session**

7-day, 13-day and 19-day sessions

*“He made his bed, helped with clean-up after dinner, and displays far more patience for his little brother! He seems happier, calmer, and more willing to engage all of us. THANK YOU!”*  
- Parent
**Young Adults**
**Ages: 18-22**

This program is especially designed for young adults who are on track to achieve supported independence and possibly a post high school educational setting. Focusing on self-care, cooking, cleaning, budgeting, transportation, community involvement, and job readiness. Activities may include planning and prepping a meal, field trips to job resource sites, community service opportunities, social outings and group lessons on social, independent living, and transitional skills. Traditional camp-based activities add opportunities for developing friendships, socialization, and increased physical activity.

“I learned that I am not the only one with Asperger’s. I also learned that I am capable of doing much more that I thought I could. I even survived two whole weeks without my technology!”
- Camper
TEEN ADVENTURE PROGRAMS
Expeditions for Teens with ASD, ADHD, or similar needs

Mountain Odyssey
Ages 13-17
Session 3
13-day session
Campers will explore the history, folklore, trails, and tales of Western North Carolina. They will travel across the lands of the Cherokee, Pioneers, and Rangers that made this area the first Wild West. Campers will take day and overnight trips to discover the courageous, fearless, adventurous, lawless, and fiercely independent people and culture of the mountains.

Quest
Ages 13-17
Sessions 1 & 2
13-day & 19-day sessions
Bringing treasure hunt adventure games to life! Complete the Quest by conquering lakes, rivers, and trails by learning wilderness skills, map & compass, and navigation on a multiday expedition on a lake. Stay on various islands, seeking hidden treasures while learning cooperation, problem-solving, and teamwork. Utilize tandem canoes as a time to strengthen communication skills when navigating the lake. Complete the Quest by conquering lakes, rivers, and trails by learning wilderness skills, map & compass, and navigation on a multiday expedition.
TEEN ADVENTURE PROGRAMS
Expeditions for Teens with ASD, ADHD, or similar needs

Caves & Mining
Ages 13-17
Session 3
13-day session
Attention rockhounds! Did you know the first ever gold rush in the United States happened here in North Carolina? Explore new depths and geology this summer. Exploration of several caves across the Southeast will focus on proper technique, environmental education, and the geology and biology of caves. Campers will also explore rock and gem mines to learn, practice, and pan for gemstones. Visits may include both commercial mines and panning in nearby mountain streams. No prior caving and mining experience is necessary.

Tri-Adventures
Ages 14-17
Session 2
19-day session
Experience three popular outdoor adventure activities: backpacking, canoeing, and rock climbing. These activities provide natural opportunities to incorporate social interactions among peers. Learn wilderness skills such as tarp set-up, water purification, packing a pack, and “Leave No Trace” principles. Participants refine their interactions and decision-making skills, while building self-esteem, as they face the challenges posed by these adventure activities. This program is for campers who are excited about all 3 activities and have prior outdoor camping experience.

“We have not seen her this excited for something in years. She made friends, tried new things, and had fun! She is begging to return next summer.”
- Parent
Leadership
Ages 16-22
This is an invitation-only program.
Session 1 (13-day session)

This program is for returning campers only. Campers must have completed a Base Camp program and one Teen Adventure program successfully to qualify for the Leadership program. Staff recommendation required.

Leadership consists of a self-directed wilderness trip and an on-campus leadership training course. The group functions on their own with guidance from staff, learning important leadership skills and roles. Participants fine-tune and build on the social, communication, and group skills that they have learned throughout their time at Talisman, while serving as leaders within the camp community.

Note: Successful completion of a Leadership course is required for campers who wish to be considered for Talisman Krewe.
Thank you for your interest in Talisman Programs. We are proud of the wide range of programs that we offer. Contact us for assistance in choosing the right ones for your child. 1-855-588-8254

HOW TO APPLY:
• Fill out application on www.talismancamps.com
• We will contact you after application review
• $300 deposit is required upon acceptance
• Complete online enrollment forms
• Full tuition due by May 1st (or upon acceptance after May 1)

INCLUDED IN TUITION:
• All activity costs, meals and snacks
• Nurse-based care and oversight
• Transport to and from the Greenville/Spartanburg (GSP) or Asheville (AVL) airport on opening and closing days

ADDITIONAL COSTS:
• Special diets (GF, CF, Dye-Free, Vegan, etc.)
• Medical costs

Between-session fee of $250 daily if attending multiple sessions. Limited space available for between-session stays.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
MasterCard, Visa, AmEx, Discover, E-Check, and cashier’s check. Credit card on file for incidentals and emergencies required for all campers.
**REFUND POLICY:**
Deposits are nonrefundable once the camper is accepted. Full tuition is due by May 1st to retain your spot. Cancellations will be refunded (minus the deposit) at the following rate:
- 100% refund or credit until April 1st
- 75% refund or full credit until May 1st
- 50% credit after May 1st
There is no refund for early discharge of a camper.

**EXCLUSIONARY CRITERIA:**
- Verbal IQ 85 and below
- Physical aggression or self-injurious behavior
- Drug or alcohol use/abuse
- Conduct Disorder
- Sexually acting out/inappropriate sexual behaviors

**Functioning Level:** Language must be comprehensible by others and appropriate to age level. Able to participate in group activities that require conversation skills, follow verbal directions, and participate in simple discussions.
Come to camp this spring to check out our facilities, try some of our on-campus activities, and meet other families!

**Check our website for date and time.**

**Please RSVP:** Light Lunch will be provided

*Individual visits by appointment only*

**Parent Webinars & Camper E-Campfires**
In an effort to help you and your camper transition to camp, we offer several online webinars for parents of enrolled campers. Learn details, ask questions, and alleviate any anxiety and fears you have prior to camp. Camper E-Campfires are your child’s version of a webinar. Your camper will meet some of their staff prior to camp, get answers to any questions they have, and learn more about what to expect while at camp. Enrolled campers and families will receive an invitation.

**Parent Seminars**
Talisman offers parent seminars at the end of every session, free to our Talisman families. We explain the activities we offer our campers, why we do them, and what we hope to achieve from them. We describe our group problem-solving process and other tools used to help our campers develop socially. This allows parents the opportunity to learn the skills, elements, and principles of our camp philosophy for use in their home so that each camper’s growth and progress can continue beyond the camp experience. We also provide current information on Autism, ADHD, and neuro-development. Finally, the seminar offers the opportunity to build a community of support with other families.
# 2021 Dates & Rates

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<th>Opening Day</th>
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<td>Session 1</td>
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<td>June 24</td>
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**13-Day Programs available:**

**BASE CAMP**  
Foundations • Sight  
Insight • Young Adults

**TEEN ADVENTURES**  
QUEST  
Leadership

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<td>July 15</td>
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**19-Day Programs available:**

**BASE CAMP**  
Foundations • Sight  
Insight • Young Adults

**TEEN ADVENTURES**  
QUEST  
Tri-Adventures
## 2021 DATES & RATES

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<td>July 30</td>
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### 13-Day Programs available:

- **BASE CAMP**
  - Foundations • Sight
  - Insight • Young Adults

- **TEEN ADVENTURES**
  - Mountain Odyssey
  - Caves & Mining

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### 7-Day Programs available:

- **BASE CAMP**
  - Discovery • Foundations • Sight • Insight

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