



Outdoor Musical Instruments for  
Camps

# Outdoor Music: Everyday Moments That Build Character

Outdoor musical instruments bring joy to camp life - but they also help shape character in simple, powerful ways. When music becomes part of daily routines, it naturally supports skills like resilience, independence, empathy, and teamwork.

## ♪ *Teachable Moments Happen Everywhere*

A camper trying a new rhythm learns that mistakes are part of the process. A small group keeping a steady beat together practices listening, cooperation, and patience. These experiences reinforce positive values without ever feeling like a lesson.

## ♪ *Music Invites Confidence and Independence*

There's no wrong way to play, giving campers the freedom to explore, make choices, and discover their own sound. Even hesitant players find success, building the self-belief that carries into other parts of camp.





## ♪ *It Strengthens Relationships and Camp Culture*

Gathering around outdoor instruments creates shared moments - spontaneous jams, quiet reflection, or a chance to reset after a busy activity. These spaces encourage kindness, respect, and connection among campers and counselors alike.

## ♪ *Staff Become Natural Role Models*

When counselors join in the music-making, they demonstrate curiosity, encouragement, and cooperation. Outdoor instruments help spark conversation, deepen trust, and support the positive environment every camp strives to build.

With accessible design and open-ended play, outdoor musical instruments become a meaningful part of camp life - turning simple moments into opportunities for growth, connection, and character.

***“Every day I see campers with big smiles on their faces playing next to and with each other. Everyone finds their own way of engaging with the music; every day is beautiful and full of new possibilities”***

♪ Amy Kurth ♪

Program Director at Camp Courageous



# Top 5 Ways Outdoor Music Builds Character at Camp

## 1. *Encourages Resilience*

When campers experiment with rhythm and melody, mistakes become part of the process. They learn to try again, adapt, and enjoy the journey - key ingredients for resilience.

## 2. *Promotes Teamwork*

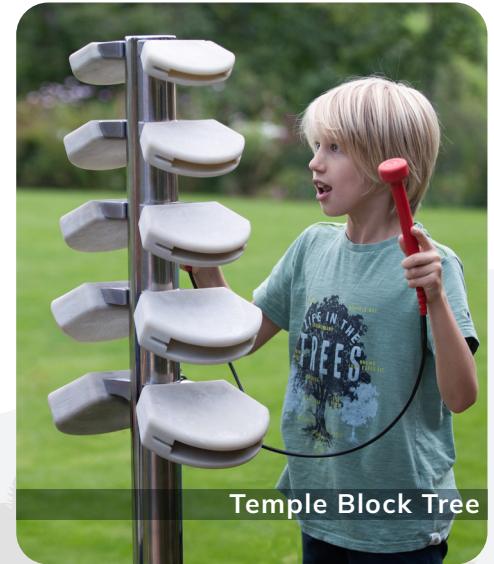
Creating music together naturally requires listening, cooperation, and timing. Outdoor instruments turn group play into meaningful moments of collaboration.



Butterfly



Cajon Drum Circle



Temple Block Tree



### 3. Sparks Independence

There's no single "right way" to play. Campers gain confidence as they explore freely, make independent choices, and discover their own sound.

### 4. Strengthens Relationships

Music helps bring people together. Shared rhythms, creative musical exchanges, and peaceful moments of reflection help to support empathy, connection, and trust among campers and staff.

### 5. Creates Everyday Teachable Moments

From taking turns to resolving small disagreements, outdoor musical spaces offer a steady stream of opportunities to reinforce kindness, respect, and responsibility.

***"The Percussion Play outdoor musical instruments allow everyone to make music in a low-stakes setting where no musical 'talent' is required or expected, rather fun and making sound are the expectations."***

♪Fiona Scott♪

Assistant Program Director at Camp Henry



Sylvan Bell-Trees



Grand Marimba

# Musical Connections at Camp ASCCA, AL

Camp ASCCA, a leading inclusive summer camp run by Easterseals Alabama, has long used music to connect and uplift its campers. The camp partnered with Percussion Play to install a collection of outdoor musical instruments - creating a vibrant, accessible space where campers of all abilities could explore rhythm, melody, and self-expression.

The camp's mission is to provide joyful, inclusive experiences for individuals with disabilities. While music was already a core part of the camp's culture, Program Director Amber Cotney saw an opportunity to deepen its impact with accessible, sensory-friendly musical instruments that could be used outdoors. "Our camp is very music-focused," Amber explains. "Music is universal. It's therapeutic, engaging, and something all our campers can participate in, no matter their abilities."

