



Wheelchair Getaways



Quarterly Customer Newsletter

April 2002

The Leader In
Accessible Van Rentals

Unforgettable Adventures at Camp

by Emily Gillespie, Marketing Coordinator

Everyone deserves the chance to make camp memories that will last a lifetime. Each year thousands of camp staff employees and volunteers provide children and adults with adventures at camp that they will never forget. The following article contains a list and brief description of summer and year round camps available to campers with disabilities. Contact information for each camp is also provided.



Camp Courageous of Iowa-This camp is located in Iowa and offers activities ranging from archery to snow shoeing. Any person with a disability is welcome regardless of disability, age, race, ethnic origin, sex, color, or religion. Sessions are available in the fall and winter as well as the summer. Visit the website for more information.

www.campcourageous.org

Courage Camps-Courage Camps are "where abilities and disabilities become possibilities" for children and adults. Check out the website for the summer programs at www.couragecamps.org

Easter-Seals Camps-Provide campers with the experience of all aspects of camps. These camps are located in many different states. Visit the website for more information at www.easter-seals.org or call 1-800-THE-CAMP (800-843-2267).

Texas Lions Camp-Located in Texas, this camp offers summer camps and day camps for children with physical disabilities and children with diabetes Type 1.

www.lionscamp.com

Camp Callahan-This camp is located in Illinois and

serves people from ages 6 to 55 with special needs. The 600-acre camp offers a week of fun at the "Yes! I can camp" for children and adults with disabilities.

www.camp-callahan.org

Camp Costanoan-Located in the foothills of the Santa Cruz mountains, this camp offers a variety of activities for persons over the age of five with disabilities .

www.camp.viaservices.org

Camp Oakhurst-This New Jersey based camp serves individuals with disabilities that affect movement (Post Polio, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy).

www.campchannel.com/campoakhurst/docs/services

University of Illinois Adapted

Sports Camps-The University of Illinois offers an adapted sports camp for individuals with disabilities. There are requirements for being a camper, which can be obtained by visiting the website at



www.rehab.uivc.edu/events/campbrochure.html or calling (217) 333-4606.

Camp KYSOC-Located in Kentucky, this camp provides children and adults summer and camp programs throughout the year. www.cardinalhill.org

Camp Jened-Persons with disabilities can visit Camp Jened in New York for a vacation at camp. Visit the website or contact the camp for more information about their campers and facilities at www.campjened.org or (845)434-2220.

The National Sports Center for the Disabled-provides recreation programs year round designed for persons with disabilities, who are at least five years of age.

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Visit our website for a list of used vans for sale!

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Individual, group, and family programs are all available for participants. www.nscd.org

Camp Greentop-This camp is one of the oldest residential camps specifically designed for children and adults with physical and multiple disabilities. The "camp is structured to provide programs that promote independence." Contact information is www.greentop.org or (410) 323-0500 ext.309.



There are many more camps for children and adults to attend that are not mentioned on this list. The following links are sources that list accessible camps and campsites throughout the United States:

- ✎ www.allcampgrounds.com
- ✎ www.gatorsports.org/camps.html
- ✎ www.kidscamps.com
- ✎ www.grownupcamps.com
- ✎ www.acacamps.org
- ✎ www.openhere.com/life/disabilites/sportsandrecreation
- ✎ www.fhfla.org/campsrec.htm
- ✎ <http://dmoz.org/society/Disabled/camps>

Traveling Tips and Information

Tips on avoiding emergencies while traveling by air:

-If medication is needed, take two packets--place one in a carry on and one in the checked suitcase.

-Take a brief statement from your physician regarding your medical history, current medication and treatment plans, the nature of your disability, and allergies to medication.

-If the traveler is diabetic and needs insulin, store unopened vials in two or three separate places.

-Wheelchair users should take some extra nuts, bolts, and tools to repair the wheelchair. If a bag on the wheelchair already contains these items, make sure the bag is fastened securely when separating from the chair at the jetway.

-tips from www.fodors.com/traveltips/disabilities

Tim Daly, founder of Access Travel, is currently working on writing a book about experiences of disabled travelers. Visit the website to provide the book with a personal travel experience or to view publications about tips for hassle-free travel. Visit the website www.timdalytravel.com for more information on Access Travel and traveling tips.

