



About Camp Boggy Creek

A Place of Celebration

Each year Camp Boggy Creek, a multi-disease therapeutic residential camp, welcomes thousands of children and families from across Florida. Children with chronic or life-threatening illnesses and their family members endure isolation and lack medical information, coping skills, and experienced role models needed to improve the child's condition and successfully deal with constant medical crises. At Camp Boggy Creek, children are enabled to shed the isolation they feel during the rest of the year and don the happy spirit of a carefree camper along with other children just like them. It is a celebration of life that lasts long after the camp session is over.

During the summer there are 9 weeklong sessions when campers with the same illness come together. The campers range in age from 7 through 16 and each session accommodates 130-150 children depending on the illness group. Summer sessions provide a needed break for parents while giving them the peace of mind of knowing that their child is receiving the best of care. For seriously ill children, it's a chance to be with other kids "just like them."

Additionally, there are 20 disease-specific family retreat weekends when up to 32 campers bring their families along. These sessions allow the campers' siblings to join in on the fun, and the opportunity for parents to gather with other parents who are dealing with the catastrophic situations of having a child with a serious illness.

And how do the campers spend their day? Celebrating.

Intertwined in every moment of every day, campers are being loved and encouraged to discover their own resilience, independence, and the joy of caring relationships. Of course there is horseback riding...and Sir Gus, a camel that visits to give kisses. There is splashing in the pool but also an early morning race with handmade wooden sportscars before going to breakfast with Spiderman and Snow White. There is paddling a canoe and then a limo ride to the dance in the dining hall. There's all the usual camp stuff...but then the magic happens and around each corner, something unexpected, something wonderful...a forever memory. At mealtime, campers take the

microphone to thank a fellow camper for a special kindness or a counselor for a piggyback ride. Over at arts & crafts it might look like clay becoming a cup, but it's really a small patient becoming a kid again.

Oh yes, it is definitely a celebration.

A Place of Collaboration

It takes the combined effort of thousands of people and hundreds of organizations to fulfill Camp Boggy Creek's mission. One of our most important tasks is to recruit campers. Due to the serious nature of their illnesses, these children are generally served at the various pediatric treatment centers and hospitals located throughout Florida. Because of our long established relationships with these hospitals and care centers, the medical staffs and family life specialists let the families know about Camp Boggy Creek and refer them to us. We also work with the state chapters of organizations such as the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, Juvenile Diabetes and many others to get the word out. Existing camper families often make referrals, and families can always contact us directly.

A Place Where Kids Get "Patched Up"

From the very start of camp, our medical center has been affectionately called "The Patch." Part of the reason is the prevalent use of quilts throughout the property. But, mostly because it's the place where campers and counselors can go to get "patched up."

Camp Boggy Creek has a full time doctor and nurse. When kids are here, dedicated medical volunteers join our team. During a summer session, 8-10 nurses and 3-4 doctors are available around the clock to care for the campers. The Patch is fully stocked with all of the equipment and medicines necessary for the illness group being hosted. Because of this exceptional medical care, children can come to Boggy Creek who couldn't dream about going anywhere else.

Camp Boggy Creek has one of the highest counselor to camper ratios in the industry. We conduct extensive background checks on staff and volunteers and are governed by a board of highly respected community leaders and philanthropists. Our facilities comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act specifications, and we are fully accredited by the American Camping Association. Our staff receives extensive training to prepare for the campers. We have also received the Safety First designation by Markel Insurance Company.

Whether it's chemotherapy, a dialysis treatment, or just a skinned elbow, The Patch is ready to wrap our campers in quilts and care.

A Place That Serves Those Who Need It Most

How do we decide who gets to come to Camp Boggy Creek? It is not an easy decision by any definition. We try to accept the children who are most seriously ill first. The medical staff reviews the applications and the severity of diagnosis is separated into three levels: mild, moderate and severe. We evaluate and accept children starting with the severe then moderate to mild. Our Medical Director works with the child's own physician to insure that the child will be well enough to participate in camp activities. We also try to recruit an equal number of boys and girls for each week.

A Place of Generosity

No child or family pays to come to Camp Boggy Creek. However, it costs over \$2,500 per camper for a summer session and over \$60,000 for each family retreat weekend. It's up to us to raise the necessary funds.

Our funds come from generous and caring individuals. More specifically, financial support to keep Camp Boggy Creek open comes from many marvelous sources. Our Founders are individuals and families deeply committed to improving the quality of life of seriously ill children and their families. Founders were instrumental in providing the financial leadership to construct this \$23 million facility and they remain a major force in sustaining operations and securing the future of the program. Fortunately, thousands of donors have made gifts to operate the camp. All are generous with some making monthly gifts, some annually, while others make gifts to celebrate birthdays, holidays, special occasions or in memory of loved ones whose families wish to make supporting Boggy Creek part of their legacy.

Support from health organizations and hospitals is essential. We are very proud that organizations devoted to research, education and healing, view sending a seriously ill child to Camp Boggy Creek, "just what the doctor ordered."

Foundations and corporations with a big heart for children provide significant financial support. Gifts can be specifically designated towards sponsoring an event or activity, or used for day-to-day operations to sustain this unique program.

Please call for more information on making a gift to Camp Boggy Creek. Your continuing generosity is needed and appreciated.

A Place of Selfless Sacrifice

Each year, over 1,700 volunteers lend their time, talents and hearts to the children of Camp Boggy Creek. They come to us from every walk of life and we would be unable to run Camp without them. Some help mow the grass and maintain the buildings. Others help in the kitchen or support the office staff. Volunteers serve as cabin counselors, activity counselors, lifeguards, bed-makers, Boggy Bear stuffers, and airport shuttle drivers. If you are at least 19 years of age, we need you. To request a Volunteer Application, just contact www.volunteer@BoggyCreek.org or call our office toll free at 866-Go-Boggy extension 293.

There are countless ways for you to become part of the Camp Boggy Creek family. In addition to making a monetary contribution, which is always our greatest need, you can donate an item from our Needs List, which is posted on our website www.BoggyCreek.org. Hold a fundraiser; let your friends and family know about us...not just to request donations, but also to help recruit the seriously ill children we are here to serve. With your help, we can continue to enrich the lives of seriously ill children and their families and that is something to celebrate.