

Trips, Events and Wishes for Patients with Fanconi Anaemia

Introduction

Children living with Fanconi Anaemia (FA) have a tough time generally and spend lots of time in hospitals, so they deserve some light relief from time to time. Here is a list of organisations who arrange trips, events or wishes for people with serious medical conditions. Even though the **Teenage Cancer Trust**, **Teens Unite**, the **Ellen Macarthur Trust** and the **Youth Cancer Trust** are badged as cancer charities, they definitely do include people with Fanconi Anaemia in many circumstances, in particular if they have had Aplastic Anaemia and/or a Bone Marrow Transplant, (and also pre-transplant in the case of the **Ellen Macarthur Trust**). All of the organisations listed in this Information Sheet are known to have granted wishes or hosted trips for people with Fanconi Anaemia previously.

In relation to the main four Wish-granting organisations listed below, (**Rays of Sunshine**, **Make a Wish**, **Starlight and Dreamflight**), we recommend approaching **Starlight** or **Make a Wish** first as you can then take advantage of the others later on. This is because not all of them will grant wishes if another organisation has been used previously.



There are also many more local organisations providing free or low cost UK-based holidays. Contact **Clic Sargent** (www.clicsargent.org.uk) on 0300 330 0803 to find which team covers

your hospital. Once you are in touch with your local team they should be able to provide you with a list.

As an example, the 2019 list from the Clic Sargent team based at Southampton General Hospital, lists 12 charities offering holiday accommodation in the South or South West of England. These include both holidays for children and a variety of holiday accommodation suitable for whole families.



Photos courtesy of Youth Cancer Trust and Dreamflight

Dreamflight



www.dreamflight.org

What they do

Dreamflight is a registered UK charity that changes young lives through taking children with a serious illness or disability on the holiday of a lifetime to Orlando, Florida. Once a year, 192 deserving children from all over the UK, accompanied by a team of medical carers, board a chartered Boeing 747 and head to Florida to spend 10 magical days of fun and excitement. Many children could not undertake such a trip without the support of the army of doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and non-medical volunteers who care for the children 24 hours a day.

Dreamflight is not just a holiday; it does something that medicine can't. The children leave their families behind giving them an opportunity to discover independence, confidence, and a whole new outlook on life. Often for the first time, these children realise that they are not alone, and they are not the odd one out. They see children around them who have also suffered, they gain perspective, and experience things they never thought possible.

Dreamflight children have gone on to amazing achievements. In 2008, eight of the returning Paralympians from Beijing, many of them medal-winning, had been Dreamflight children citing the trip as a turning point for them.

Who can apply?

Dreamflight children are between the ages of 8 and 14 and are currently, or have been, seriously ill. Our aim is to select deserving children who will gain a real and lasting benefit from Dreamflight. We look for children whose problems have made their lives so difficult, so unpleasant, that they simply deserve a special treat like this. We invite medical professions throughout the UK to nominate children who they feel will benefit from Dreamflight. Our Medical Director - a paediatric consultant - ultimately decides who will be offered a place on the trip, but we don't let medical problems get in the way of having fun.

How to apply?

<https://www.dreamflight.org/index.php/what-is-dreamflight/nominate>

Only a medical professional responsible for the child's care can complete the nomination form. Please note that the forms need to be authorised by the child's Consultant or family GP.

Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust



www.ellenmacarthurcancertrust.org/

What they do

The Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust is a registered charity set up with its main aim to help children and young adults to regain their confidence through sailing. The four-day trips are for young people who have finished treatment for cancer and FA patients, and who are sailing with the trust for the first time. These trips aim to help rebuild young peoples' confidence after treatment for cancer. The trips for those aged 18–24 are similar but they may sail further afield and moor for a night in Portsmouth or Southampton during their stay.

Who can apply?

Children and young adults aged between 8 and 24.

How to apply

<https://www.ellenmacarthurcancertrust.org/contact-us/>

Merlin's Magic Wand



www.merlinsmagicwand.org

What they do

The Charity makes FUN accessible to children with Magical Days Out providing tickets and contributing towards a travel grant for families to enjoy their day at a Merlin Entertainments' attraction.

Who can apply?

Children aged 2-18 facing the challenges of serious illness, plus immediate family members.

How to apply

<https://www.merlinsmagicwand.org/apply-for-a-day-out/making-an-application.aspx>

Teenage Cancer Trust



www.teenagecancertrust.org



What they do

Young people with cancer need specialised nursing care and support. We create world-class cancer services for young people in the UK, providing life-changing care and support so young people don't have to face cancer alone.

