



We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

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For Immediate Release

**North Suburban YMCA Launches First Ever
Needs Based Summer Camp**

Northbrook, IL In an effort to provide a safe physical, social and emotional recreational camping environment for children with special needs or disabilities, the North Suburban YMCA has launched Camp H.A.W.K.S. (Helping All Wonderful Kids Succeed) , a partnership between North Suburban YMCA and the Center for Psychological Services (CPS), located in Northfield, IL. Camp H.A.W.K.S. is a needs-based program for children ages 8-14 and 14-18, serving primarily those with high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder or Aspergers Syndrome.

The camp will provide programming that allows children to increase their understanding of themselves and their individual disabilities. As the children and teenagers progress, they will also be encouraged to learn the social and physical skills that will inspire them to take the risks necessary to increase their opportunities for success.

“The Y is dedicated to being an advocate for people with disabilities and special needs,” said Camp Director Trina Vander Ark. “Our focus is to engage campers in typical fun-filled camp activities, during which we can ‘review and redo’ social interactions, as needed, in a safe, small group environment.”

The camp, located at the YMCA’s Northbrook facility, will run in two sessions beginning June 15 through July 10; and July 13 to August 7.

The North Suburban YMCA located at 2705 Techny Road in Northbrook has served area families for over 40 years. It is a volunteer-led, non-profit community organization serving 12 communities of the North Shore including Buffalo Grove, Deerfield, Glencoe, Glenview, Highland Park, Highwood, Lincolnshire, Northbrook, Northfield, Riverwoods, Winnetka and Wheeling. For more information, contact Camp Director Trina Vander Ark at 847-272-7250, ext. 1233 or email her at tvanderark@nsymca.org .

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North Suburban YMCA • 2705 Techny Road • Northbrook, Illinois 60062
847-272-7250 • fax: 847-272-7587 • www.nsymca.org

Our mission: The North Suburban YMCA promotes values that build strong families and the health of each individual’s spirit, mind and body in an inclusive, welcoming environment.



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