



Empowering adults with intellectual and developmental differences through opportunities to learn, work and connect.



Dear Future Pine Castle Participant,

Are you ready to embark on an extraordinary journey? Pine Castle awaits your arrival. We are thrilled to extend this invitation to you to join our college-like campus. At Pine Castle, we don't just educate; we inspire. We're a launchpad for your future success. Our commitment to excellence, innovation, and personal growth sets us apart, and we believe you have what it takes to shine here.

Picture yourself on our vibrant campus, surrounded by peers who share your eagerness to learn and staff who are dedicated to your success. Imagine having access to a wide array of extracurricular activities, social clubs, and a community that celebrates diversity and fosters creativity. Whether you decide to take the Life Enrichment or Employment Pathway, Pine Castle is here to support, guide, and develop skills as our goal is for participants to live their most independent lives.

Pine Castle values unique perspectives, and we are excited to see how your individuality will contribute to our rich tapestry of talent and innovation.

To start your Pine Castle journey, simply follow the steps outlined in the enclosed packet. If you have any questions or need assistance along the way, our Admissions Office is here to support you.

Join us in building a brighter future, pushing boundaries, and achieving dreams. Your adventure begins at Pine Castle, where possibilities know no bounds.

We eagerly await your response to this invitation. Congratulations on taking the first step toward becoming a Pine Castle participant. Your future awaits, and it's nothing short of extraordinary.



Sincerely,
Lori Ann Whittington
Chief Executive Officer
Pine Castle, Inc.

Scan to learn more.

904.733.2650
admissions@pinecastle.org





PURPOSE

To provide a positive environment where you can develop your potential and achieve maximum independence.

Pine Castle is a place to learn and develop new friendships while pursuing personal development, career development, community engagement, and employment opportunities.

Enroll Today

Discover a supportive and nurturing environment by enrolling at Pine Castle, where we provide comprehensive programs and services tailored to the unique needs and abilities of each individual we serve.



The Academy Pathways

Each participant can choose from two different pathways to success — the Pathway to Life Enrichment or the Pathway to Community Employment.

The Pine Castle Academy features a customized curriculum, providing a college-like experience for participants. Each participant has an individualized daily schedule that includes time for skill-building with the Pathways curriculum, their choice of extra-curricular activities like band, chorus, Special Olympics, etc., as well as options for Mental Health Services and working time if they are in the Employment Pathway.

The Academy has two semesters per year, and participants can choose different courses or extra-curricular activities each semester.

Both pathways include weekly field trips for up to ten participants at a time in a small group setting utilizing our two campus buses. One bus is dedicated to the Pathway to Community Employment and includes job exploration field trips. The other bus is used for the Life Enrichment Pathway and includes cultural and civic outings.

On the Employment Pathway, participants earn at least minimum wage while working on job training skills and contracts, including manufacturing assembly, the wood shop, and trade crew training in Culinary, Custodial, or Maintenance. Upon completion of the Employment Pathway, participants receive guidance from a Job Coach to help them secure employment in the community, and ultimately achieve greater independence.



Core Values

- Embrace Differences
- Respect Personal Choice
- Care Deeply About Each Individual
- Empower Through Education
- Transform Our Community



MISSION

To empower adults with intellectual and developmental differences through opportunities to learn, work, and connect.

LEARN WORK CONNECT



Community Employment Pathway

Our staff work closely with each participant using customized curriculum to guide them in pre-employment skill building and learning opportunities.

Community Employment

Once a participant has completed their Pre-Vocational Employment Pathway Training, they begin working with our Community Employment Division to find their job in the community. The Job Coaches will help them with job search assistance, and work preparation planning. This offers participants guidance through the application process, dressing for success, interviewing, time management, transportation, and proper work etiquette for future community employment.

Community Employment Partners



Manufacturing

- Commercial Woodshop
- Woodshop Retail Products
- Manufacturing Assembly

Campus Crew Trade Training

- Custodial
- Food Service
- Maintenance



Life Enrichment Pathway

Pine Castle's Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) provide education on topics that provide hands-on practice of skills to help reinforce concepts.

Life Enrichment

Pine Castle's Pathway to Life Enrichment curriculum focuses on developing the life skills necessary to increase overall independence and quality of life for individuals with IDD through hands-on learning experiences.

