



3rd June 2025

‘CAMPING WITH COMPLEX NEEDS’ CHARITY – CAMP JOJO – IS HEADING UP NORTH!

Open days planned to celebrate Camp Jojo opening a second camp site in Cumbria

Since 2017, Essex-based charity Camp Jojo, has been providing all the support and equipment needed for families of children with complex and life-limiting needs to enjoy unforgettable, fully adapted camping breaks. This is largely due to a significant grant from The National Lottery Community Fund. The grant is for £80,000 per year for 3 years (total £240,000) which will cover the majority of the routine operational and staff costs for the Northern Site and has made this development possible. Our second site in the North of England, near Appleby-In-Westmorland, Cumbria, will partner the original site in East Mersea, Essex. Camps are set to run from 2026 and ahead of the official opening of the site at Nag’s Head Farm, Hoff, the charity is hosting two open days on 21st and 22nd June 2025, for families, volunteers and supporters to experience a taste of what makes Camp Jojo so special.

Camp Jojo provides specialist equipment to accommodate even the most complex of needs, such as adapted tents with hoists, an accessible bathroom with ceiling track hoists, medical and safe beds, a sensory room, all-terrain, buoyant wheelchairs and specialist supportive seating.

We also have a team of volunteers including many with specialist experience of working with children and young people with complex needs and disabilities, to ensure that parents get support and the whole family can enjoy some carefree time together. Families can bask in nature and take part in activities such as bushcraft, meeting the farm animals, woodland walks, pond-dipping, pizza making, arts & crafts, toasting marshmallows by the fire and our famous ‘Camp Jojo’s Got Talent’.

Dr Christine Wright, Chair of Trustees at Camp Jojo, reflects *‘Every year, the number of families that apply to attend camp, far outweighs the number of places available. In addition, so many families from the North of England have also told us that the travel time to Essex is just too long to travel with a child with complex needs. We have heard them, and it is definitely time for Camp Jojo to open a second site so that we can share our magic with as many families as possible, and echo our ethos of ‘Everybody Can!’.*

Alex and Douglas Chalmers who own Nag’s Head Farm, in Cumbria add, *‘We are delighted to welcome Camp Jojo to our farm, in the beautiful Eden Valley, and to the North of England. We have been involved with Camp Jojo for some time and have also been running inclusive activities here for the community for many years, so we fully understand how important it is for families of children with complex needs to have the chance to just be a family, and enjoy time together, outdoors.’*



The families themselves, who have experienced Camp Jojo, put it best :

'Camp Jojo allows children to be just children without their disabilities getting in the way or people overlooking who they are.' Camp Jojo parent, 2024

'A massive heartfelt thank you to everyone at Camp Jojo. We will forever be grateful for the wonderful experience we had. My husband and I went for a wonderful walk along the beach whilst the volunteers played with our kids in the sand. It's the first time in a long time we have enjoyed some couple time together, although a 20 minute walk might not seem much, to us it's huge.' Camp Jojo parent, 2024

'I have not stopped smiling since coming home. It made me feel a way I've never felt before. Pure magic!' Sibling, 2024

'I loved my time at camp, it was so nice to see my little brother be himself with no judgement and my mum relax and enjoy herself too.' Sibling, 2024

Work has already started at Nag's Head Farm to prepare the site for the Open Days in June and the camps in 2026, and the charity is very much looking forward to opening the gates of our Northern site very soon.

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For more information about the Open Days or Camp Jojo, please contact:

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For more information about Camp Jojo, please visit: www.campjojo.org

For more information about National Lottery Community Fund, please visit:

www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

Camp Jojo is a registered charity: 1189163

