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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Variety's Adventure Camps Receive ACA Accreditation

Local Camp for Kids with Disabilities Earns National Accreditation for Excellence and Safety

ST. LOUIS, November 1, 2025 – The American Camp Association® (ACA) announced today that Variety's Adventure Camp has received ACA-Accredited® Camp status.

"ACA accreditation means that Variety Adventure Camp submitted to a thorough review (up to 266 standards) of its operations by the American Camp Association (ACA), from staff qualifications and training to emergency management — and complied with the highest standards in the industry," said Interim ACA President and CEO Henry DeHart. "Parents expect their children to attend accredited schools. They also deserve a camp experience that is reviewed and accredited by an independent organization."

"Variety Adventure Camp and ACA form a partnership that promotes summers of growth and fun in an inclusive environment committed to safety," said Robin Diehl, Director of Enrichment Programs, "ACA accreditation demonstrates our commitment to quality camp programming."

Variety St. Louis established its Adventure Camp program in 2004 in response to consistent feedback from families about the lack of recreational and camp programs available for children with complex disabilities in the St. Louis area. Adventure Camp offers local children with disabilities a traditional day camp experience, with innovative and adaptive experiences, completely free of charge to families.

The camp maintains a staff-to-camper ratio of 1:1 or 1:2, depending on each child's needs, ensuring a supportive and individualized experience. To best support campers whose diagnosis may come with unique behavioral or medical needs, extra counselors may be assigned to provide individualized care. One registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, and a registered behavior technician are on-site daily to ensure every camper's safety and well-being.

Variety's Adventure Camp, which empowered a record number of over 360 children this past year, is open to children ages 4 through 21 within Variety's 30-county service area, regardless of disability or support level. Approximately half of participants use an assistive device such as a wheelchair or walker, and more than one-third live with multiple disabilities.

The program operates for six week-long sessions each summer and an additional week during winter break. Campers engage in activities such as swimming, art, music, STEM projects, fishing, ice skating, rock wall climbing, baseball, and local outings. By encouraging campers to try new things, reassuring each participant, and modeling acceptance, Adventure Camp fosters independence, confidence, and belonging. For more information, parents can find camp details at: varietystl.org/AdventureCamp

ACA is the only independent accrediting organization reviewing camp operations in the United States. Its nationally recognized standards program focuses on the quality, health, and safety of camp operations. ACA collaborates with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross, and

other youth-serving organizations to ensure practices reflect the most current, research-based standards in the field.

For more information about ACA accreditation, visit [ACAcamps.org](https://www.acacamps.org).

About Variety St. Louis: Variety envisions a world where abilities are redefined, and possibilities are reimagined for kids with special needs. In pursuit of this vision, Variety empowers children with physical and developmental disabilities by giving critical medical equipment and therapies, along with innovative Camp and Performing Arts programs, which provide opportunities for recreation, socialization, and artistic expression.

Variety programs help children gain independence, boost socialization among their friends and family, demonstrate belief in themselves, and increase skills they need to engage their world as fully as possible. Learn more at www.varietystl.org