



FARF's Annual
Family Meeting

June 24-29, 2016
Camp Sunshine
Casco, Maine



Contact: Marie Sweeten, Family Services Director • 541-687-4658 • marie@fanconi.org

www.fanconi.org
www.campsunshine.org

You are invited to attend the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund's (FARF's) Family Meeting at Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine, on beautiful Sebago Lake.

The Family Meeting is a unique event that includes presentations by scientists and physicians who are active in the research and treatment of Fanconi anemia (FA), support groups for help in coping with the illness, opportunities to participate in FA research projects, and the chance to connect with other families affected by FA. Camp Sunshine volunteers will provide a fun-filled program for your children with FA and their siblings.

Outside of transportation, **there is no cost to attend the Family Meeting**, as FARF and Camp Sunshine share in covering the expenses for this meeting.

Families are invited to check-in at **3:00 pm on Friday, June 24**. The final educational presentation will be in the afternoon on **Monday, June 27**. Support groups and Camp activities are scheduled **until Wednesday, June 29 at 11:00 am**.

To apply for this meeting, please contact Camp Sunshine at (207) 655-3800 (or 00-1-207-655-3800 from outside the U.S. and Canada). Camp will provide you with an application that must be **completely filled out** and reviewed by Camp Sunshine prior to acceptance. You may also visit Camp Sunshine's website at www.campsunshine.org or FARF's website at www.fanconi.org to download an application.

Families and adults with FA should return fully completed applications (including medical and family forms) to Camp Sunshine by March 2. Those who submit completed applications by March 2 will hear from Camp Sunshine regarding acceptance on or before April 13.

Please do not finalize travel arrangements, including purchasing airfare, until receiving acceptance from Camp Sunshine.

We invite all interested families and adults with FA to apply. New families are especially encouraged to attend this annual event. The Family Meeting not only presents an opportunity to learn crucial scientific and medical information, but also provides interaction with other affected families and people who can share important perspectives and insights into dealing with this rare disease. Previous attendees describe increased FA medical knowledge and the interaction with the professionals and other families as tremendously helpful.

To encourage as many as possible to participate in the program, FARF pays the accommodation costs for additional participants to stay off campus at the adjacent Point Sebago Resort. Priority for lodging at

Camp Sunshine is given to those that have not attended previously, to those with younger children, and to those with a higher level of medical needs. Guests staying at Point Sebago Resort will require a vehicle to drive back and forth to Camp Sunshine.

Please let Camp Sunshine know if you are willing to stay nearby at Point Sebago Resort. These rooms will be available for four nights only—Friday, June 24 through Monday, June 27, with a Tuesday morning checkout. **If you stay at the resort and you would like to stay through Wednesday, June 29 to participate in additional Camp Sunshine activities, please be prepared to move to Camp Sunshine on Tuesday morning.** Space becomes available due to some families checking out early. Those who stay at the resort are welcome to have meals at Camp Sunshine and can participate fully in the program with the other families.

For those of you who will be flying to Maine, the airport in Portland (PWM) is a 45-minute drive from Camp Sunshine. Please notify Camp Sunshine of your travel plans as soon as possible, due to the high volume of transportation needs for the Family Meeting.

To assist those who might otherwise be unable to attend the Family Meeting, FARF has established a limited scholarship assistance program to help defray some of the travel expenses. For more information about the eligibility criteria and for an application for scholarship assistance, please contact Marie Sweeten.

Volunteer opportunities may exist during the meeting. Please contact Camp Sunshine for more information.

If you questions, please contact Marie Sweeten at FARF by phone, 1-888-FANCONI (within the USA) or (541) 687-4658, (00-1-541-687-4658 outside the U.S. or Canada) or by e-mail at marie@fanconi.org.



**2016 FA Family Meeting at Camp Sunshine
Acceptance Schedule and Guidelines
June 24-June 29, 2016**

January 8 Applications available at www.campsunshine.org and www.fanconi.org.

March 2 Fully completed applications are due to Camp Sunshine (including signed medical and family pages).

April 13

Those who have attended Camp Sunshine less than ten times and have turned in fully completed applications by March 2 will be notified on or before April 13 with regard to acceptance or waiting list status. A waiting list will be made if a high volume of applications is received during this period. Those who have attended Camp Sunshine more than ten times should still apply by March 2, but they will most likely be notified by May 4. This is to ensure that space is available for those who have attended the Family Meeting fewer times. Our goal is to accommodate as many families as possible. Guidelines for acceptance are listed below.

May 4

Acceptance notification will be made to approximately 10 more applicants (the exact number is dependent on the number received by the March 2 deadline) using the acceptance guidelines.

June 1

Additional applicants will be accepted through this date as space allows.

In addition to the existing Camp Sunshine acceptance criteria, e.g., medical clearance, the following guidelines will be utilized if the number of applicants should exceed the capacity of the program.

Staff at Camp Sunshine and FARF recognize that guidelines are not rules. Every family situation is unique and **exceptions to the guidelines may be made** if determined to be in the best interest of the applicants, Camp Sunshine, and FARF.

Acceptance Guidelines

High priority will be given to those who:

- Are newly diagnosed or have not been to a FARF Family Support Meeting previously
- Face a major medical decision or treatment within 12 months
- Identify *what* medical decision or treatment and *when* it is expected
- Serve on the FARF Board of Directors
- Are attending with their child(ren) or adult affected by FA
- Are in their first year following the loss of a child or adult with FA, or who have not returned to a Family/Adult meeting since the loss of their child/adult with FA
- Have not had the opportunity to attend Family Meetings frequently
- Are willing to stay at Point Sebago or at other off-campus lodging should specify this information on his or her application, as it may facilitate acceptance.