Make a stop at Virginia Beach

The eastern coast provides many vacation hotspots for travelers. Virginia Beach is certainly one of the spots worth stopping to visit.

Many beaches located in Virginia Beach are accessible including 2nd, 13th, 14th, 17th, 20th, and 30th Street locations. Parking is available on 2nd, 7th, 16th, and 33rd Streets as well as Altantic Avenue.

Other options for water lovers include a discovery cruise (757-422-2900) or a visit to the Virginia Marine Science Museum. The cruise is



a lunch or dinner trip that takes passengers from Rude Inlet to Cape Henry (restrooms not accessible). The Marine

Science Musuem, the largest aquarium in the state of Virginia, is fun for all ages. A wide range of activities and exhibits are offered at the musuem.

Visit the website at www.vmsm.com or call 757-425-FISH(3474) for more information.



Virginia Beach is also home to the international headquarters of the Association for Research and Enlightenment This is a must see attraction for travelers interested in intuition, spiritual growth, or ancient wonders. More information on the headquarters can be obtained by visiting the website at www.edgarcayce.org or calling 1-800-333-4499.

Other attractions you will not want to miss are The Francis Land House and Thoroughgood Inn Comedy Club. The Francis Land House is a 18th century planation house. Tour topics include information about the time and period of dress for the Land Family. The Comedy Club offers guests a full service restaurant while enjoying nationally known stand-up comedians.

Days Inn, Best Western, and Ramada Limited all provide accessible rooms for their guests. Alamar Resort Motel, Dolphin Inn, and Barclay Towers are also among the accessible accommodation in the Virginia Beach area.

For more information on attractions or accommodation reservations in Virginia Beach call 1-800-822-3224. Information can also be found on the Access Travel site www.access-able.com.

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When traveling to Virginia Beach there are many attractions waiting for visitors in the surrounding area. The neighboring cities offer a large variety of parks and museums perfect for day trips from Virginia Beach. These cities include Newport News, Hampton, Chesapeake, and Norfolk. Williamsburg is also a nearby destination that offers travelers an assortment of colonial historic attractions, theme/water parks, and outlet malls.



A "Virginia is for Lovers" guide can be obtained by calling 1-800-847-4882 or visiting the website at www.virginia.org. Call 1-800-742-3935 for a copy of The Virginia Travel Guide for Persons with Disabilities. Also try these websites as a resource for accessible Virginia Beach and Virginia travel information: www.vatc.org and www.travelguides.org/tide.html

To rent a Wheelchair Getaways accessible van on your trip to the Virginia Beach area call Eddie and Lynn Joyce at 1-877-271-9826. For nationwide reservations information call 1-800-642-2042 or visit our website at www.wheelchairgetaways.com.

Dreams Can Come True - Sunny Lin Goes to the Prom

By Kathleen Jacoby
-Article and pictures provided by Stever Freier, Center for Independence of the Disabled

What most people take for granted, some people only dream about. Simple things like attending a senior prom can present a major problem for certain families who have children with disabilities. Sunny's mother single-handedly supports a household of five and has all she can do to make ends meet. A senior prom with all its expenses is certainly not within this family's budget.

Sunny Lin has been confined to a wheelchair for most of his life. He was born with Morquio Syndrome, which stunts physical growth. He has been a paraplegic since 1997.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

For almost eleven months, Tony Festa, Assisitive Technology Coordinator for the Center for Independence of the Disabled (CID) in Belmont, California, had been coordinating a project to obtain an outdoor elevator for Sunny's home. CID, which advocates for the disabled, was notified that Sunny had no way of getting in or out of his

