



After going virtual in 2020, Camp Connect is BACK in person this year!! This year's camp will be in August, from Tuesday the 10th to Sunday the 15th and we'll be back at Manidokan, in Washington County.

What is Camp Connect? Funded by DHS and organized by Baltimore County DSS and volunteers since 2001, Camp Connect is Maryland's overnight camp to reunify brothers and sisters separated in foster care.

Our goal is to offer a memorable experience that siblings will share for a lifetime. Brothers and sisters spend all day together, and this year's plans include tubing on the Potomac River, a visit to a dairy for ice cream and of course arts and crafts, lots of swimming, and fun and games. All camp evening plans include our traditional Amazing Race, talent show, and trip to Adventure Park USA and this year we're planning for a magician.

Who is eligible to participate? Any child ages 7 – 17 in foster care who is separated from a sibling living in a different home, whether in foster care or not, and both want to come to camp. A high staff to camper ratio enables us to manage children with behavioral health needs but we don't have the capacity to serve children with serious developmental or physical disabilities.

How do I refer a camper? Darlene Sadowski, administrative specialist at BCoDSS is the primary contact for Camp Connect. Darlene can be reached at 410-853-3969, or Darlene.sadowski@maryland.gov. Darlene manages referrals and applications, and can make sure any questions are forwarded to the right person.

What about COVID precautions? We need to have a safe camp and are requiring that every camper ages 12+ be vaccinated or provide an exemption approved by an infectious disease expert with whom we're consulting. Counselors will also be vaccinated. We are working with the infectious disease expert for other recommendations like before and during camp COVID testing. Our camp site will follow all CDC and state guidance regarding distancing and mask-wearing and we are asking that campers do so also.

What is the cost? None! The Department of Human Services funds Camp Connect and some of our special activities are funded by generous donors to Manidokan Camp and Retreat Center.

How do campers get to camp? Transportation is being arranged from the Drumcastle Center as in past years. Caseworkers and caregivers will need to be responsible for bringing campers to Drumcastle on Tuesday and picking them up on Sunday. If the campers lives closer to Manidokan caregivers are welcome to bring them right to camp.



Deadline? Applications must be completed no later than July 15th