



# The Magic of Barretstown

a serious fun camp  
**BARRETSTOWN**

Celebrating 20 Years

Barretstown is a specially-designed camp that provides Therapeutic Recreation programmes for children with serious illnesses, and their families.

It was founded by Hollywood actor Paul Newman in 1994 and modelled on his renowned Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Connecticut, USA.

Excellent activity leadership and unobtrusive medical supervision helps children with cancer and other diseases forget illness, learn to have fun and rebuild their confidence and self-esteem.

Our programmes take place at a fairytale castle in the beautiful foothills of Ireland's Wicklow Mountains. Barretstown is much more than a

holiday - our summer camps for children, and our spring and autumn weekend camps for families, are carefully-directed programmes of Therapeutic Recreation. Children and families attend Barretstown at no cost to themselves.

Our programmes are overseen by carefully trained 'Caras' (the Irish word for friend) who help the children and teens (aged infant to 17) to rediscover their confidence and self-esteem in a safe, secure environment.

## Who do we serve and how do we decide who comes to Barretstown

Children come to Barretstown from Ireland, the UK, the USA, and throughout Europe. Children who come to Barretstown have been, diagnosed with a serious illness.

We welcome up to 120 children at each summer session. We also welcome up to 22 families of children with serious illness at each Family Camp in Spring and Autumn.

We have medical criteria in place and if a camper/family meets the criteria they are eligible to attend Barretstown.

The illness groups we serve are:

- Childhood Cancer
- Haematology related disease
- Immunodeficiency related disease

## How to apply to attend Barretstown

Visit our website - [www.barretstown.org](http://www.barretstown.org) - to find out more about Barretstown and to see who to contact in your country.

If you are applying you can contact the Family Liaison Team directly and they will give you all the information you need to apply for camp.

## Our Camps

Barretstown adopts a holistic approach to its programme recognising the impact of serious illness on the family. In spring and autumn, Barretstown provides weekend breaks for families where all day-to-day needs are met, so that the families can concentrate on relaxing, having fun, spending time together while benefiting from Therapeutic Recreation.

The summer camps are specially designed programmes where children and teenagers with a serious illness can attend, have some fun and meet other children and teenagers from all over Europe and the USA.

We run our summer camps within specific age ranges in order to ensure that the programme and activities are best suited to their needs and also allow children and teenagers to mix with their own age group.

Parents do not participate in the summer camps. The summer camps take place between June to August.

For more information:

**Call:** +353 (0) 45 863147 or  
+353 (0) 45 863130

**Email:** [families@barretstown.org](mailto:families@barretstown.org)

**Visit:** [www.barretstown.org](http://www.barretstown.org)

**Write to:** Family Liaison Team,  
Barretstown Castle,  
Ballymore Eustace,  
Co. Kildare, Ireland.



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