



# Handicamp Norway

## Background and Goals

This is a summercamp for physically disabled and able-bodied youth from 18 to 28 years old. The disabled participant will be followed by an able-bodied person whose function is to assist his/hers friend during the travel and stay in Norway. They will together be regarded as a team.

The camp, which is free of charge for the participants, is open both for international and Norwegian youths. English is the spoken language at the camp, and we expect that the participants have sufficient training in English.

Handicamp Norway is normally arranged at the end of July beginning of August at Haraldvangen, Hurdal in Akershus, Norway. This is about 80 km north of Oslo.

Rotary Norway, through the coordinating committee, Norsk Rotary Forum (NORFO), has in close cooperation with Inner Wheel Norway, arranged this camp every second year since 1976. All camps have been held at Haraldvangen. In 2003, a camp was also arranged in Kirkenes in Northern Norway.

Haraldvangen is primarily a holiday resort and training/experience centre for people with functional handicap or other special needs. Even if we are renting this place, Rotary Norway is fully responsible for the arrangement. NORFO owns the project.

We have three goals for the camp:

- To integrate physically disabled and able-bodied youth through sport and other activities.
- To build international friendship and understanding between the participants
- To teach the participants about Norway and Norwegian culture.

In addition we have a vision that the participants shall experience the possibility of pushing the limits, meaning to handle physical obstructions that seemed impossible. The activities on the camp reflect this ambitious goal. We have horseriding, waterskiing, sailing and other water-related activities, rallycross with professional drivers and different games. We will also visit Oslo, the Olympic ice-skating hall in Gjøvik, the Constitution Hall at Eidsvoll and Hunderfossen family park where the participants can try river-rafting.

The participants are split into groups which are rotated through all activities during the camp. It is possible for all participants to follow the activities, but they are free to choose.