Free state summer camp set for use by mentally retarded

Residents of Willowbrook State School are among those eligible to attend a special camp for the mentally retarded in upstate New York this summer, it was announced today by Gov. Rockefeller's office.

Beginning June 23, 200 campers can be accommodated at Camp Catskill, located near Liberty, N.Y. from Willowbrook, Suffolk and Wassaic State Schools and Letchworth village in Rockland County.

Of those 200 campers, approximately 30 will be mentally retarded individuals who live in the communities serviced by the four downstate schools. Applications for Island residents can be made through the city Community Mental Health Board in Manhattan.

The camp, near Liberty, N.Y., in Sullivan County, will be operated for 10 weeks by the State Department of Mental Hygiene.

The summer camp will be staffed by 50 counselors, a full-time physician, four nurses, two head counselors, a program director, five arts and crafts supervisors, five recreation supervisors and kitchen and maintenance staffs.

Activities such as swimming, dancing, cookouts, ball games and outdoor events will be geared to the abilities and interests of the campers.

To qualify for the summer camping program, individuals must be ambulatory, have no restrictive medical problems and have attained a reasonable level in interpersonal relationships. Minimum age for campers is 8, but there is no maximum age. There is no charge for those attending camp.

Camp Catskill is the second such camp operated by the state Department of Mental Hygiene. The other camp, Camp Wilton, is located in Saratoga County and serves upstate schools for the retarded.

Retarded Kids Will Go to Camp

Albany, May 21 (UPI)—A state-operated summer camp for residents of four schools for the mentally retarded will open June 23 near Liberty in Sullivan County. Called Catskill Summer Camp, it will be operated for 10 weeks. Campers will include children from Letchworth Village, Suffolk, Wassaic and Willowbrook state schools for the retarded, and a small number of mentally retarded living in communities served by these schools.