



2024 CAMP SEASON



CAMPER EXPERIENCES

“I thought I was the only one. Knowing that there are other people makes me feel like I have place, somebody to talk to.” – Camper Amara



Thank you for a year of joy!

We look back on our 2024 camp season with joy-filled hearts. All season long, we celebrated the small joys — like trying a new food or learning to fish — as well as the life-changing power of connecting with a new friend or meeting another caregiver who has been on a similar journey. We discovered that joy is a deeply personal, special, and remarkable feeling.

At camp, joy unfolded in countless indescribable “aha” moments: when campers realized the profound connections they share with others, when everyone was embraced for who they are, and when each person was celebrated for their unique selves.

Camper Nala said it best, *“To me, embracing joy means that kids who can’t do certain things outside of camp because of a blood disease or something else, can do them here and have just as much fun as other kids.”*



2024 CAMP SESSIONS - ONSITE

During the 2024 camp season, Roundup River Ranch served children with the following diagnoses:

SUMMER CAMP

- Lung Disease, Moderate to Severe Asthma, Celiac Disease
- Neurologic, Cranio-facial, Dermatologic Disorders, Epidermolysis Bullosa
- Congenital or Acquired Heart Disease, Heart Transplant
- Cancer, Brain Tumors, Bone Marrow Transplant, Acquired Immunodeficiency, Blood Disorders, Sickle Cell Disease
- Kidney Disease, Kidney Transplant and any diagnosis group served during camp
- Gastrointestinal Disorders, EoE, Liver Disease and Liver Transplant

FAMILY CAMP

- Type I Diabetes
- Celiac
- Cancer, Brain Tumors, Bone Marrow Transplant, Acquired Immunodeficiency, Blood Disorders
- Epilepsy, Neurologic & Dermatologic Disorders, Epidermolysis Bullosa
- Kidney Disease, Kidney Transplant, Gastrointestinal Disorders, EoE, Liver Disease and Liver Transplant
- Congenital or Acquired Heart Disease, Heart Transplant

2024 CAMP SEASON

By the Numbers!



5,398 Camper Experiences

312 Summer Camp Onsite

986 Camper Reunion (In-person)

2,542 Joy, Delivered

350 Family Camp Onsite

53 Camp Kits

482 Camp In Your Community

378 Camp Online

23 A Grateful Harvest Event
(Camper Retreat - Stage Night)

272 Seacrest Studios

*started April 2

THE CAMP IMPACT!

100% of families felt supported by the medical team. "We felt comfortable that the medical team was present/visible/available if we needed them."

99% of families felt like they belonged at camp. "There is a sense of immediate belonging and love."

26 Programs (each program includes numerous days or sessions)

6 Summer Camp Onsite

4 Camper Reunions

6 Family Camp Onsite

1 Joy, Delivered

8 Camp Clubs Online

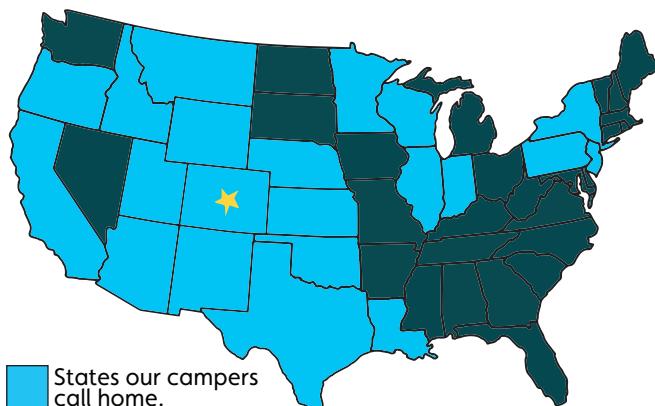
1 Camp in Your Community

In 2024, Roundup River Ranch served campers from a total of 21 states during the camp season.

88% of our campers call Colorado their home.

44% of our Colorado campers live in the Denver Metro Area.

12% of our campers come from 20 states outside Colorado.





THIS IS GARRETT A RETURNING CAMPER

At camp, our mission is all about providing opportunities for kids with life-altering medical diagnoses to embrace joy, create connection, foster independence, and build hope.

This summer was Garrett's 6th year at Roundup River Ranch, and his experience at camp truly shows our mission coming to life. After first coming to Summer Camp in 2017, he said he keeps coming back, because he loves being here.

