



Vanderbilt Camp TALKS (Talking And Learning with Kids who Stutter)

June 5th-9th

2023 Parent Handbook

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Introduction and Mission Statement

Camp TALKS (Talking And Learning with Kids who Stutter) is a week-long day camp for children and teens who stutter and their families. We serve campers age 7-17. Camp TALKS began in 2011 as a half day week-long program for a small group of children and teens who stutter. We have grown to a full day camp with other programming throughout the year.

Camp TALKS counselors are volunteers who are Graduate Students in the Masters Speech-Language Pathology program at Vanderbilt or former campers/adults who stutter.

Camp TALKS aims to create something that is vitally important for people who stutter: community. It is an opportunity to meet and interact in an environment that is accepting, supportive, positive, and fun. Our mission is to empower children and teens who stutter to become confident communicators by developing understanding and acceptance of their stuttering, tools for improving communication, and self-advocacy skills for educating others in the community about stuttering, in a supportive, interactive, and enjoyable summer camp venue, with parental involvement.

Core Values

At Camp TALKS, we believe that stuttering is OK, period.

We believe people who stutter can be successful, confident, joyful communicators regardless of their level of disfluency.

We give everyone as much time that they need to speak.

We don't seek to "fix" what isn't broken; but help our campers recognize the strengths they already have.

We believe that the "problem of stuttering" is not disfluency, but all that people who stutter might do, feel, and think to NOT stutter.

We believe that by looking stuttering in the eye, we can begin to peel away any layers of struggle and avoidance.

We believe in creating a space for children who stutter to shine and share their gifts with others.

We believe that this cannot be fully realized without support from the family.

Camper Registration

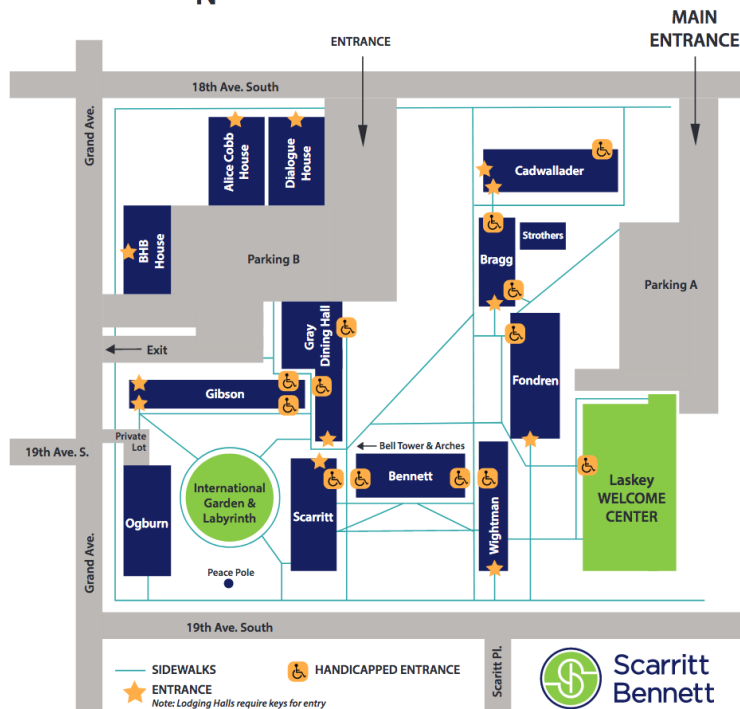
Registration for Camp TALKS is done prior to camp either online or via paper form. After registration, the camp director will be in touch regarding payment and if any additional information is needed. Campers ages 7-17 are eligible to be campers, with some communication with parents of children on the younger end of this range about their fit for camp.

Additionally, parents may be asked to provide IEP documentation or evidence of other therapy, in order to determine if Camp TALKS is a suitable program.

Information to be considered includes but is not limited to the following: any other significant behavioral issues or cognitive/ language/ or developmental needs that would prevent them from fully participating in Camp TALKS activities, safely and independently. Camp TALKS engages the campers in various activities requiring self-reflection and some level of awareness of their stuttering and attitudes around it. If a camper will be unable to engage in this programming, they may not be suitable for Camp TALKS.

Location

Camp TALKS 2023 will be held at the Scarritt Bennett Center, near Vanderbilt's campus, in Fondren Hall, in Nashville TN. A map of SBC is below.



