

The Value of Medical Specialty Camps
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Rise and Shine....and Envision Yourself at Camp!

This list of regional camps is NOT INCLUSIVE of ALL camps, but only a smattering of opportunities that are available. Use your search engine to find abundant information regarding a specific camp location or population.

INDIANA

Bradford Woods** www.bradfordwoods.iu.edu Bradford Woods hires summer staff for 12 week employment to staff camps for children with physical disabilities and chronic illnesses. This is the home of Camp Riley, Camp Little Red Door (oncology/hematology), Camp About Face (craniofacial disorders), and IN Muscular Dystrophy Camp. If you are interested in volunteering directly with Camp Little Red Door and other youth programs and services, contact is www.littlereddoor.org/camps-lrd.

CHAMP Camp, Inc. www.champcamp.org Held for one week in June at Bradford Woods in Martinsville, IN for children and adolescents with tracheostomies and those requiring respiratory (ventilator) assistance. Contact Jamie Mitchell at admin@champcamp.org Phone 317-679-1860 Specifically seeking Child Life Specialists and Child Life Students.

Hoosier Burn Camp www.hoosierburncamp.org Held for one week each summer at Camp Tecumseh, near Lafayette, IN. Contact Caitlin Dougherty, CCLS at info@hoosierburncamp.org Phone 765-567-0115

Camp Healing Tree www.brookesplace.org Held for a weekend each August at Jameson Camp in Indianapolis. Camp is for children who are experiencing grief and loss.

Happy Hollow Children's Camp** www.happyhollowchildrenscamp.net Breathe Easy Camp for children with asthma is held for one week each summer; other weeks are traditional summer camps with a diverse population of children and adolescents. Ph Located in Nashville, IN (Brown County). Phone 317-638-3849

Camp Until A Cure is hosted by the Diabetes Foundation of Indiana, and located in Noblesville, IN. For volunteer opportunities, contact Jenna White at dyfjenna@gmail.com. Phone 317-750-9310 www.dyfi.org

Camp Watcha Wanna Do is a camp for adolescent cancer survivors and is hosted by the Children's Oncology Camp Association. It is located in Northeastern (Fort Wayne area) Indiana. Contact info.cwwd@gmail.com Phone 260-609-3155

Camp ROCKS is provided by Easter Seals Crossroads of Indiana, and offers a weeklong, overnight experience for children ages 10-18 years of age with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. Camp is held at Bradford Woods (see above). Camp Ability is a day-camp for younger children on the autism spectrum, and is held in Indianapolis. Camp FUEL is an opportunity for adolescents with disabilities to experience daily field trips in the community.

www.eastersealscrossroads.org/services/childrens-services/camps/

MICHIGAN

Camp Oasis is a camp for children with IBD (inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, and Crohn's Disease), held at Camp Copneconic** in Fenton Twp, Michigan. It serves children primarily from Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois. There are actually many sites for Camp Oasis throughout the country. Check out www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org and search CAMP OASIS for details.

Trail's Edge Camp, www.trailsedgecamp.org, is held at the Fowler Center for Outdoor Learning in Maryville, Michigan. Camp is designed for children ages 5 – 18 years of age who are ventilator-dependent at least part of the day or night. Volunteer forms are available on the website; contact info: Jeff Bradley at Director.trailsedgecamp@gmail.com or Tara Egnor at tegnor71@gmail.com. Trails Edge Camp is coordinated through the efforts of Mott Children's Hospital/Michigan Medicine.

North Star Reach** is a Serious Fun Network Camp held in Pinckney, MI, not far from Ann Arbor. Volunteers are utilized during various sessions of medical specialty camps, and Child Life Specialists and Child Life students are sought and welcome! This camp has twelve partnering hospitals and medical centers throughout Michigan and the Chicago area. North Star Reach also holds Family Camp Weekends. www.northstarreach.org. Contact: Mike “Coach” Parker at 734-680-8744 or info@northstarreach.org.

Camp Michitanki has a camper population of kids who have received transplants. It is held at North Star Reach Camp (see above) and is coordinated through the Michigan Medicine/University of Michigan Transplant Center. Contact 734-232-0594 or transplantevents@umich.edu.

Camp Bold Eagle serves children and adolescents with a diagnosis of hemophilia. It is a traditional summer camp program, but they also have an “Eagles Nest Family Camp” experience. Camp is held at Pioneer Trails in Holton, MI. It is coordinated by the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan. www.hfmich.org

Camp Midicha is for children with diabetes, and serves over 500 children each summer. They provide residential camp (overnight) as well as day camp, and is coordinated through the American Diabetes Association and partnering with Michigan Medicine. They also have a family camp and a young adult camp, serving 18-25 year olds. www.diabetessolutions.org/campmidicha/ or veryspecialcamps.org.