With support from donor Cody Payne, manager of the band The Red Clay Strays - Amber discovered Percussion Play's outdoor instruments. Installed in a peaceful, tree-lined area, the instruments included [Chimes](#) for melodic exploration, [Drums](#) for rhythmic play, and [nature-inspired instruments](#) for sensory engagement.



Bell Lyre



Akadinda



Liberty Bells



These instruments are designed to be inclusive, weather-resistant, and easy to play, making them ideal for therapeutic and recreational use. Instruments were quickly integrated into daily camp activities, including group music therapy sessions, free play & exploration, and calm-down sensory regulation periods.

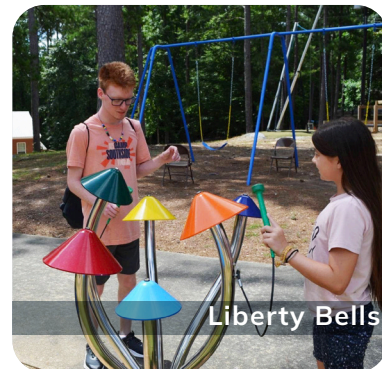
Camp staff used the instruments to support emotional development, fine motor skills, and social interaction among campers. Campers with sensory sensitivities or nonverbal communication found new ways to express themselves, parents reported increased confidence and emotional regulation in their children, and staff have discovered new ways to connect with campers and foster inclusion. One camper's mother shared that her son, who rarely engages with others, now runs straight to the music area each day and plays for nearly an hour.

Camp ASCCA plans to expand its musical offerings and deepen the integration of outdoor musical play into its therapeutic programming. The partnership with Percussion Play has created a lasting legacy of joy, inclusion, and creativity.

***“It’s incredible to watch our campers walk up to the instruments and begin to play. Even those who are nonverbal or hesitant to join group activities feel comfortable participating through music”***

♪ Amber Cotney ♪

Program Director



Liberty Bells



Bumblebee

# Rotary Youth Camp at Lee's Summit, MS

Since 1925, Rotary Youth Camp in Lee's Summit has welcomed more than 300,000 campers to its fully accessible facilities overlooking Lake Jacomo. The camp provides inclusive outdoor adventures like tree climbing, tie-dye crafts, slumber parties, and now, thanks to one Girl Scout's vision, the joy of outdoor music-making.

Girls Can Camp, a unique program hosted at Rotary Youth Camp, is designed specifically for girls with disabilities and their friends. Its mission is to ensure every camper experiences nature, friendship, and fun in a safe, welcoming environment.

Many campers at Rotary Youth Camp have limited access to musical instruments in their daily lives. Program leaders sought new ways to encourage creative expression and sensory engagement while keeping activities inclusive for children of all abilities.





The idea for a dedicated Percussion Park came from Girl Scout and pianist Paige Thomas, who chose Rotary Youth Camp as the site for her Gold Award project. Paige devoted more than 80 hours to planning, fundraising, and partnering with the Rotary Club to make the project a reality. After careful research, Paige selected instruments from Percussion Play for their accessibility, durability, and universal appeal. They included [Rainbow Sambas](#), [Tropical Cyclone](#), [Rainbow Cavatina](#) and [Rainbow Chimes](#).

The new Percussion Park has transformed Rotary Youth Camp into a place where music can be enjoyed by everyone, regardless of ability. Campers are now exploring rhythm, sound, and movement in ways that support both therapeutic and developmental growth. This enables campers with mobility or sensory challenges to engage in music-making that promotes relaxation, improves mood, stimulates cognitive and emotional responses, and supports the development of fine and gross motor skills as well as sensory integration.

For generations to come, campers will discover the joy of making music outdoors - adding rhythm, harmony, and fun to the camp's long-standing tradition of nature, friendship, and possibility.

***“Not all campers have resources to access musical instruments, so this project really helps people engage in music-making.”***

♪ Paige Thomas ♪

Girl Scout



Rainbow Chimes



Rainbow Sambas

# Music Garden at JCC Camp Centerland, NY

By a quiet creek in Amherst, New York, Alex Eadie, the Senior Director of Advancement at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Buffalo (JCC), can hear the faint sound of bells and chimes as he walks up the path by the creek into the Irving M. Shuman Campground.