Parking

Parking for Camp TALKS and drop off and pick up will be in Parking Lot A on the map of Scarritt Bennett above. Parking is free. Parents may park there on Monday mornings and Friday afternoon for the parent meeting and end-of-week celebration. Parents are asked to not remain on-site throughout the day otherwise.

Hours

Camp TALKS will be held from the hours of 8am to 3pm. Drop off can be as early as 7am each morning. Consistent drop off after 9am may result in camper being dismissed from the program, with a verbal warning given after one late drop off. Pick up is by 4:30pm. If pick up must be later, please communicate with

camp as soon as possible. If campers are not picked up by 4:30, a fee of \$5 will be assessed for every 10 minutes delayed will be levied. If parent is not present by 5pm, they must pick up their camper at the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center at 1215 21st Ave South. Camp TALKS will end later on Friday, by approximately 5pm, due to the end of week celebration and performance.

Fees/ Payment/ Financial Assistance

Camp TALKS full fee is \$500 for the week. Needs-based financial aid is available. Families can reach out to Elizabeth Robinson about applying at elizabeth.robinson@vumc.org or 615-936-7525. Camp Fee is to be paid electronically via Camp TALKS website at <https://www.vumc.org/hearingandspeechsciences/camp-talks> or via check made out to “Vanderbilt Camp TALKS” mailed to Jack Henderson at

Jack Henderson
Medical Center East, South Tower
1215 21st Ave S, Suite 6209
Nashville, TN 37232-8718

Fee must be paid by June 3, 2023 to be considered registered and participating in Camp Talks.

Withdrawal from Program

Families that need to opt out of the program before camp begins and who have paid will be refunded their fee. If you need to withdraw from camp once it starts you will not be refunded the camp fee, if any was required.

Parent Meetings

Parent involvement is a major component of Camp TALKS. There will be a parent discussion group after dropping off the morning of Monday, June 5th and at 1pm the afternoon of Friday, June 9th. Discussion groups will be led by Ryan Millager, M.S. CCC-SLP, Camp TALKS Associate Director. The meetings will be an opportunity to share your story, your concerns and hopes, and to hear from other parents. The Friday meeting will, in part, feature discussion with a panel of adults who stutter from the community. While parent participation in this group is not

required for campers to attend Camp TALKS, it is strongly encouraged and viewed as a key part of the camp mission.

Accessibility

The Scarritt Bennett Center is ADA compliant, and all accommodations will be made for those with mobility needs, camper or parent. Interpreters will be provided for languages other than English if needed, based on parent request, for parent discussion groups via telephonic interpreter.

What to/ not to Bring

Camp TALKS is an active summer camp. Please dress your children in clothes that would be comfortable to move in indoors and outdoors. Closed toed shoes with socks are strongly encouraged. Please bring a water bottle, some extras will be available but one for each camper is not guaranteed. If we engage in a water activity, prior notice will be given and a change of clothes will be recommended. Clothes with inappropriate or adult content will be strictly prohibited. Please do not bring valuables, jewelry, or anything that may be damaged or lost or is not needed to enjoy the week of Camp activities. Camp TALKS is not responsible for damaged or lost items your camper brings to the week of camp. Please do not bring outside snacks or food (see Food, below) unless you have arranged an exception with camp staff.

Cell Phones

Campers are not permitted to use their cell phones after 8am and before 3pm unless there is an emergency. Parents are asked to contact the camp director's cell phone in case of emergency during the day. Campers will be given a verbal warning if they have their phone out during the day and on second warning their phone will be confiscated by the counselors or camp director until 3pm that same day. Camp TALKS is not responsible for damaged or lost cell phones campers bring with them.

Food

Lunch will be provided free-of-charge to the campers every day in the Scarritt Bennett Center dining hall. Camp TALKS will also provide snacks in the

mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Parents are required to provide information of food allergies or dietary restrictions before the start of Camp TALKS in order to communicate with the food service staff.

A light breakfast will be provided for parents on Monday morning for the discussion. Food will be provided for all parties on Friday evening after the end of week performances. Please communicate any family food allergies or dietary restrictions.

Health and Safety

Camp TALKS will be following all Vanderbilt University Medical Center regulations regarding COVID-19 safety. Currently, masks are NOT required indoors or outdoors. If there are changes, they will be communicated to all parties immediately.