As well as medical support, if you are on their register you should receive free invites for TCT Concerts. For example, in March 2019, they have invited patients to a 'Rudimental' concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

Who can apply?

People with cancer or Fanconi Anaemia between the ages of 13 and 24. (Note that eligibility may depend on whether the FA patient has aplastic anaemia or has had a bone marrow transplant).

How to apply

Contact them here to find out more. <https://www.teenagecancertrust.org/about-us/contact-us>



www.teensunite.org



What they do

Through workshops, activity days and residential stays, Teens Unite provides the ongoing social, emotional and physical support needed by these young people, which medical experts can't.

They have a calendar packed full of different workshops and activities for you to enjoy.

- Football stadium tours
- Go Karting
- Theatre trips
- Beauty sessions
- Sports workshops
- CV writing
- Art experiences

- Motivational & Inspirational Discover You event
- Cookery workshops
- Plus many more!

Who can apply?

People with cancer or Fanconi Anaemia between the ages of 13 and 24. (Note that eligibility may depend on whether the FA patient has aplastic anaemia or has had a bone marrow transplant).

How to apply

Sign up here: <https://www.teensunite.org/teens-sign-up/>

Rays of Sunshine



www.raysofsunshine.org.uk



What they do

Rays of Sunshine is an award-winning national charity that brightens the lives of seriously ill young people and their families by granting wishes and providing ongoing support in hospital and within the community

Who can apply?

A child with a life-threatening medical condition who is aged between 3 & 18 years (applications are welcomed up to a child's 19th birthday), is potentially eligible for a wish with Rays of Sunshine.

Rays of Sunshine grant second wishes. All second wishes must be UK based.

Wish applications will not be approved for anyone who has had a wish granted by Rays of Sunshine or another wish granting charity in the past three years.

How to apply

For all wish enquiries, please call the wish team on 0208 782 1171

Make a Wish



www.make-a-wish.org.uk



What they do

They create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Whether it's starring in their own films, walking with dinosaurs, going on an amazing holiday, meeting a celebrity hero, or having a bedroom makeover; our wishes are varied, personal and life-changing

Who can apply?

To have their wish granted, a child needs to be a UK resident, aged between 3 and 17 years, and fighting a life-threatening condition. We speak to each child's consultant to establish whether their condition is medically classed as life threatening. In addition, a child should not have received a previous wish from us, or from another wish granting organisation – we're only able to grant one wish to a child.

How to apply

<https://www.make-a-wish.org.uk/wish-referral-form>

Starlight



www.starlight.org.uk



What they do

Starlight grants personalised wishes for children who are suffering from a life-threatening or life-shortening illness. When granting a wish, they aim to restore the magic and fun of childhood and create happy memories for the whole family to share.

Starlight Wishes empower young people by giving them the opportunity to make a choice at a time when most decisions are made for them, whether it's meeting an astronaut, getting a new computer, becoming a princess or going on a great adventure!

Who can apply?

Starlight grants wishes for children who are:

- 4 -18 years old (inclusive)
- Suffering from a life-threatening illness or a life-shortening illness
- Able to choose and communicate (verbally or non-verbally) their greatest wish for themselves
- UK residents

How to apply

Anyone can refer a child for a Starlight Wish – parents, grandparents, medical professionals, friends, social workers. <https://www.starlight.org.uk/what-we-do/starlight-wishes/refer-a-child/>

When you Wish upon a Star



www.whenyouwishuponastar.org.uk



What they do

Their aim is to grant the 'Wishes' of children suffering from a life-threatening illness. Each day brings requests to meet celebrities, drive a Formula One racing car, meet football stars, get a home computer and of course every child's dream is to meet Mickey Mouse.

Who can apply?

Children suffering from a life-threatening illness, from the age of 2 to 16.

How to Apply

<http://www.whenyouwishuponastar.org.uk/wishes/apply>

Youth Cancer Trust



www.youthcancertrust.org



What they do

Youth Cancer Trust provides support and free activity holidays based at Tracy Ann House in Bournemouth. It gives you an opportunity to have fun and chill out in a safe and relaxed environment with other people of your own age. It is open all year round and takes groups of 8 each week.

Who can apply?

Young people (aged 14 to 30) diagnosed and living with cancer or any malignant disease, from anywhere in the UK and the Irish Republic, or who are patients of any UK hospital. Also young people who have been in remission for up to five years or who are living with the late effects of having had cancer as a teenager or young adult. You are able to take a sibling or friend with you too.

How to Apply

<https://www.youthcancertrust.org/how-to-book-a-holiday/book-your-holiday/>