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NATIONWIDE LOCATIONS

CORPORATE	(800) 536-5518	LOUISIANA:	(800) 738-2634	OKLAHOMA:	(800) 689-0511
ARIZONA:	(888) 824-7413	MARYLAND: & Delaware	(800) 438-8465	PENNSYLVANIA:	(800) 221-6501
CALIFORNIA: Northern	(800) 638-1912	MASSACHUSETTS:	(800) 727-1656	PUERTO RICO:	(800) 868-8028
Los Angeles, Orange Co	(800) 659-1972	MICHIGAN:	(800) 887-7868	RHODE ISLAND:	(800) 727-1656
San Diego, Palm Springs	(877) 388-4883	MINNESOTA: & North & South Dakota	(888) 256-5807	SOUTH CAROLINA:	(866) 288-8118
COLORADO: & Cheyenne, WY	(800) 238-6920	MISSISSIPPI: (Gulf Coast)	(800) 738-2634	TENNESSEE: Eastern & Central	(888) 245-9944
CONNECTICUT:	(800) 228-0185	MISSOURI: & KS, IA, AR	(800) 781-0663	Western	(800) 781-0663
FLORIDA: Northern	(800) 637-7577	NEVADA:	(888) 790-6749	TEXAS:	
Central	(800) 242-4990	NEW ENGLAND: ME, NH, VT	(800) 727-1656	Dallas, Ft. Worth	(877) 688-4695
Southern	(800) 637-7577	NEW JERSEY: Northern NJ, NY City	(800) 344-5005	El Paso	(800) 408-2626
GEORGIA: & Birmingham, AL	(800) 554-6893	Central	(800) 221-0034	Houston, San Antonio, Austin	(866) 616-8267
HAWAII:	(800) 638-1912	South	(800) 221-6501	UTAH:	(888) 790-6749
ILLINOIS: Chicago & Northern, IL	(800) 637-2597	NEW MEXICO:	(800) 408-2626	VIRGINIA: Central & Southern	(877) 271-9826
Central & Southern	(800) 781-0663	NEW YORK: Long Island, NY City	(800) 379-3750	Northern Virginia	(800) 438-8465
INDIANA: Northern	(800) 826-9764	Rochester & Syracuse	(800) 924-8267	WASHINGTON, DC:	(800) 438-8465
Central & Southern	(888) 468-9055	NORTH CAROLINA:	(800) 662-7572	WASHINGTON:	(888) 376-1500
KENTUCKY:	(800) 458-1115	OHIO:	(800) 398-5165	WEST VIRGINIA:	(800) 221-6501

NATIONWIDE RENTAL INFORMATION:
(800) 642-2042
www.wheelchairgetaways.com

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second story apartment without being carried. Neither his elderly grandparents nor younger brother is able to carry him up or down the stairs, so he has had to depend on his mother for help, and since she works full time, that means he often has a long wait after school. Throughout the trying months of endless red tape, Tony went to the apartment every day and carried Sunny up the stairs as he arrived home from school. It was during this time that Sunny confided his dream to attend the prom. It seemed impossible, but to Tony Festa, nothing is impossible.



Above: Sunny's mother and Sunny as he is on his way to the prom.

On April 27, 2002 a dream came true for this young man. Sunny was able to attend his senior prom. The event was the culmination of the combined efforts of many people, and was made possible through their generous donations.

Sunny's principal donated tickets to the prom, valued at over \$100 each. A local San Mateo florist donated the corsage. And Wheelchair Getaways of San Francisco donated an accessible van, an instrumental component for realizing the dream. Steve Freier, from CID, donated his services as a driver for the evening.

Sunny's indomitable spirit and belief in his potential attracted the help he needed. Sunny has already been accepted to UC San Francisco on a full scholarship, and is still trying his best to get into UC Berkeley. Between now and next fall he wants to start taking driving lessons and wants to live on campus. His desire is to study information technology, and with the help of CID and other caring individuals, his dreams will come true.



Above: Steve Freier, the driver, next to the donated van.



Above: The elevator being built outside Sunny's apartment building

An added note from Wheelchair Getaways, Inc.

Audrey, the owner of the San Francisco Wheelchair Getaways franchise, understands the time and money it takes to make arrangements for prom. Her son Steve, a senior in high school, recently made his own travel reservations for the prom and she knows it is not always easy. When contacted about donating the van to Sunny for the evening, she did not need to think twice. "I like giving back to the community," she says. Audrey and her mother, Elaine, were among the generous people essential in making Sunny's trip to the prom possible. The San Francisco, California, location can be contacted at 1-800-659-1972.