

Troop 420 November Outing

Easterseals Wisconsin Elks Respite Camp

1550 Waubeek Road, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin 53965

Itinerary: Saturday, November 14, 2026

7:45 AM	Meet at SSM Health/Dean West Clinic parking lot at 752 N. High Point Road
8:00 AM	Depart for Easterseals Wisconsin Elks Respite Camp
9:00 AM	Arrive at Easterseals Wisconsin Elks Respite Camp
9:15 AM	Set up tents or move in to cabins
10:00 AM	Outdoor advancement skills
12:00 PM	Lunch prepared outdoors by patrol
1:30 PM	Outdoor advancement skills and service project
5:00 PM	Free time
6:00 PM	Dinner prepared outdoors by patrol
7:30 PM	Movie and popcorn in lodge
10:00 PM	Lights out

Itinerary: Sunday, November 15, 2026

7:00 AM	Reveille
7:15 AM	Breakfast prepared outdoors by patrols
9:00 AM	Pack up and clean cabins and lodge
10:30 AM	Troop worship service
11:00 AM	Depart Easterseals Wisconsin Elks Respite Camp
12:00 PM	Deliver Scouts to their homes

Requirements:

- \$45 cost per participant includes lodging, three meals, and snacks.
- Register with Troop Treasurer Mr. Werner at troop meetings or by e-mail at: dmwerner3@gmail.com
- Registration deadline is the Monday, November 9 troop meeting.
- Class A uniform is required for travel and Sunday worship.
- Adult outing participants and/or drivers are needed.
- Questions? Contact Asst. Scoutmaster Darryl Fargo: darrylfargo@charter.net
- Learn more about the history of Easterseals Wisconsin's camps on the following two pages of this invitation.

EASTERSEALS WISCONSIN CAMP HISTORY

HISTORY OF CAMP WAWBEEK

In 1897, when Milwaukee attorney Horace Upham and his wife, Mary, purchased property for a summer home near Wisconsin Dells, they could not have visualized that over 100 years later their beautiful wooded retreat – Wawbeek – would have provided joy and freedom to over 50,000 Easterseals campers. Nor could they have imagined how their names and the name Wawbeek, which they borrowed from Longfellow's epic poem "The Song of Hiawatha," would live on in association with one of the nation's leading camps serving children and adults with disabilities.

Back in the mid 1930's, the Wisconsin Association for the Disabled (now Easterseals Wisconsin), after sponsoring orthopedic field clinics for nearly 10 years, was aware of the need to provide social and recreational experiences for people with disabilities. Pilot projects providing day camping activities had been developed in some counties, but the association sought to develop a statewide residential program that would offer more. Finding a suitable site and funding for such an operation presented major challenges.

Not long after the search began, former association board member Elizabeth Upham Davis and her sister, Caroline Upham Keene, stepped forward to offer their family's beloved property, Wawbeek, on which the association could develop just such a facility. The Upham sisters wished for Wawbeek to live on as a tribute to their parents' service to others.

On April 9, 1938, the association gratefully accepted the offer, and the first Easterseals camp in the country was established. The lives of thousands of people with disabilities in Wisconsin would be forever changed. The National Youth Administration provided a director, staff, and necessary equipment to the camp, so the association was able to open Camp Wawbeek almost immediately. During that first summer, 91 children with disabilities were the first to enjoy the "Camp Wawbeek experience".

Over the years, the facilities have been improved and expanded many times. Loyal friends of Easterseals Wisconsin have continued to step up, donating time, labor, and funds ensuring that Camp Wawbeek is able to meet the changing needs of its campers. The Upham family heirs have remained actively interested.

Today, Wawbeek aims to give children and adults an opportunity to meet new friends and take on new challenges through a wide variety of recreational and social activities. The presence of supportive and well-trained staff and volunteers assures that campers' needs are being met and puts sometimes anxious parents and caregivers at ease. Camp Wawbeek continues to give campers the "wings" they need to do things they have never done before – and treasured memories that last a lifetime.

HISTORY OF RESPITE CAMP

Throughout the years, Easterseals Wisconsin Camps has continued to develop new camp sessions and adapt to the changing needs of the growing population. In the early 1990s, Easterseals Wisconsin Camps saw a void in respite services available to families and caregivers of children and adults with disabilities. With the support of the Wisconsin Elks lodges and State Major Project, the Wisconsin Elks/Easterseals Wisconsin Respite Camp was created in 1992.

Children, teenagers, and adults with developmental and/or physical disabilities can require lots of time, care, and attention to continue living at home. They rely on loving family members to meet their complex care needs, develop to their full potential, and enjoy life.

Families of people with disabilities often find themselves needing a break from the extra energy and time it takes to care for someone with a disability in their home. It is easy to focus their care on the family member with disabilities, while other relationships are neglected. If there are other children in the household, it can be a challenge to give the attention needed while caring for someone with complex needs.

The Wisconsin Elks/Easterseals Respite Camp is designed to give families a break from these demands, while providing their loved ones with a safe, nurturing, and fun experience. Families often use this time to reconnect, take a vacation, have a date night, or just enjoy a full night's sleep.