This 20-acre site is home to Camp Centerland, one of the largest summer day camps in Western New York and a top-200 summer camp in the United States, as named by Newsweek magazine in 2024. Serving children aged 5 - 15, Camp Centerland offers a host of activities, including swimming, archery, sports, crafts, and, of course, music.

The JCC and Camp Centerland is an ever-growing community, and its leaders recently realized the need to expand their offerings to campers. The leadership team identified how to add more elements for children to enjoy, and today, outdoor music-making is now on offer at the new Music Garden.





The children who attended camp were able to explore different outdoor instruments and the traditional music offerings in the camp's music program. The Music Pavilion (called the Shirah in Hebrew) is now surrounded by a garden of instruments - some inspired by nature!

Reflecting the natural surroundings of the campground, such as the wooded areas, trails, and creeks, Percussion Play's Flowers and Petal Drums are situated in the garden and provide a colorful focal point that engages campers of all ages.

The JCC also added [Rainbow Chimes](#), a [Rainbow Metallophone](#) and two sets of [Rainbow Bongos](#) to round out the ensemble, meaning that the camp has been filled with the sound of music - from the beat of drums to the gentle ringing of chimes, there's something everyone can enjoy.

***“Percussion Play instruments were chosen because of their durability, appeal, and consistently high customer ratings. They have been a huge hit with all our campers.”***

♪ Alex Eadie ♪

Senior Director of Advancement at JCC



Daisy Petal Drum



The Music Garden

# Inclusive Outdoor Music Program at Camp Beausite, WA

Located near Port Townsend, Camp Beausite North West is a certified respite provider that operates year-round, offering camp experiences and respite opportunities for over 350 campers and 1,000 caregivers each year. For more than 30 years, the camp has dedicated itself to serving the special needs community. Founded in 1989, Camp Beausite was created in response to the lack of inclusive camp experiences. Its mission focuses on inclusivity by providing summer and weekend camp programs throughout the year.

The management team decided to create a new musical program for campers, aiming to provide a unique, fun, and exciting experience that is different from what other camps offer. They chose to develop an outdoor music area, and Raina Baker, the Executive Director of Camp Beausite, led the initiative to install a variety of outdoor musical instruments sourced from Percussion Play. The collection includes the [Alto Quartet Ensemble](#), [Congas Trio](#), [Emperor Chimes](#), and [Alto Diatonic Freechimes](#).



Congas



Duo



Alto Diatonic Freechimes



Raina used Percussion Play's innovative app, [Composer AR](#), which is the first of its kind in Augmented Reality (AR). This app has revolutionized how communities design and support spaces with outdoor musical instruments, helping to create a shared vision for music-making. With Composer AR, Raina was able to visualize her musical project even before the instruments were installed.

The app allows users to place any Percussion Play instrument within a real-life setting, in real-time, and play them. It also features an interactive component, enabling users to listen to the sound of each instrument as they play it within the app. Composer AR can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play Store.

***“The number one reason we chose Percussion Play was because the instruments are designed for everybody to be able to play them. We now have an entirely new musical program that is inclusive for all to use within our beautiful grounds.”***

♪Raina Baker♪

Executive Director of Camp Beausite



# Magical Music Garden at Chartwell Happy Day Camp, NJ

Chartwell Happy Day Camp has made significant investments to enhance its creative arts programs, which includes a wide range of percussion instruments. The camp already boasts a Performing Arts Center area and stage, as well as its Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary, to help save the endangered butterfly and educate about their life cycle.

Outdoor musical instruments from Percussion Play are now part of the interactive initiative by the team at Chartwell Happy Day Camp. The team created an area within its 15 acres called Chartwell's Magical Musical Garden to help make it a fun and inviting area. The campers now migrate over to the area during their free time to play the instruments.



Sunflower Petal Drum



Rainbow Cavatina & Music Book



Rainbow Trio Chimes

The camp, which is a family-friendly summer day camp for kids aged 3-14, decided to include the [Liberty Bells](#), [Petal Drums](#), [Rainbow Cavatina](#), [Music Book](#), [Harmony Bells](#), and [Rainbow Chimes](#). Since the installation, the camp counselors have been taking campers to the area to play the instruments.

They have also introduced the gardens to the parents and had a drone video made with everyone playing and having fun to help promote Chartwell's Magical Musical Garden. They are in the process of incorporating the activity into their drama and music program at the camp.

James Johnston, Owner of Chartwell Happy Day Camp, comments, "At the American Camp Association Convention in Orlando, we came across Percussion Play and their range of outdoor musical instruments. We sat down with a representative at the conference to learn more about the company and decided Percussion Play instruments could be a good part of our anticipated creative arts program at Chartwell Happy Day Camp. We were looking to expand our day camp program, and music was one of the areas we wanted to expand".

