

Destination Florida is a charity that takes children with life limiting or chronic medical conditions away for a 7-night trip of a lifetime, taking in some of the biggest theme parks and attractions in the world. A highly trained team of medical, nursing, physiotherapy and non-medical helpers accompany the children on the trip to give them a truly life-changing experience.

The following are the nomination criteria for the children we take which may assist you in nominating a child for the trip:

- Children must be aged between 7 and 16 years at the time of the trip.
- The children must live in the North of England as this allows for the home visit as well as ease of travel to the meeting prior to the trip.
- Children can be nominated by anyone but they do require a medical assessment from their consultant or GP as to whether they will be fit to travel to the US.
- Children who are nominated should not have been on a previous holiday to Florida.
- Children who have had a previous “wish” granted by the Make a Wish Foundation or who have been on a similar trip with another charity are not eligible to apply.
- The children are not accompanied by their parents; therefore they must be able to cope with the time away from their families.
- The children should be developmentally able to appreciate the trip. Children with significant developmental delay and a who function at an age of less than 5-6 years old do not benefit from the experience.
- The parks visited are busy and unfamiliar environments. Children with severe autistic spectrum disorders do not cope with this and therefore are not eligible for the trip.
- We ask that children with severe behavioural problems are not nominated due to the risk of disruptive and challenging behaviours which can adversely affect others.
- We cannot take children who require haemodialysis.
- We cannot take children who are fully ventilator dependent.
- Due to cross-infection risks, we can only take one child with Cystic Fibrosis

All nominations of children for the Destination Florida trip must have the consent of the parent or guardian. A nomination does not guarantee the selection of the child for the trip so it is strongly advised that the child is not informed of the nomination.

When nominating a child, please fill out the electronic form fully and ensure that contact details are accurate. This allows for the best chance for the child to be selected. Destination Florida reserves the right to withdraw any nomination if the information is found to be deliberately false.

All children who are selected for the trip in the initial shortlisting process will receive a home visit from their group leader and lead nurse. This face-to-face assessment allows for an accurate appraisal of their suitability for the trip.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and we look forward to receiving your nomination. On behalf of the Trustees of Destination Florida, I wish to thank you as you may enable a child to have a truly incredible and amazing trip with us.

Dr Adam Nicholls
Medical Director of Destination Florida Children’s Charity