Special Days Camp is a summer camp for children with cancer and their siblings. They also hold a winter camp overnight reunion! Phone: 866-448-4710. Email at info@specialdays.org or check out website at www.specialdays.org. Camp is held at YMCA Camp Pandalouan near Muskegon, MI.

Camp Discovery (youth) and Solstice Camp (adolescents) provide an overnight experience those who have epilepsy and other chronic health conditions. Held at North Star Reach Camp (above.) www.epilepsymichigan.org/campdiscovery. Email: Russell Derry at rderry@epilepsymichigan.org. Phone: 248-809-4744

Eric “RicStar” Winter Music Therapy Camp in East Lansing, Michigan. It is a non-profit organization and is coordinated by faculty of Music Therapy program at Michigan State University, and provides a DAY CAMP for children and youth with

autism and developmental delays. Email commusic@msu.edu. Child Life students welcome!

Camp Good Grief (Hospice of Michigan and Arbor Hospice) is a one day experience for children who are experiencing the death of a loved one. Volunteers are needed at several locations. Camp Newaygo in Newaygo, MI www.hom.org/camp-newaygo Karen Monts at kmonts@hom.org ; Camp Ohiyesa in Holly, MI www.hom/camp-ohiyesa Jackie Morris at jmorris@hom.org ; Camp Timbers in West Branch, MI www.hom/camp-timbers Alexandra Irwin at airwin@hom.org or Stacy Malenfant at smalenfa@hom.org

Experience Camp is held at Lake of the Woods and Greenwoods Camps** in Decatur, MI each August for children who have experienced death, loss, and grief. Volunteer application is available at excamps.campintouch.com.
www.lwgcwgc.com

The Fowler Center for Outdoor Learning**, www.thefowlercenter.org, is a non-profit organization that hosts camps for children with special needs and chronic conditions throughout the summer. Child Life Specialists and students are welcome as employees and volunteers.

OHIO

Flying Horse Farms** offers a plethora of opportunities for children with chronic conditions. Among their weeklong camps, there are those for children with cancer, facial differences, arthritis, and disorders of the heart, lungs, blood, kidneys, and gastrointestinal system. Many campers also face PTSD, anxiety, depression, and other emotional health challenges. Flying Horse Farms offers a CHILD LIFE PRACTICUM as well as plenty of opportunities for Child Life Volunteers (students!) to participate one or several weeks. Contact Rebecca Gordon, MS, CCLS, at rebecca@fhf.org. This is a SeriousFunNetwork Camp. Held in Mount Gilead, OH, just northeast of Columbus.

Recreation Unlimited** in Ashley, OH (north of Columbus) is home of Ohio MDA (Muscular Dystrophy) Camp. www.mda.org or contact Recreation Unlimited at 740-548-7006 or email info@recreationunlimited.org. Recreation Unlimited camps host a number of special needs camps each summer.

Fresh Air Camp is a camp for children with tracheostomies and those requiring ventilator assistance. Camp is held each June at Hiram House Camp near Cleveland, OH and partners with pediatric hospitals in Cleveland and Akron.

www.freshaircamp.org

Ohio 4-H Special Needs Camp is held Canter's Cave 4-H Camp in Jackson, Ohio, and accommodates youth with unique abilities. Contact Michelle Stumbo at 740-691-6010 or [Stumbo.5; @osu.edu](mailto:Stumbo.5@osu.edu).

Rotary Camp** for children with special needs is held in Akron. For more information contact Dan Reynolds at 330-644-4512 or email at danr@akronymca.org.

Camp JOY in Clarksville, OH is host to a variety of camps each summer. They include Camp Joyful Hearts (congenital or acquired heart disease); Camp Lionheart (bereavement) through Cincinnati Children's Starshine Hospice; Camp Courage (children impacted by a cancer diagnosis in the family); Spina Bifida Coalition of Cincinnati; Camp Wekandu (juvenile arthritis and related diseases); Tuberos Sclerosis Camp; Camp NJoyItAll (cancer, blood diseases, immune disorders); Camp Korelitz (diabetes); and Perlman Center Cerebral Palsy Camp
Contact: info@camp-joy.org or 937-289-2031

STAR Camp – Autism Society of Greater Cleveland provides an integrated camp for individuals with disabilities and typical peers. Held near Columbus, OH. Phone: 216-556-4937

Camp Nuhop is especially for kids with neurodiversities and learning differences, including ADD, ADHD, and LD. Held in Perrysville, OH. Phone: 419-938-7151
www.nuhop.org/camp-nuhop

KENTUCKY

The Center for Courageous Kids** in Scottsville, KY hosts camps for children with special needs and chronic medical conditions throughout the summer and family retreats throughout the year. www.courageouskids.org Contact info@courageouskids.org Phone: 270-618-2900

Depending on the week, they have camps for those kids with diagnoses of:

Cardiac Conditions (Brave Hearts Camp); Pulmonology (Asthma, Cystic Fibrosis, and other Respiratory Diagnoses); Diabetes; Physical Disabilities; Autism Sib Camp; Hematology/Oncology Camps; Immune Disorders; Arthritis; Bone Disorders; Pediatric Pain.

