



May 15-17, 2026

*A weekend for Children who are
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
and their families*

Major Sponsors of Spring Camp Cheerio



CAMP INFORMATION

Located in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, the weekend is held at Camp Cheerio, a family camp with board, lodging and recreational activities for all ages. The weekend is designed for individuals and families interested in learning strategies for spoken language and sharing experiences as they relate to hearing loss. Cued Speech Classes will also be offered during the weekend.

During this camp weekend, children are placed in age-appropriate classes where they participate in activities such as arts and crafts, games, hiking, canoeing, archery, a hillside waterslide, horseback riding and more. While the children are in their classes, parents attend presentations from speakers, small facilitated group sessions or Cued Speech classes.

Late afternoons will be a time for sharing as well as time to enjoy the activities and facilities of Camp Cheerio. We will have an ice cream social and games on Friday night and the annual dance on Saturday night.

Note: Sign Language Interpreters, Cued Speech Transliterators are needed through the weekend.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Cued Speech classes will be taught Friday through Sunday at no extra charge, thanks to NCSA provided funds. Those taking a Cued Speech class should plan to attend all sessions.

Level 1 Beginners will be taught by Nicole Dobson

Level 2 Intermediate will be taught by Amy Ruberl

Cued Language Transliterator Training Program:

Cued Language Transliterator Training will be organized by Language Matters, Inc. with Lauren Pruett and Jane Dolan.

Our plan is to provide a seasoned CLT (mentor) to work with newer CLT (mentee) for the duration of camp. The seasoned CLT will be one of the CLTs providing services for the camp. The goal is to have a cohesive group who works together to ensure access and accommodations for a variety of settings at camp. These could include meal announcements, children's classes/activities, family gatherings and lectures. Your group instructor will provide both you and your mentor with guidelines and worksheets to steer you through the variety of activities and observations. You will follow your mentor to observe and may even get the opportunity to transliterate for bits of time, if desired. There may be times when you go with a different mentor in order to observe a larger variety of activities. This is a great learning and hands-on opportunity for CLTs at any level!

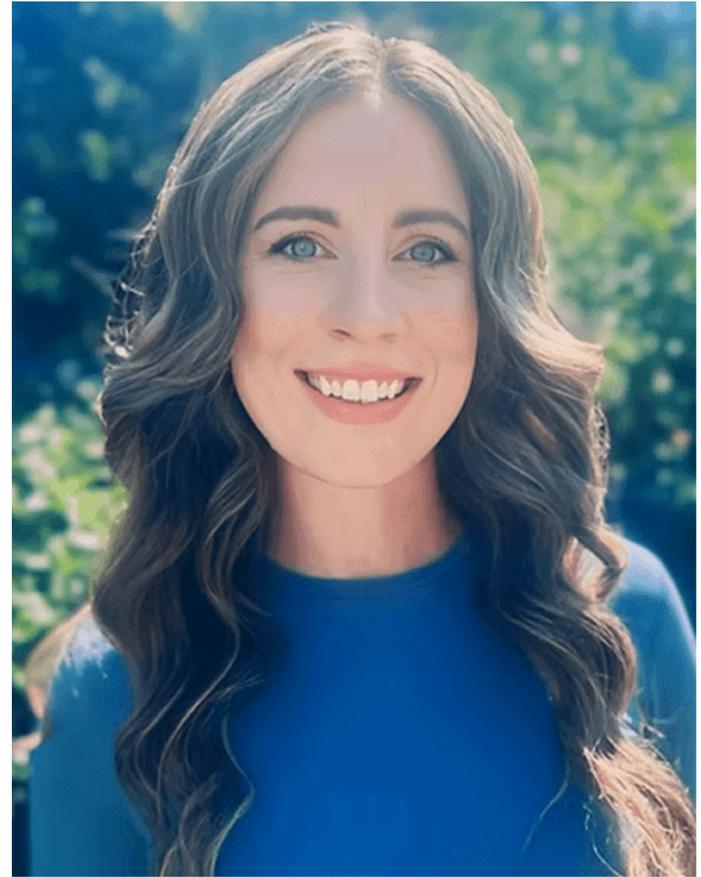
Do you work for the school system and need financial assistance to attend? There may also be a possibility for SLI training, email us at springcampcheerio@gmail.com.

Young Adult Program

This program is designed for young adults who have graduated from high school, and are now in college and/or in the working world. This program will enjoy all the amenities of Camp Cheerio such as canoeing, hiking and all the other outdoor activities offered at camp. This program will also have team leaders' present strategies on how to transition into the adult world, self-advocacy, and other pertinent topics. This program is open to all young adults hearing, deaf and hard of hearing.

Featured Speaker Bio

Dr. Rachel Parkington, Au.D. holds a Doctorate in Audiology (Au.D) from The University of Northern Colorado and a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) in Communication Disorders from The University of Massachusetts. Dr. Parkington is actively engaged in various national and state organizations. She has served as the President of the New Hampshire Academy of Audiology and is currently the Past President of the Educational Audiology Association. Her contributions extend to the New Hampshire Commission for Deafness and Hearing Loss, the New Hampshire Deaf Child's Bill of Rights Committee, and the Educational Audiology Association Advocacy Committee. In 2015, Dr. Parkington founded Hear to Learn, a venture dedicated to providing Educational Audiology Services to students across New Hampshire. She remains committed to advocating for and expanding these essential services throughout the state. In her free time, Dr. Parkington enjoys spending quality moments with her family and exploring new hiking trails, paddle-boarding spots, and adventurous destinations across New England.



