

ABOUT TRUE FRIENDS

True Friends is a nonprofit agency providing life-changing experiences that enhance independence and self-esteem for children and adults with disabilities. We welcome campers ages 5+ with and without diagnosed disabilities, including developmental or physical disabilities, or health conditions. True Friends' programs include camp, respite, therapeutic horseback riding, conference and retreat, travel and team building; serving over 25,000 individuals annually. With camps near Maple Lake, Annandale, Eden Prairie and Bemidji, True Friends serves campers in Minnesota and throughout the United States.

SUPPORTING CAMPERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE

True Friends partners with families and guardians to make each camper's experience successful. In order for us to do this we need guardians and families to provide extensive information about each camper. True Friends also acknowledges not all campers are appropriate for the "camp-type" setting in which the program is provided.

True Friends is a licensed home and community based basic support service; we are not an intensive or crisis service organization. Therefore, True Friends reserves the right to deny services to campers who we believe pose a safety threat to themselves, other campers and/or employees.

Care Ratios

Care ratios and session costs are based on care needs. Often staff-to-camper ratios in a camp setting differ from daily living care ratios. If you'd like help determining your care ratio, please refer to our care ratio guidelines below or contact our staff.

High Care Support: 1:1

- May have frequent verbal or physical outbursts that require staff intervention
- May be unable to communicate needs
- May have trouble participating in a group setting or display inappropriate behaviors
- May need extensive support with medical care needs
- Needs "eyes on" supervision during awake hours. The True Friends staffing model does not offer overnight awake staff. Staff assist campers with typical needs during the night.
- Uses manual wheelchair and needs staff support to propel outside buildings
- May need total support with activities of daily living

Medium Care Support: 1:3

- May have occasional verbal or physical outbursts that require staff intervention
- May have trouble with large social environments, but does well in small groups
- May need some support with medical care needs
- May need verbal support with activities of daily living
- Easily accepts support from staff

Low Care Support: 1:5

- Can respond well to new and unfamiliar situations
- Can enjoy group settings
- Are independent with activities of daily living
- Easily communicates wants and needs
- Easily accepts support from staff

