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Disabled get rock-star treatment at summer camp

Diocese of Orange's ReCreation Camp hosts 91 people.

By **ELLYN PAK**

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ORANGE – From recreational games to a talent show, campers will be treated to a week's worth of activities tailored for their disabilities.

The Diocese of Orange's ReCreation Camp at the Marywood Center in Orange is hosting 91 adults ages 18 to 60. Participants have various developmental and physical disabilities, including autism, Tourette's syndrome, Down's syndrome and cerebral palsy.

"This is a great way for them to gain a real sense of independence, a sense of camaraderie, a sense of feeling loved and accepted and that they can take on the world," said Meghan Schinderle, co-director of the camp.

"They get the real chance of real independence and get treated as rock stars, like royalty," she added. "I've been at this 11 years. It's a life-changing experience. You see what's really important, you're able to get centered again. Being here and giving back is what's important."



Throughout the week, participants will be treated to a karaoke and music-video night, a rock star concert, a talent show, and social and educational classes. Camp-goers will also take a trip to a dance academy to learn new dance steps to perform during the concert.

The free program was created in 1976 and is now funded by the Knights of Columbus under the auspices of Catholic Charities of Orange County. High school and college students are recruited to be counselors at the camp.



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