



*May 16-18, 2025*

*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 Maureen Bellamy

## 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](mailto: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

**Jasmine Simmons, Au.D., CCC-A** is from Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Simmons received her Doctorate of Audiology from Central Michigan University. She is a member of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) and the Co-Founder of Black Audiologist United.

Dr. Simmons's passion for audiology stems from both personal and clinical experiences. She was born with a bilateral profound sensorineural hearing loss and received her first cochlear implant at age two. She demonstrates empathy and patience when working with her patients by reflecting on her personal experiences. One of her ambitions is to give back to the community. For the past nine years, she has been a camp counselor for teens with hearing loss. Dr. Simmons currently works for a non-profit clinic that treats the underserved population in Jacksonville, Florida.

**Stephanie Payonk** is from Salisbury, North Carolina where she resides with her husband and two children. Stephanie first attended Spring Camp Cheerio in 2007 during college and is now a member of the Spring Camp Cheerio Board and serves as the Children's Program Director. Stephanie is a Teacher of the Deaf, and received her Undergraduate Degree in Deaf Education from UNC-Greensboro and her Masters Degree in Deaf Education from Vanderbilt University. Stephanie has taught in classroom, resource and itinerant models and currently works for Kannapolis City Schools. Stephanie is a Certified Cued Speech Instructor. She believes the families are an integral part of each child's educational team.

**Rochelle West** is a speech language pathologist with over 20 years of experience in a variety of settings. She has worked in hospitals, early intervention, clinical evaluation teams, outpatient clinics, a government agency and is currently working for Kannapolis City Schools. She has worked with the infant through geriatric populations and has treated patients with a wide variety of speech, language, cognitive, voice, and swallowing disorders. Rochelle is working towards her proficiency in Cued Speech in order to better serve the hard of hearing students on her caseload. She often co-treats and coordinates services with the Teacher of the Deaf. Rochelle graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Communication from The Ohio State University and her Master's degree in Speech Language Pathology from University of Akron. In her free time, Rochelle enjoys spending time with her teenaged to young adult children and walking her Belgian Malinois-Husky mix, Mia.

**Panel-** A panel of individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing will share life experiences.

## SCHEDULED AGENDA

### Friday 5/16/2025

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 5/17/2025

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 5/18/2025

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](http://www.springcampcheerio.org)

## Volunteers are Needed!

Volunteers for the Children's Program are needed! Email [springcampcheerio@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:springcampcheerio@gmail.com)  
or  
Stephanie Payonk at 704-798-1094