



Frequently Asked Questions – Family Camp 2026

Thank you for your interest in **Camp Victory for Families!** We created this document to answer the most common questions about camp. If you have any additional questions, please contact our Camp Director, Andrea Friedman, MSW at afriedman@marfan.org.

Q: Where will Camp Victory for Families be held in 2026?

A: This year, we are holding family camps in two locations:

- Camp Twin Lakes in Winder, Georgia (one hour from Atlanta), September 25-27
- Pali Retreat in Running Springs, California (two hours from Los Angeles), October 23-25

Q: What time does Camp Victory start and end?

A: Check-in for families at both camps is 4:00 pm on Friday. Check-out for our Georgia camp is 1:00 pm on Sunday, September 27 and check-out for our California camp is 11:00 am on Sunday, October 25. You are still able to attend if you need to arrive later or leave earlier.

Q: What are the age requirements for Camp Victory?

A: Camp Victory for Families is designed for children ages five and older and adults, with and without a genetic aortic and vascular condition. Children under the age of five are welcome to join their family, however, activities are not geared towards the younger age group. All members of the family ages five and older are considered campers and will enjoy traditional camp activities together throughout the weekend.

Q: How much does it cost to attend Camp Victory?

A: The Foundation greatly subsidizes our camps thanks to the generous support of our donors. The registration fee is the same for campers of all ages. The fee is \$125 per person, which includes meals, lodging, and all activities throughout the weekend. Scholarships are available – please see the scholarship application on the Camp Victory website.

Q: Who are the Camp Victory staff?

A: The Marfan Foundation has a Camp Director, dedicated medical professionals and other staff/volunteers on-site during camp. Our partner camp staff run the activities, meals, and daily operations. Family camps do

not have traditional counselors, as families stay together in the cabins, and parents/guardians are responsible for their children. All Camp Victory and partner camp staff and volunteers go through background checks.

Q: If someone in my family uses a wheelchair or mobility device, are they able to participate in all activities?

A: Both of our partner camps are accessible for all campers, including wheelchair users and individuals with other mobility needs and physical challenges. A range of activities are available with adaptive tools to accommodate many different abilities. Cabins are wheelchair-accessible, with accessible bathrooms inside.

Q: What are the activities for families?

A: Campers participate in a variety of traditional camp activities, both indoors and outdoors. All are adapted to be safe for individuals with genetic aortic and vascular conditions. Depending on the camp location and weather, activities may include archery, nature walks, arts & crafts, fishing, rock climbing wall, zipline, swimming, boating, horseback riding, gaga ball, candle making, woodworking and more. There are no contact sports during camp and no activities requiring heavy lifting or significant exertion. Families have the opportunity to choose activities they are most interested in. A fun group activity is held each evening, including, of course, s'mores by the campfire! The daily camp schedule is from approximately 8:00 am to 9:30 pm.

Sample of Camp Twin Lakes (GA) Activities



Sample of Pali Retreat (CA) Activities



Q: Is there any educational programming?

A: The weekend at camp is more about having fun, bonding with your family, and getting to know others with whom you can relate. However, an “Ask the Expert” session with a doctor is held for parents and guardians while children participate in a kids-only activity.

Q: How do you ensure everyone’s safety at camp?

A: Campers come first and everything we do is focused on you and your family members having a positive experience in a safe and secure environment. Our partner camps support the high standards established by the American Camp Association. From our partner camps’ emergency management plans to our gathering detailed information from all participants about allergies, diet, restrictions, and emergency contacts through our secure CampDoc system, we address the safety of everyone at camp.

Q: How will my children get their medication?

A: Parents/guardians are responsible for administering medications for their children. There is a doctor or nurse on-site during camp to provide any necessary assistance.

Q: What happens if a camper has a medical emergency?

A: Camp Victory and our partner camps have dedicated medical staff. In case of an emergency, our on-site doctor or nurse is contacted, along with our Camp Director. Should EMS need to be called, the camps are located within 7-14 minutes of the closest hospital. Most camp staff are certified in CPR and First Aid.

Q: Are there vaccination and immunization requirements?

A: Camp Victory works in partnership with our host camps to follow public health guidance established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and applicable local and state authorities. Please refer to the Healthcare Procedures and Immunization Requirements document on the Camp Victory website for a list of specific immunizations required by our partner camps. Immunization records must be uploaded in CampDoc, our secure online system, prior to the start of camp. Religious and other exemptions are not allowed.

Q: How does camp address bullying?

A: Camp Victory and our partner camps have a “zero tolerance for bullying” policy. Any incidence of bullying is addressed immediately. Camp Victory, together with our partner camps, reserves the right to remove campers who are bullying others and exhibiting behaviors not fitting for the camp environment.

Q: Can my family be placed with another family we know?

A: Every effort is made to accommodate specific cabin requests. If not possible, please keep in mind that you will still be able to participate in activities and meals together throughout the day.

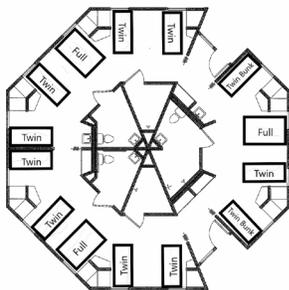
Q: What do I need to pack?

A: We will send a suggested packing list prior to the start of camp. Campers must bring their own bedding (most beds are twin size), pillow, and towels. There are no laundry services available except for emergencies. Campers may not bring alcoholic beverages, knives, fireworks, firearms or other weapons, drugs (except prescription or other legal drugs), forms of smoking (including tobacco, e-cigarettes, and vapes), pets, or animals (except for service animals).

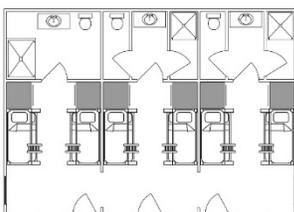
Q: What are the cabins like?

A: Cabins at both Camp Victory locations are wheelchair accessible, with restrooms and showers inside. Campers sleep on twin-size beds, most of which are bunk beds, with some stand-alone. The GA camp has one full-size bed per family. All campers must bring their own sheets, blankets, pillows, and towels. Cabins are assigned by family, with each family staying in their own semi-private section.

Camp Twin Lakes (GA) Cabins



Pali Retreat (CA) Cabins



Q: Can special dietary needs be accommodated?

A: Our partner camps offer a variety of healthy foods and beverages at every meal, and healthy snacks. Most special dietary needs can be accommodated with advanced notice. Please indicate any special dietary needs in CampDoc. All meals are freshly made with family-style or buffet service. There is always a salad bar with protein and additional options.

Camp Twin Lakes Dining Hall



Pali Retreat Dining Hall



Q: How can I find out more about the partner camps?

A: We encourage you to visit the websites of our partner camps to learn more about them:

- Camp Twin Lakes (Georgia) - <https://www.camptwinlakes.org/>
- Pali Retreat (California) - <https://www.paliretreat.com/>

Q: How do I register for Camp Victory?

A: Registration for Camp Victory for Families is available at <https://marfan.org/campvictory/>

**Camp Twin Lakes
Winder, GA
September 25-27, 2026**



**Pali Retreat
Running Springs, CA
October 23-25, 2026**

