

Carousel Farm's Educational Center
1240 Grenoble Road
Ivyland, Pennsylvania 18974
215-355-6498
www.carouselfarmcenter.com

Carousel Farm: a summer vocational, social and educational program for teens/young adults with special needs

Dear Parents and Friends,

This summer, *Carousel Farm* offers a program where teenagers/young adults with mild developmental disorders can participate and succeed in innovative social, recreational, and vocational activities. The program builds and nurtures an inclusive and accepting community. Our mission is to support and empower young adults to build on their own strengths in a pre-vocational learning experience, while experiencing the joys of friendship and leisure fun. Summertime at *Carousel Farm* means friendship time – time to swim, to challenge friends at kickball, time to sing, time to cheer, to dance, time to create crafts, sell at the camp store, help with farm animals, weed a garden, time to have fun and feel great! We are excited to offer your child a season of “fun, work, and friendship in the sun” as we prepare for eight weeks of happiness and joy for our forty fourth year at *Carousel Farm*.

Enclosed, please find an application form for the 2024 summer season.

At *Carousel Farm*, teens and young adults are provided opportunities to learn, maintain, and improve skills through participation in various activities of high interest to them including: 1) skills to help them participate in community recreational and educational activities such as swimming, music, dance, crafts, and sports according to each child's unique profile of functional developmental capacity; 2) skills to teach the use of community resources such as attendance at movie theaters and bowling lanes on certain days; 3) skills to teach self-care and daily living activities through participation in an extensive life-skills program which also includes pre-vocational training; 4) skills to improve socialization and emotional stability in a manner that builds self-supporting peer networks.

The program, licensed by the Department of Education, Private Academic Schools, serves as a service which supports children in the areas of self-care, daily living activities, and social skills, and therefore, enables them to get involved in local community activities. The program assists individuals in self-help, domestic, socialization, and adaptive skills through activities that enhance self-esteem and feelings of self-satisfaction and happiness. Enclosed, please find a description of *Carousel Farm's* Job Training Program. For school-age children, send a copy of the child's Individual Education Program (IEP) for our staff to review.

This summer promises to be another great one! Many of our staff from previous years will be returning. Indoor facilities are air conditioned so that respite from the summer heat can be provided. Our heated pools allow for longer periods of both recreational and instructional swim, wherein one small group swims at a time. Farm animal friends, including Licorice (the pony), Rosalina (the donkey), goats, lambs and chickens teach children gentleness and responsibility, while the young adults learn to care for them. Our greenhouse and gardens support appreciation and knowledge of plants, vegetables, and nature. Teenagers will have opportunities for sports play, music, dance, and art. The five acre farm allows itself to bring opportunities for leisure skills for the teens, as well as a setting for job training.

Because of the nature of the Job Training Program, criteria have been established for admittance into the program. The program will be comprised of teens who can optimally benefit from it. A brief intake process has been devised, which includes an interview with one of our directors, as well as having a “recommendation” form filled out by a teacher. Criteria for admittance is as follows:

- 1) Teens/Young adults from 14 – 25 years of age who are emotionally and behaviorally stable, eager to join a social community, and motivated to gain greater independence. Teens must be able to independently dress, eat, and bathroom.
- 2) Teens/Young adults with mild developmental disorder or mild autistic spectrum disorder who are capable and compliant of following simple basic directions with minimal supervision. While the teenager may require a job coach to learn the task, he/she would not require this assistance on an ongoing basis;
- 3) Teens/Young adults who do not pose a threat to the safety and well-being of self or others. Children who are or can be physically or verbally aggressive or threatening are not suitable for this program. This program involves teens being able to move between an indoor and outdoor setting, around neuro-typical peers and younger children attending Rainbow Academy. *Carousel Farm* is not able to handle the needs of children with impulsive explosive behaviors.

There are changes in our transportation for the 2024 season. In the past, we have tried to pick all children up at their home using our own vans. This has created a logistic nightmare -- as our children come from corners of Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. This year, we are using the services of private transportation companies, who charge an hourly rate for each student. At this time, we cannot tell the cost of transportation for any individual child, as it will be dependent on the length of the route for the private company. Please consider this before sending in your application, if you desire transportation. If you check transportation, we can give you an approximate cost in late Spring.

If you are interested in having your child attend *Carousel Farm* this summer, please return the application, recommendation form from your child's teacher or job coach, and your deposit by January 15. Enrollment for the 2024 season will be limited, and we cannot guarantee a spot for your child after that date. The deposit amount is refundable until 5/1/24. After that date, the deposit will be refunded only if the vacancy created by that withdrawal can be filled from our waiting list. No allowance for late arrival or early withdrawal of a child or any interruption in the season due to illness or family vacation will be made. The directors reserve the right to cancel, sever, or suspend a child's enrollment if deemed in the best interest of the child or the program, in which case the unused fee will be refunded. We will be closed for the July 4 holiday.

There are several funding sources that parents may utilize to supplement the cost of the program. Please check with your service coordinator as to the possibility of funding. *Carousel Farm* has transitioned away from the state funded Waiver *Vendor* title. *Carousel Farm* will still be able to be a waiver *Provider*, but only as a third party billing system. You should talk with your service coordinator about this. If you have questions regarding this, please speak with Dan.

If your child has not attended *Carousel Farm* previously, please call for an appointment to visit. We cannot accept any child into the program without a personal interview with your child. This interview gives us the opportunity to get to know your child, and gives your child an opportunity to get to know us!

We look forward to another wonderful summer! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call. Give our love to your children.

