

Camp Abilities An Educational Sports Camp for Youth with Visual Impairments

Lauren J. Lieberman (1)

(1) SUNY Brockport, Distinguished Service Professor, 2 Carolin Dr. Brockport, NY 14420

Type of Contribution:

Age Range Elementary, Middle School, High School

Population Visual Impairment, Deafblindness, Additional Disabilities/Severe

Physical Activity Visual Impairment, Deafblindness, Additional Disabilities/Severe

Session Activity Poster Session

Camp Abilities Brockport is a one-week educational sports camp for children and teens who are blind, visually impaired, and deafblind. The camp is set up to provide a one-on-one instructional situation for each person, which is often on the contrary to other camps designed for people with visual impairments.

Our counselors are pooled from physical education and special education undergraduate and graduate programs across the U.S., and overseas. Since our first summer we have had more than 90 counselors per summer, and we have trained more than 2,500 future teachers in the area of sport and recreation for children with sensory impairments. Many of our specialists are blind themselves, and serve as excellent role models for our children, some of whom have never met or socially interacted with another person who is blind.

Since 2000 Camp Abilities has expanded to over 20 Camps in the United States and 10 in other countries. Over the years Camp Abilities has been the source of many descriptive and intervention studies. Through Camp Abilities we have also developed educational videos, validated instruments, and products through the American Printing House for the Blind.

Through this poster we hope to raise awareness about Camp Abilities and encourage others to start Camp Abilities throughout the world. We have developed a Camp Abilities Start Up Manual in English on our web site. Through this manual anyone can start a Camp Abilities for 1 day or one month, and with 5 athletes or 100. The goal and dream is what you make it! "Believe You Can Achieve"!