Life Skills Modules

- Interpersonal & Self-Advocacy Skills
- Health, Safety, Citizenship
- Personal Productivity
- Money Management
- Community Skills



Award-Winning Curriculum, Unparalleled Credentials

At Pine Castle, we take immense pride in our exceptional team of dedicated professionals who bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our organization.



Passionate

Our staff members are carefully selected for their expertise and passion for empowering individuals and fostering growth.

Diverse

With diverse backgrounds and specialized training, our team consists of highly qualified educators, therapists, and support staff who are committed to providing the highest quality of care and support to our community.

Advanced

Our team possesses extensive credentials, including advanced degrees, certifications, and years of practical experience, enabling them to deliver personalized solutions to meet the unique needs of Pine Castle participants. We are committed to ensure an environment where every individual can thrive and achieve their full potential.

- Two staff are certified in WIP-C Benefits Counseling to help participants coordinate all their benefits for maximum impact.
- Many of our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who work directly with participants each day, have completed their DSP Pro Certification course, which is a year-long, intensive training program, so they can better serve each participant.
- Our Employment Pathway Supervisors and Managers have completed the First Coast Manufacturing Association's leadership training program.
- Pine Castle's Pathway curriculum was recognized by The Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities for Excellence in Innovation.



VISION

For a community where adults with intellectual & developmental differences achieve their potential for independence.

Pine Castle, with a legacy spanning more than 70 years, has been a steadfast advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental differences, fostering growth and inclusivity throughout its rich history.



Financial Investment

A variety of payment options are available to accommodate the diverse needs of our community. We understand that financial considerations play a crucial role in choosing our exceptional services.

Navigating the Payment Process

Our dedicated financial team works closely with families and individuals to navigate the payment process, providing guidance and assistance every step of the way. At Pine Castle, we strive to make our transformative programs and services accessible to all regardless of their financial circumstances.

Private Pay

For those seeking private pay, we provide flexible payment plans and transparent pricing structures to ensure affordability and ease.

State of Florida

Additionally, Pine Castle is an approved provider for the State of Florida allowing eligible individuals to access funding and support through various state programs, i.e., Medicaid, iBudget Waiver.

Social Security

A portion or all of the participant's monthly Social Security check can be applied for tuition.

Customizable Pricing

Pine Castle offers a variety of options to fit the needs of participants. Pine Castle has a monthly rate which includes the curriculum path of choice, supplies, field trips and field trip lunches.

Staff-to-Participant Ratio Private Pay Monthly Rates*

1:10 | 1:5 | 1:3 | 1:1

Tuition prices vary between \$975-\$3,000.
Please contact admissions regarding your individualized pricing.

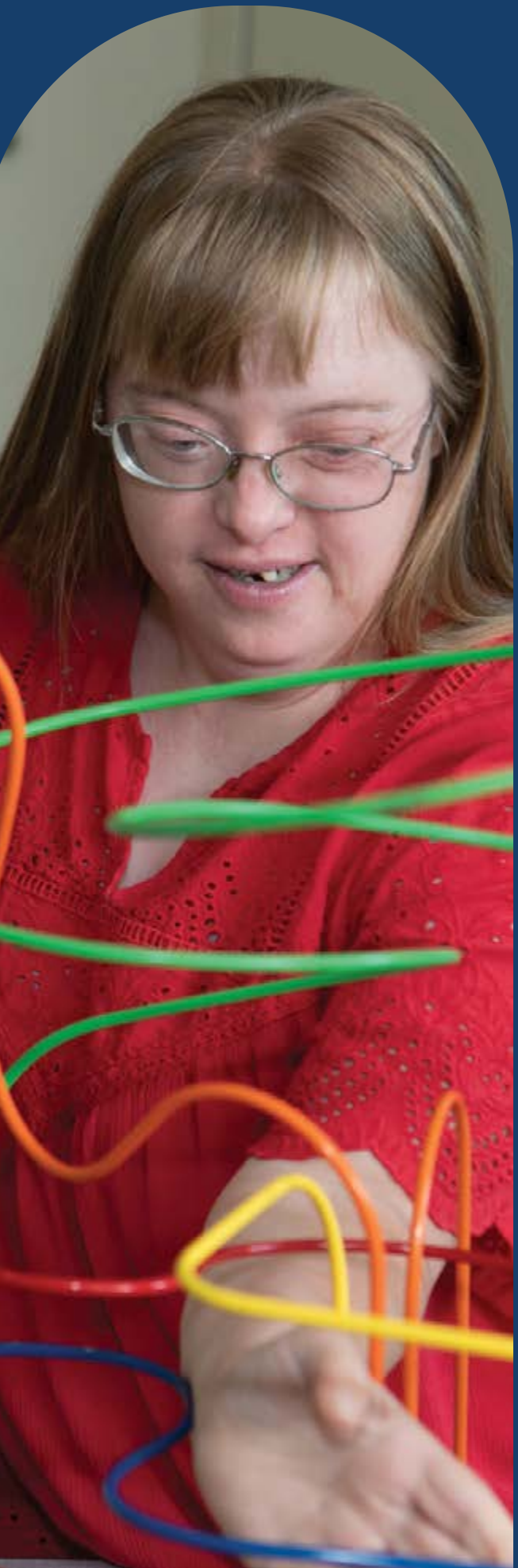
904.733.2650 Ext. 230.