Very truly yours,

Dan, Linda and Mario LaGrotte

P.S. On the application, you will see a menu of extra support programs offered. *Carousel Farm* offers an Extended School Year Program for school districts and/or families. This program involves our staff reviewing summer IEP goals for your teenager, implementing the IEP goals, and writing a progress report at the end of the session. Call to speak with a director for more information.

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Application for Enrollment - 2024 Summer Season
A Vocational, Educational, and Therapeutic Recreational Program for Teenagers and Young Adults with Special Needs

Application Date _____

Date Starting _____

Child's Last Name _____ First Name _____ (Nickname) _____ Gender _____ Birth Date _____

Address (include street, city, and zip code) _____ E-Mail Address _____ Telephone Number _____

Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Occupation _____ Business Address _____ Telephone _____ Cell Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Parent/Legal Guardian _____ Occupation _____ Business Address _____ Telephone _____ Cell Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

Name of Emergency Contact (other than parent) _____ Address and Telephone Number _____

Name of Child's Physician _____ Telephone Number _____

Special Needs of Child: Seizure Disorder, Physical Disability, Hearing, Vision Problems, Language Delay, Allergies

Does your child take medication? for what reason? Will your child require a dose while at Carousel Farm? A form must be filled out for dispensing.

If one parent is not residing with your child, and you want him/her to receive mailings, please list his/her address and telephone number.

List any person other than mother or father to whom your child may be released.

List any person who may NOT take your child from the camp.

Where does your child attend school? _____ Please enclose a CER and/or IEP with application.

Does your child have any special fears or unique needs that we should know about? Is your child toilet-trained?

Please write a few notes describing your child:

Criteria for Admittance is as follows:

- 1) Teens from 14 – 25 years of age who are emotionally and behaviorally stable, eager to join a social community, and motivated to gain greater independence. Teens must be able to independently dress, eat, and bathroom.
- 2) Teens with mild developmental disorder or mild autistic spectrum disorder who are capable and compliant of following simple basic directions with minimal supervision. While the teenager may require a job coach to learn the task, he/she would not require this assistance on an ongoing basis;
- 3) Teens who do not pose a threat to the safety and well-being of self or others. Children who are or can be physically or verbally aggressive or threatening are not suitable for this program. This program involves teens being able to move between an indoor and outdoor setting, around neuro-typical peers and younger children attending Rainbow Academy. Carousel Farm is not able to handle the needs of children with impulsive explosive behaviors.

Please read the parental agreement below and sign in the designated spaces:

Parental Agreement

1. I agree to have my family physician fill out the required health forms before the beginning of camp.
2. I give my consent to have my child transported to and from camp, and also on field trips by Carousel Farm staff.
3. I understand that my child will only be released to those designated on this form. Any changes must be made in writing.
4. Carousel Farm provides services and admission without regard to race, color, religious creed, ancestry, sex, disability, age or national origin.
5. I give permission for the school to use a photo of my child for media or advertisement purposes.
6. I agree to pay the tuition when due. Deposits are refundable only if Carousel Farm is notified of cancellation before May 1, 2024. Total tuition is due by May 1, 2024. No allowance will be made for the early withdrawal of a camper or any interruption in the 2024 camp season.
7. The Directors reserve the right to cancel, sever, or suspend a child's enrollment if deemed in the best interest of the camper or the camp, in which case the unused tuition will be refunded.
8. The camp is not responsible for a child's equipment or personal belongings, while in transit or in camp. The camp will make every effort to provide proper supervision so that losses will be at a minimum.
9. I give permission for Carousel Farm nurse to administer prescription medications as instructed by my family physician or non-prescription medications as instructed by a parent. Prescriptions must be in the original container.
10. In signing this agreement, I understand that all support staff for my child will be hired directly by Carousel Farm; ESY service (including speech, and OT) therapies will be hired by Carousel Farm or a school district.
11. I give permission for my child to be treated at an emergency room in case of accident, illness, or injury at camp.
12. Camp will be closed on July 4.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____

**CAROUSEL FARM
2024 SUMMER TUITION RATES**

Circle Program: 8 weeks (6/24 – 8/16) First 4 weeks (6/24 - 7/19) Second 4 weeks (7/22– 8/16)

Please check the appropriate program for your child: 2023 Season

	8 Weeks ()	4 Weeks ()	2 Weeks ()
Tuition Fees	\$5850 ()	\$3620 ()	\$2630 ()

Catered lunch is available for a campers registered schedule. Daily lunch is subject to change and the current rate per lunch is \$12.00. Please check this if you are interested in having the lunch program ()

A deposit of \$350 must accompany each application. The balance of tuition is due on May 1, 2024.
Extended hours are billed at a rate of \$20.00/hour for times before or after program hours.

If transportation is desired, please check: 8 weeks: () 4 weeks: ()

Please Note: Transportation will be provided by an outside private transportation company or Carousel Farm vans. We will do our best to establish a transportation hourly rate in early Spring. This rate will depend on the length of each route. Please consider this before registering for camp transportation.

1:1 Support is available for those teens who need an "angel on their shoulder" in order to best participate in activities.
_____ \$21.00/hour

EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM

Carousel Farm is licensed by the Department of Education, Private Academic Schools. An extended school year program is offered, which follows goals of a school district IEP and implements progress notes.

Extended School Year Program This program includes implementing goals of a student's IEP, monitoring progress, and writing a progress report at the conclusion of the student's program.

IEP Implementation

_____ Progress Report -\$900