Kathryn Wilson Linder M.A., CCC-SLP, LSLS Cert. AVT is a speech-language pathologist, teacher of the deaf and Auditory-Verbal therapist, with more than 40 years of experience as an educator, therapist, and consultant in public school, private practice, home-based, and clinical settings. Presently, Kathryn is an independent consultant. Following full time employment as Director of FIRST YEARS at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Kathryn held the position of Coaching and Mentoring Leader for Hearing First. She is a founding member of the American Cochlear Implant Alliance, has been a member of the Coordinating Committee for the American Speech and Hearing Association Special Interest Group,



Hearing and Hearing Disorders in Childhood and has served on the Board of Directors for The CARE Project. She recently received The Yoder Lifetime Achievement Award from The CARE Project. Kathryn has contributed to the professional literature as an author of several articles on a variety of topics. She provides professional learning opportunities both nationally and internationally and mentors professionals pursuing certification in Listening and Spoken Language practice.

Ryan Worden holds a B.S. in ASL/English Interpreting with a minor in French and a career concentration in Deaf Education. He is nationally certified through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and is also an EIPA-certified interpreter. With more than 18 years of professional experience, Ryan specializes in performance interpreting and brings a deep passion for accessibility and expression to his work.

Ryan learned ASL at a very young age when he began school and later expanded his skills by learning Cued American English in May 2019—his first year attending Spring Camp Cheerio. He has taught ASL at Camp Discover for the past three years and is also involved with other Deaf and signing communities. Based in Knoxville, Tennessee, Ryan has a wide range of creative interests outside of interpreting, including taxidermy, American Indian craftwork, and powwow dancing.



Panel- A panel of individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing and/or their family members will share life experiences.

SCHEDULED AGENDA

Friday 5/15/2026

Registration	9:30am - 12:00pm
Lunch	12:30pm - 1:15pm
Adult/Children's	1:30 pm - 4:45pm
Programming & Classes	
Dinner	5:30pm-6:15pm
Ice cream Social/Games	6:45pm- 8:45pm
Gym/Open Play	6:45pm- 10:00pm

Saturday 5/16/2026

Breakfast	8:00am - 8:45am
Adult/Children's	9:00am - 12:15pm
Programming & Classes	
Lunch	12:30pm- 1:15 pm
Cued Speech Classes	1:30pm - 4:45 pm
Adult & Children's	1:30pm- 2:45pm
Programming	
Camp Experience	2:45pm - 4:45 pm
Waterslide	5:15pm - 6:15 pm
Dinner	6:30pm - 7:15 pm
Dance	7:30pm - 10:00 pm

Sunday 5/17/2026

Breakfast	8:00am - 8:45am
Adult & Children's	9:00am - 12:00pm
Programming/ Classes	
Lunch	12:00pm - 12:45pm
Depart afterwards	

Scholarship Awards

Scholarships are available on an as needed basis. \$75 deposit and registration fee at time of registration is still required to hold your spot. Scholarship awards will be determined in April. The scholarship application is available on our website at www.springcampcheerio.org

Volunteers are Needed!

Volunteers for the Children's Program are needed! Email springcampcheerio@gmail.com If you are interested. Also needed: volunteers who know ASL and/or Cued Speech!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What to bring? Sweaters and jackets will likely be needed for the cool mid-May nights. An extra blanket or sleeping bag should be brought for the young children who are napping during the day. Swim suits for the hill waterslide--weather permitting. Bring rain gear!! Please bring closed toe shoes for horseback riding.

We welcome any extra snacks, juices and soft drinks for break time snacks.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Participants are encouraged to arrive at Camp Cheerio Friday mid-morning and stay through the conclusion of the weekend on Sunday morning.

This will allow you to enjoy the full benefits of the camp weekend. If you are unable to come for the weekend, day rates are available.

Cabins: There are family cabins with bunk beds for six to eight people. Shower and toilet facilities are located in each cabin. **Linens are not provided.**

Lodge: The Millis Lodge offers motel like rooms with private baths; linens are provided.

Motels: For participants wishing to stay off-site, see our website <http://springcampcheerio.com> for a listing of motels. You will pay the day rate to cover meals and workshop costs at camp.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP

Camp Cheerio is located two miles north of Roaring Gap, NC. From the east, take I-40 through Winston-Salem to Hwy 421 North, to I-77 North to Hwy 21 North near Elkin, NC. From Hwy 21 North, turn left on Camp Butler Road and then left on Camp Cheerio Road. Camp Address is: 1430 Camp Cheerio Road, Glade Valley, NC 28627

Need Additional Information or Questions?

Contact Courtney Poole at
springcampcheerio@gmail.com
or
Stephanie Payonk at 704-798-1094