***"Our camp is very impressed by the quality and sound of the instruments, they are built to last, and will add value to our learning programs at Chartwell Happy Day Camp."***

♪ James Johnston ♪

Owner of Chartwell Happy Day Camp





# Inclusive Music-Making at Camp Courageous, IA

Camp Courageous is a non-profit organization providing year-round recreational and respite care opportunities for individuals with special needs. For nearly 50 years, the team at Camp Courageous has looked for unique and different ways to reach all of their campers who each have additional educational and physical needs, and their most recent addition, a musical park, is proving to have a particularly remarkable impact.

According to Amy Kurth, program director, the idea of an outdoor musical space took root over two years ago when she first joined Camp Courageous. She had researched the idea and could immediately see the benefits for their camp guests. Through a variety of fundraisers, grants, and sponsors, the local Monticello Rotary Club was able to support the project with a view to donating more instruments in the future.



Papilio



Symphony Freechimes



Duo



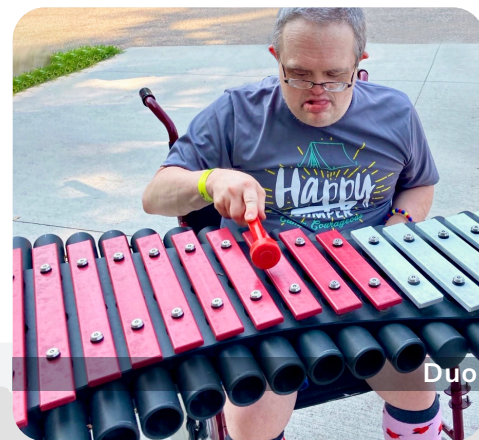
Rainbow Cavatina

During Amy's research, she became aware of the benefits of outdoor musical instruments tuned to the pentatonic scale - meaning that however many people are playing the various instruments at the same time, the resulting sound will always be beautifully harmonized. Giving campers such a positive feeling of success, independence, and increased confidence was something she imagined would be a wonderful addition to the camp. The instruments would clearly be ideal to help bolster the camp's vision of inclusivity, supporting a wide range of people with disabilities of all ages from 4 to 104!

Taking into account the range of ages and abilities, Percussion Play recommended a suitable collection of instruments that would appeal to younger and older individuals. The Rotary Music Park is now a favorite with all campers and includes a [Rainbow Cavatina](#) with accompanying [Music Book](#), [Babel Drums](#), [Papilio](#), [Diatonic Symphony Freechimes](#), [Tembos](#), and [Calypso Quatro Post](#).

***“Every activity is a little bit different, but this activity is one where you can have campers who use wheelchairs, campers that have a wide variety of disabilities all come together and entertain each other.”***

♪Charlie Becker♪  
Camp Courageous CEO



# Flexible Outdoor Musical Solutions for Summer Camps

Many top summer camps in the United States move into a location for the summer, making permanently installed outdoor musical instruments impractical. However, we have a great solution for you!

We offer a semi-permanent installation option for our instruments that have posts. Our large, stable HDPE bases can be securely fastened using ground screws or other types of anchors. This setup allows for safe installation of the instruments on almost any surface, while also providing easy maneuverability.

This portable solution provides flexibility for keeping your musical instruments in place long-term, moving them to different locations around your camp, or removing them for storage at the end of the summer. Contact us for further information.





# Helping Camps Bring Music, Nature & Play Together

## ♪ Planning & Project Guidance

We help shape your music trail, station, or pollinator garden to support camp goals, recommending safe, accessible locations that integrate seamlessly with your site.

## ♪ Grant & Funding Support

We can help you identify and explore potential grant opportunities suitable for camps and community projects - including options listed on our fundraising and grants page.

## ♪ Instrument Selection Guidance

We'll provide expert guidance on choosing outdoor musical instruments that best fit your environment, camper ages, and project theme - from chimes and bells to rhythm stations and melody makers

## ♪ Custom Design & Layout Services (Free)

Send us a photo or layout, and we'll create a free design rendering to help you visualize the final setup and inspire your team or funders.

## ♪ After-Sales & Ongoing Support

After installation, we provide ongoing support for maintenance, troubleshooting, expanding or refreshing your music trail whenever you need.





## Global Sales & Manufacturing

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