Please do not bring your child to Camp TALKS if they are sick. This may be:

- A contagious disease such as COVID-19, chicken pox, strep throat, pink eye, ring worm, or any other unexplained rashes
- A temperature over 100 degrees within 24 hours
- Persistent cough or cold like symptoms
- Head lice
- Vomiting or diarrhea

The health and safety of the campers is of the utmost importance. There will be a first aid kit on hand for minor cuts, scrapes, or other injuries. In the event of a medical emergency or accident we will:

- Contact you immediately at all numbers and email addresses provided.
- If you are unavailable or cannot be reached, the child will be transported to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital accompanied by the camp director.

If a camper requires medication during the time camp is in session, the medication must be provided in the original container in a zip lock bag with the camper's name, type of medication, dosage, and time written on it. This must be given to the camp director and they will provide it to the camper when it is time to take the medicine. It will be given back to the family each evening and brought

back each morning. If a medication is injectable, it must be administered by the camper or by parent, arriving at camp to administer the medication. If a medication requires refrigeration, notify staff and it will be able to be refrigerated at the Scarritt Bennett Center.

Campers' relevant medical or speech therapy information may be shared with counselors on a need-to-know basis and will be kept confidential in keeping with Vanderbilt confidentiality policies.

Additional Safety Information: The physical and emotional safety of our campers, counselors, and other staff are our highest priority. The following camp and campus policies are in place:

- Campers are supervised by Camp TALKS staff throughout the session. On the events that bring us off the Scarritt Bennett campus, all groups are accompanied by at least two counselors.
- No camper will be dismissed without signing out and clearing it with a counselor who communicates with the camp director and/or associate director.
- All other groups or individuals using the Scarritt Bennett campus must register with the main office, so that anyone else using adjacent buildings is pre-approved. Camp TALKS counselors are trained to question and/or report unfamiliar or suspicious persons on campus as appropriate.
- Although campers will occasionally be invited to advertise their participation in Camp TALKS as part of stuttering advocacy activities, no one is permitted to give out personal information or the exact location of camp.
- Vanderbilt security conduct regular patrols of all grounds as part of broader campus security efforts.

Rules of Participation

All campers and participants of Camp TALKS are expected to follow the rules of participation at all times.

The following are encouraged and expected:

- We let everyone finish and give them the time they need to say what they want to say.

The following behaviors are not permitted and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program:

- Hitting, shoving, punching, or any other violent/ inappropriate physical contact towards another counselor or camper
- Bullying
- Mean or disrespectful language towards others
- Profanity
- Theft
- Consistent failure to follow staff directions
- Use of cell phones during camp hours

Disciplinary Procedures

If a camper is found to be not adhering to the aforementioned rules, Camp TALKS will first seek to find a solution verbally with the camper, talking with parents either at the time of the event or at pick up. Camper may be dismissed from camp after repeated infractions or if infraction is violent or egregious.

Arrival and Departure Procedures

Campers may be dropped off as early as 7am and pick up is required no later than 4:30 p.m. central time. A fee of \$5 will be assessed for every 10 minutes delayed. Parent may park at Scarritt Bennett lot A and come up to the camp building. On Monday, there will be counselors to show you up to the building. Parents are required to confirm drop off with a counselor and to confirm pick up with a counselor before leaving with their camper. If someone other than parent is dropping off/ picking up, they must notify the camp director ahead of time and may be asked to provide ID.

Photos and Social Media

Campers are asked to not post any pictures they take during the week on social media. There will be pictures taken by Camp TALKS staff. All parents will be given a consent form for photographs that may be shared on the Camp TALKS website or future media from the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center.

Lost & Found/ Missing items/ Damaged

Camp TALKS is not responsible for lost or broken items. Campers are asked to not bring any valuables or jewelry or money to Camp TALKS. Any items left after pick-up will be collected and kept secure by the camp director. Any items left after the week of camp will be kept secure by the camp director and parents will be contacted to return item.

Parent Guardian Behavior

Use of profanity, threats, or disrespectful behavior by a parent/ guardian displayed towards any counselor or camper may result in the suspension or dismissal from Camp TALKS. If concerns arise, please ask to speak with Camp TALKS director or counselors.

Complaint Procedure

We hope Camp TALKS is a positive, care-filled, and supportive environment for all. However, we understand there may be times when you have questions, concerns, or complaints about the program. Please address such in writing via email to the camp director at jack.k.henderson@vumc.org. Director may include Anne Marie Tharpe (who is listed in directory) in responses and may reply to any verbal complaints via email so as to maintain a record.