Benefits Coordination

Additionally, we guide families in accessing federal resources such as Social Security benefits, Medicaid, Medicare and other disability-related programs.

*Based on the State of Florida Medicaid Ratios.





OUR HISTORY

Pine Castle helped pioneer the philosophy that individuals with IDD have the right to live full and productive lives.



Scan to learn more about Pine Castle's history.



Extracurricular Activities

Social clubs and activities play a pivotal role in enhancing the lives of our participants. These clubs provide a nurturing and inclusive environment where individuals can develop social skills, build meaningful relationships, and foster a sense of belonging.

Developing Confidence

Engaging in various activities such as art classes, music, sports and community outings promotes self-expression, creativity, and physical well-being. These experiences also encourage individuals to explore new interests, discover new talents, develop a sense of accomplishment, and self-confidence.

Additionally social clubs create opportunities to connect with peers who share similar experiences, fostering a supportive and empowering community. Through these enriching experiences, Pine Castle enables individuals with intellectual and developmental differences to thrive, grow, and lead fulfilling lives, promoting their overall well-being and quality of life.

Examples of Activities

- Special Olympics (Basketball & Track)
- Art Club
- Bible Study
- Bingo
- Civitan
- Game Club
- Garden Club
- Health Club
- Lego Club
- Music Club
- Podcast
- Radio Show
- Rosie the Riveters
- The Flashbacks (Pine Castle's Band)
- Pine Castle Chorus

Residential Opportunities

The goal of Pine Castle's Residential Program is to foster the growth of every participant's self-reliance and prepare them for safe, independent living.



Scan to learn more about Pine Castle's Residential Program.

Welcome Home

Pine Castle owns and operates five community group homes (two women's, one men's, and two co-ed), as well as one independent living home.

Through the assistance and guidance of 24-hour staff and nursing support, residents learn self-care and homemaking skills such as cooking, laundry, housekeeping, grooming, money management, and decision making. Each group home environment provides opportunities to develop and maintain social relationships within the community.

Contact For More Information

904.733.2650
residentialservices@pinecastle.org



Senior Programming

Our Senior Program is designed for individuals with IDD who have retired from community employment and/or whose differences are compounded by age-related changes, such as dementia or physical limitations. Participants engage in a variety of person-centered activities that focus on reminiscence simulation, cognitive stimulation, social interaction, and maintenance of daily living skills.

Our seniors can choose to have their nails done by their Direct Support Professional in the salon, enjoy coffee with peers in the coffee shop, or enjoy a movie in our movie theater. Individuals in the Senior Program also enjoy a variety of community visitors including musicians, volunteers, and university participants that help promote social interaction and engagement.



Friendship Way

Our Friendship Village is a space offering reminiscence therapy, which stimulates mental activity and evokes memories. We've converted an area into a unique environment in which painted murals, furnishings, and props recreate a village. This environment helps replicate lifestyles from earlier years, which helps individuals recall some of their older memories. Participants experience a greater sense of normalcy and the reminiscence spaces, filled with scenes from the past, prolong lifetime memories.

The program currently has 36 senior adult participants and continues to grow as people age. Adults with intellectual differences are prone to early-onset Alzheimer's and dementia and symptoms may begin manifesting in their 40s. It is for these individuals and their families that the reminiscence room will be a crucial part of keeping memories alive.

Pine Castle has staff that is highly skilled and trained by the National Task Group of Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices.



