

**UNITED WAY OF CONNECTICUT**

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**2-1-1**



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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **In Connecticut Summer Fun Starts with 2-1-1**

When families need assistance in identifying and evaluating the right summer camp for their children, 2-1-1 can help! 2-1-1 is THE source for providing valuable consumer information on selecting the right summer camp in Connecticut. Last year, United Way 2-1-1 Child Care provided over 5,000 referrals for summer youth programs statewide.

“There are so many options to consider when choosing a summer camp and 2-1-1 can help families sort through those options,” says Sherri Sutera, Senior Vice President of Child Care Services at the United Way of Connecticut who administers 2-1-1 Childcare. Sutera suggests families consider the following when thinking about summer camps:

- The child’s interests and personality (sports, arts, drama, music, academics, etc.)
- The child’s needs or limitations (academics, health, social skills, etc.)
- The experiences a child wishes to have
- Structure of the environment
- Whether the child is a 1<sup>st</sup> time camper
- Preference of co-ed or all girls or all boys
- Camp size
- Budget
- Camp schedule
- Location

Once families consider these options, a 2-1-1 Child Care Referral Specialist will provide a family with the customized summer camp choices available. They can also provide valuable consumer information for evaluating individual summer camps.

The 2-1-1 Child Care database includes general recreation programs, as well as specialty camps to accommodate a wide variety of interests. Specialty camps include those focusing on arts or sports, including basketball and horseback riding, and those that can accommodate children with special health care needs. 2-1-1 Call Specialists can also refer callers to campership programs that may assist families with paying for the cost of summer camps.

Simply dial 2-1-1 for more information on Summer *Youth Programs*. To read more consumer information on selecting the right summer camp, go to [www.ctunitedway.org](http://www.ctunitedway.org).

United Way 2-1-1 is a partnership between Connecticut United Ways and the State of Connecticut. Funded by the Department of Social Services, 2-1-1 Child Care helps families obtain child care arrangements to best meet their needs.

For more information, please contact Malia Sieve at the number listed above.

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