ILLINOIS

Timber Pointe Outdoor Center** in Hudson, IL

www.timberpointeoutdoorcenter.com is owned and operated by Easter Seals Central Illinois, and they provide various camps throughout the summer for children with disabilities and illnesses. This is home to Illinois MDA (Muscular Dystrophy) Camp and Camp HOPE for children with cancer and blood diseases, which is coordinated through Children's Hospital of Illinois.

www.camphopefoundation@gmail.com.

www.osffhealthcare.org/childrens/services/cancer/

Camp One Step www.camponestep.org is a non-profit camp in Chicago that provides year-long programming (both in-person and virtual) for children and teens with an oncology diagnosis. They also provide a winter camp, as well as the CONNECTED Sibling Program. Child Life volunteers are invited to apply. For more information, contact Devin Ryan (dryan@camponestep.org) or Jessica Hopper (jhopper@camponestep.org) Many volunteers come from Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. info@camponestep.org or www.camponestep.org/volunteer/program-volunteer Phone 312-924-4220

Camp Kids Are Kids www.campkidsarekids.org is an urban camp for kids living with cancer or who are cancer survivors. Siblings are also included to focus on the family unit. Both virtual and in-person programs are available. Because this is camp originates in downtown Chicago, kids stay in "transformed" rooms with bunks at the Palmer House and Drake Hotels, and each day brings exciting excursions into the city, from beaches to museums to landmarks! Contact info@campkidsarekids.org Phone 312-912-5308

Camp I Am Me supported by the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance is open to children and adolescents of Illinois who have experienced a burn injury. Call 224-387-3322 for

volunteer opportunities. Camp is held for a week each June. www.ifsa.org/get-involved/camp-request-to-volunteer

ADDITIONAL CAMPS SEEKING CHILD LIFE VOLUNTEERS

Camp Horizon in Nashville, TN www.camphorizontn.org is held for 2 weeks each June; one week for campers with an oncology diagnosis and one week for siblings. Sara Ridenour, CCLS (St. Jude Children's Hospital) is on the Camp Director Team. Contact her at info@camphorizontn.org. 615-952-0039

Camp MASH (Make Arthritis Stop Hurting) is provided through the efforts of the Arthritis Foundation, and is held in the Wisconsin Dells. www.campmash.org For more info, contact Jessica Wadium, CCLS, at jessica.wadium@gmail.com. Jessica is a Child Life Specialist at Gunderson Health System, and was formerly with the Mayo Clinic.

OTHER (National)

To find a camp that serve children with diabetes BY STATE, go to www.diabetescamp.org. This is an extensive and detailed list!

To find a camp serving children who have undergone an ORGAN TRANSPLANT, go to www.transplantliving.org/children/camps.

There are many camps across the nation that serve children with diagnoses of cancer of any kind. The Children's Oncology Camp Association is an EXCELLENT resource, with listings by STATE. www.cocai.org/cocai-camps/coca-i-memberlist

Serious Fun Camps are located throughout the US and in other countries as well. Their extensive network provides incredible opportunities to children with serious health conditions and life-threatening diagnoses. We are fortunate to have several in our region (as listed above). Check out ALL their sites at www.seriousfun.org/camps-and-programs/find-a-camp/

www.veryspecialcamps.com is a resource that lists camps by state and also by diagnosis or chronic condition.

Experience Camps www.experiencecamps.org These are nationwide camps, one week at a time, for children who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, or primary caregiver. List of national sites is on website.

www.campresource.com lists camps by state that serve special needs populations.

Camps for children with Pulmonary Hypertension can be found at www.phassociation.org/parents/camps-for-chronically-ill-children/

Muscular Dystrophy camps can be found by state at www.mda.org

Sickle Cell Disease camps can be found at www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/features/sickle-cell-and-summer-camp.html

The American Camping Association also keeps a data base of camps that provide programming for children and adolescents with illnesses, chronic conditions, developmental delays, and special needs. Their data base is only as current as camps that self-report or camps that are accredited by the ACA.

www.acacamps.org

STUDENTS: Camp opportunities may also be found on the Facebook pages, ASPIRING CHILD LIFE SPECIALISTS, or CHILD LIFE CONNECTION:STUDENT FORUM.



HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU...NOW GO FIND YOUR CAMP **FIRE!**

