

THE 2018 GOANNA PARK ADVENTURE CAMP

CAMP DATE: Sat 7 July – Sat 14 July



Goanna Park Adventure Camp is a unique experience offered by Variety NT with its core mission being to challenge teenagers with mild physical or mental disabilities to overcome barriers with an aim to increase self esteem and confidence. This is achieved through a busy week-long calendar of activities, but also time spent together to develop friendships and express themselves in a safe and very supporting environment. This year due to changes in the NT School Holiday Schedule, the camp is being run for only 1 week. The camp is being held at the Goanna Park Junior Police Rangers Youth facility 90km east of Darwin on the Arnhem Highway.

Admission is open to special needs children aged 13-17 all around Australia however there are 11 spots reserved for NT children. The camp is a truly fantastic experience highlighting what the NT has to offer. The application process is managed by the Variety NT office. The child will be collected from the designated pick up points and transported to the camp site. Once at the camp, the children start the process of settling in and for many this is their first time away from the comforts, routines and limitations of their family life. The wonderful Variety volunteers soon get them involved in lots of fun activities and doing things they would never have thought they could achieve before arrival. Please note unfortunately, wheelchair bound children are unable to attend as the wheelchair is not practicable for many of the camp's activities.

The camp is operated by experienced organisers and carers and there is a registered nurse on site at all times. The children's safety is paramount at all times. As the camp is held in the NT's dry season the weather is cooler for camping out. The children sleep in supervised screen tents on a large grassed area. Site facilities will include a dining area (with a varied menu catering to all campers' dietary needs), a medical centre, boys and girls bathrooms and laundry.

A variety of indoor and outdoor Territorian activities are provided to keep the children busy from sunrise until sundown and include abseiling, swimming, craft activities and visiting many of the local attractions. Towards the end of the camp a special talent quest showcases the children's increased confidence. The children unite during the week to practice skits, songs and comedy acts and then present them onstage to much applause.

The positive effects of the camp are far reaching and help nurture determination and resilience when facing life's obstacles, with the children knowing they have accomplished much already and now have a great bunch of friends with which to share their future journey.

Applications for campers opened on 1st March 2018 and will close 1st May 2018. To submit an application please go to: <https://variety.smartygrants.com.au/goannapark2018camper>. The cost for each camper will be funded by Variety NT.

For more information please visit our website on www.variety.org.au/nt or call the Darwin office on (08) 8981 2544.