Personalized Care for Intensive Needs

For individuals with more severe intellectual and physical differences, we offer a sensory-based curriculum that helps promote physical, cognitive, and social wellness. They'll engage in a variety of sensory activities throughout the day that involve sight, sound, taste, smell, touch, and movement.

Our dedicated Direct Support Professionals also assist individuals with mobility, feeding, hygiene, and behavioral needs, as needed, in order to increase the individual's overall quality of life.

Mental Health

Holistic Approach

The Pine Castle mental health program is designed to treat the whole person. We achieve this through personalized assessments and care with a licensed practitioner, individualized, evidence-based treatment and activities focused on building holistic well-being.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR)

As part of our Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program (PSR), we help educate our participants on their co-occurring IDD and mental health conditions. We work with participants on their coping skills, reduce symptoms, improve relationships and much more.

Personalized 1-On-1

The Participants receive counseling with a client-centered therapeutic approach using a variety of evidence-based practices in a one-on-one setting.



Have questions?

We have answers.



Are there key admission dates to Pine Castle?

No, a participant can apply any time of the year. However, just like college admissions typically we see more admissions in late summer and early spring.

How many participants are enrolled in Pine Castle?

Pine Castle can enroll up to 350 adults.

How old do you need to be to apply for Pine Castle?

You need to be 18 with a Special Education Graduate Certificate or 21 with a diagnosis from your doctor before the age of 18 with an intellectual or developmental disability.

How can I pay for the services of Pine Castle?

In some cases, the State of Florida will provide some payment if you have funding through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) iBudget waiver – you can apply a portion of that budget to your services at Pine Castle. Pine Castle also offers private pay options as well. Monthly Social Security payments can also be applied to pay for Pine Castle Day Program Services.

What are the steps for application?

1. Fill out the pre-application located on our website to submit.
2. Schedule a Tour and fill out all other necessary paperwork.
3. Determine your payment preferences, either through the state of Florida or private pay.
4. A Case Manager will be assigned for assessment.

Is there Medical Care on Campus?

Pine Castle has a board-certified nurse on campus to handle a multitude of conditions, if needed, along with medication administration.

What are classroom ratios?

If you are using iBudget waiver dollars, APD will assign your staff ratio, either 1:3 (1 staff per 3 participants) or 1:5 or 1:10. Each classroom is staffed accordingly.

Is your campus open?

Yes, our campus is open. Participants can move around our campus freely but are on timed schedules each semester, so we know where a participant is at any given time. Participants that are capable to go off campus may do so.

What types of jobs and career opportunities can be explored?

There are numerous opportunities from our on-location woodshop, to our custodial or culinary service or maintenance crews for training in skilled trades or assembly manufacturing jobs.

Do you partner with local businesses for employment opportunities?

With Pine Castle's long history with local community and business partnerships, Pine Castle's participants can find enjoyable employment throughout regional businesses like Publix, Bruster's Ice Cream, and more.

How does Pine Castle support participants in setting and achieving their long-term goals?

Our staff is highly credentialed and is on the cutting edge of service innovations providing our participants the best opportunities. Participants set their own goals each semester and their Case Manager, Direct Support Professional and other staff help them track and achieve their goals.

Are there opportunities to learn hands-on skills?

Pine Castle takes immense pride in administering hands-on programming for participants. They can learn woodshop skills and make retail items for our online marketplace and community retail partners. We also offer training in manufacturing to assemble products for local manufacturers. Our garden club and all of our trade crews learn hands-on skills. There are a multitude of opportunities.

Do you have a residential program?

Yes, through the assistance and guidance of 24-hour staff support. The goal is to foster the growth of every participant's self-reliance. The application for residential services is handled separately. For more information contact the Director of Residential Services at 904.733.2650.

Do you take Seniors over the age of 55?

Yes, we have a Senior adult program that specializes in appropriate senior programming and activities — in some cases, adults with IDD experience age-related conditions, i.e. Alzheimer's and dementia, earlier than the typical population.

Do you have a Memory Care program?

Yes, the rate for Alzheimer's and dementia is greater for individuals with IDD. Pine Castle provides a safe monitored program that allows individuals to feel safe, encourages participation in extracurricular and social activities, and more.

What are the hours of operation?

The Academy is open M-F from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and the Administration offices are open M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



4911 Spring Park Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32207
904.733.2650 | pinecastle.org | admissions@pinecastle.org



Scan code to
enroll today.