Garrett has beta thalassemia major, explaining that ***"It's basically where red blood cells can't carry oxygen, so then they just die off. Which means if I don't get transfusions every three to four weeks, then I don't have enough blood to survive."***

Throughout his time coming to camp, Garrett has gained confidence. He shared that before coming to camp he was very shy, but at camp he learned how to be himself. He gives credit to the counselors and the kindness of the other campers for helping him come out of his shell.

Now, he said meeting new friends is super fun! Over the years he has met many new friends, and has built strong bonds with other campers, including AG! He said one of the standout memories from camp was reuniting with AG after being in different cabins last year. This year, Garrett and AG were in the Osprey cabin together and their connection was seen all week long.

Garrett said what he loves most about camp is, ***"Just getting out, getting away from the world kind of, honestly - like all the screens and technology and stuff. Just kind of unplugging. I love it."***

He said that camp has impacted him in many ways, and helped him grow as a person.

"You learn a lot of valuable life lessons from the counselors. Camp has made me a better person. Just like being more kind and more thoughtful and caring."

BOOK OF FIRSTS

The Book of Firsts is a cherished tradition where campers can write down a "first" experience they had at camp to be documented forever! Check out some of our favorites!

- I did boating for the first time!
- I rock climbed for the first time! It was petrifying.
- I made two new T1D* friends. And found out that I'm not the only one with T1D. And had a great time.
- Danced for my food for the first time.
- I was brave and tried the challenge course!
- I was really scared to go boating but I went.
- I caught 3 fish my first time fishing.
- We rode horses for the first time at camp.
- In my first week, I made a new friend and caught a big fish.

*T1D means Type 1 Diabetes.

VOLUNTEERS

17,865

Total Volunteer Hours

1,356

Total Volunteer Positions Filled

277

Onsite Session Volunteers

1,271

Total Non-Medical Volunteer Positions Filled

63

Total Medical Volunteer Positions Filled

163

Board and Committee Member positions

330

Service Project Volunteers



THIS IS MARIA!

One of our awe-inspiring superhero volunteers.

Meet one of our incredible volunteers from the 2024 season, Maria!

After volunteering in high school, Maria knew she wanted to volunteer somewhere in college, while she worked toward her goal of becoming a pediatrics PA. Her pre-health advisor told her about Roundup River Ranch, and the rest is history! This is her third year volunteering at Roundup River Ranch, and has volunteered at Summer Camp, Family Camp, and Camp Club Online! When she's not volunteering at camp, Maria is a Medical Assistant at a dermatology practice.

"It has been a spectacular experience! I love seeing the campers' growth in participating in activities, making new friends and getting outside of their comfort zone throughout camp. I was shocked by the amount of growth made by campers from the start of camp to the end. I loved seeing how the fun, comforting and safe environment allowed campers to gain more confidence in trying new activities and in building friendships with other campers."

Throughout the past 3 years, Maria has made oodles of memories during camp, one of her favorites being the Variety Show at Family Camp! *"I love watching the Variety Show and seeing the skills and talents that the campers showcase. It is so much fun seeing the confidence and excitement campers had to show their skill at the Variety Show."* Aside from the Variety Show, her favorite parts of camp are camp dancing, or working on art projects in the Art Yurt with campers!

To describe Roundup River Ranch, Maria would choose the three words: *"joyful, supportive, and empowering".*

She said volunteering at camp has shifted her perspective of resilience, *"Observing the campers' positivity and determination despite living with life-altering conditions was inspiring. I learned the importance of holding optimism and joy through difficulties in life which I intend to do."*

We asked Maria what Embrace Joy means to her, and she said, *"Seeking out happiness and positivity in life even during challenging times. I think it is really important to find joy in the small moments in your everyday life. Focusing on these moments is vital in enjoying the good times and getting through challenging times."*

Maria's Advice for New Volunteers

I would tell new volunteers that this is an incredible experience to be a part of and to be present in the moment.

Camp flies by and though the days are busy, enjoy the time that you have with the campers. Additionally, it is vital with the busy days to ensure that you get a good night's rest and take advantage of breaks to rejuvenate.



THIS IS EVELYN, RUTH, KATHARINE, & KEVIN

Meet the Lander/Modisett Family! This was their second year coming to Family Camp, and Evelyn's first year at Summer Camp!

