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**Games, Sports, Art, Music, Nature, and Animals:**

**Indraloka’s Summer Day Camps Help Kids Thrive Through Exploration and Fun**

Dalton, PA — When kids enter Indraloka’s Art Barn, the first thing some notice is the wall of windows facing the fields where animals are grazing in the distance. Others immediately connect to the art — stylized photographs of Indraloka’s rescued farm animals — covering the lofted gallery walls. A pool table, piles of games, and reading nooks stacked with books catch some of the kids’ attention. They all sense they’ve arrived at a place that values them and their interests.

**Summer day camp at Indraloka, a farm animal sanctuary in Dalton, PA,** offers affordable options for children and teens to explore nature surrounded by the love of rescued farm animals. Each day of camp includes active and passive games, sports, arts and crafts, music, and animal lessons and activities based on kindness, compassion, friendship and storytelling. The cost is \$150 per week and includes a kid-friendly, healthy lunch and two snacks daily. Indoor space provides respite from inclement weather and rest on hot days.

“We offer something unique. Older campers are encouraged to take on leadership opportunities with younger campers. We can see their personalities and confidence flourish as a result. Kids who are afraid of animals are encouraged to learn to interact with animals safely and confidently. And kids who may be dealing with difficulties or struggling in school can excel at Indraloka because they are surrounded by compassionate leaders, animals, and other campers who embrace both similarities and differences with open hearts,” Indraloka’s Director of Education, Sarah Thornton says.

Set on 100 acres of beautiful farmland, rimmed by the Endless Mountains, Indraloka is a mere five miles from Clarks Summit. During camp, kids are supervised daily for six hours by a staff of educators led by a



former public school teacher with trauma certification. In addition to lunch and snacks, all supplies for games, crafts, and other activities are provided for what amounts to \$30 a day.

**Summer camps run June 10—June 14, June 17—June 21, July 8—July 12, and August 5–August 9.** A limited number of need-based scholarships are available. More information on the camps can be found on the Indraloka website under [Events](#).

The camps typically sell out quickly, often to children and teens who have attended previous camps. Indraloka is hoping to get the word out early so first-timers have a chance to enroll.

Indraloka’s Director of Education, Sarah Thornton, holds a master’s in music education and is a Certified Trauma Specialist in Education. Her career includes 20 years in the Sullivan County School District teaching music.

Summer camp counselor positions are available for young adults. Opportunities for college students to join the social media and marketing team as interns help communications and business majors gain practical experience in their field.

**On Monday, President’s Day, February 19, 2024, Indraloka is sponsoring “Play-cation Day.” The daylong event (9am to 3pm) is a great summer camp preview.**

Indraloka offers numerous year-round events. **Public tours, Self-Care Saturdays, Open Art Days, Youth Art, Music Mondays,** and **Storytime with the Animals** are great ways for parents to experience Indraloka and its offerings.

“It’s really tough to be a kid today. They have so much information coming at them. They are dealing with issues older generations never had to deal with. At Indraloka, our staff is trauma-informed through certifications and trainings specifically designed to help us help those in need of extra care,” Indraloka founder Indra Lahiri, PhD, says.



Research into the relationship between kids and animals shows that interacting with animals can help build kids' confidence, empathy, and compassion and that relating to farm animals brings benefits beyond those that companion animals offer. Spending time in a noncompetitive environment that emphasizes respect for all beings and the planet can help develop coping and relationship skills.

Dr. Lahiri and Ms. Thornton are available for interviews and can speak about Indraloka's exciting programs. Please visit [Indraloka.org](http://Indraloka.org) for more information on all events.

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**About Indraloka Animal Sanctuary**

Indraloka, a 501(c) nonprofit, provides “heaven on earth” for farm animals that have nowhere else to turn. We hold year-round events that inform, inspire, and empower the community, and help people — especially children — heal from trauma. We advocate for a kind and compassionate lifestyle that protects animals, the earth and our own health. As educators, we offer a wide range of STEAM-based learning programs, summer camps and field trips for children, K-12. The community is invited to tour the sanctuary; reservations are required. Visit us at [Indraloka.org](http://Indraloka.org).