Evelyn's favorite part of Family Camp is the Carnival - embracing the chance to be as messy as possible, where it's encouraged! During the Carnival, Evelyn braved the dunk tank and she was dunked by the one and only, DAD! Kevin shared that it was a special moment, especially since he has never done a dunk tank in his life! Another experience Kevin never had as a kid was sleepaway camp, opening up that he was always too nervous to go. Coming to Family Camp together first, helped him feel more confident about Evelyn going to Summer Camp.



Evelyn being dunked!

"People here are wonderful, incredibly caring, thoughtful, and focused on the well-being of all the campers. When you come and visit, you get to see that firsthand — from the medical staff to the volunteers to the counselors, everyone is kid focused. It's very comforting as a caregiver."

The rest of Evelyn's family also enjoyed many aspects of the weekend. Her younger sister, Ruth, said her favorite part is dressing up - which she did fabulously all weekend long!

Her mom and dad agreed that the friendship and environment of camp were some of their favorite parts. Katharine shared that, ***"I really liked seeing Evelyn's friendships in action and how that grew to include Ruth and other siblings. That was really special to see all the kids hanging out and running around having fun. And also I really liked that we were unplugged, just completely unplugged, and connecting as a family without distraction."***

The Variety Show was a meaningful moment for Kevin, causing him to reflect. ***"I reflected last night during the during our Variety Show, how amazing it is to have like this group of strangers, all standing, dancing, laughing, acting silly at the exact same time. And that's pretty unusual and pretty special, because I think this place creates a really warm, joyful environment."***

DISCONNECT TO CONNECT!

This year we had six sessions of Family Camp that reconnected families, and expanded communities! Family Camp is a technology free zone when it comes to personal electronics. Putting away technology allows for deeper connections, extra time to interact with our superhero volunteers that support our families, being present at family style meals, and time for endless goofiness! During Family Camps, the families got to choose from various activities to participate in, including the Challenge Course, Family Game Show, Discovery, Archery, Boating, Fishing, and many more! During those activities and at meals, our families were paired with Ranch Hand volunteers that played with the kids, made sure everyone had what they needed, and cheered each family on!

A special part of Family Camp weekends involves Café au Lait. During Café au Lait, caregivers are welcomed to Roundup's French Bistro for a bubbly water, charcuterie, and time to talk with the other caregivers. Each person is welcomed in this safe space to tell their story, share their hardships, laugh along with each other, and make a new friend.

**WORDS TO
DESCRIBE
CAMP**

FUN
-Evelyn

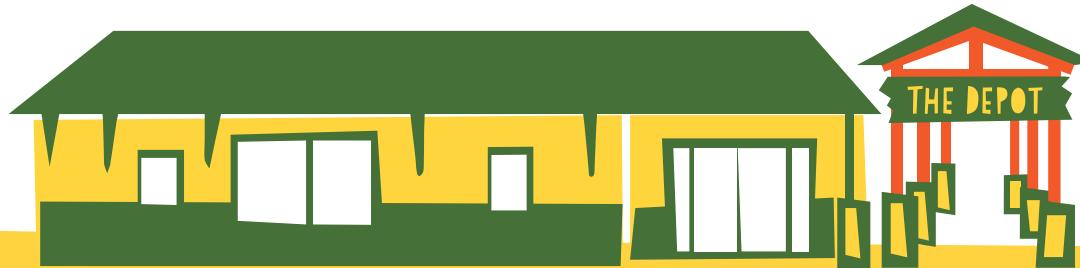
INCLUSIVE
-Kevin

CULTIVATING
-Katharine

RUTH SAID SHE
NEEDED AN
HOUR AND A
HALF TO THINK
ABOUT HER
WORD

**"Meeting all of
the parents was
very special. I
didn't realize
how lonely this
journey could
be. It's nice to
realize others
walk the same
path like you."**

**Valerie,
Camper Mom**



THE DEPOT DOWNLOAD

This year, our Medical Team, led by Nursing and Medical Operations Director Amy and Medical Director Dr. Ben, brought joy, expertise, and even tutus to camp each week! With a core team of five seasonal medical staff, we also welcomed 85 medical volunteers. We expanded our volunteer roles, introducing respiratory therapists, medical student volunteers, and pharmacists for the first time. This new collaboration with pediatric pharmacists allowed us to enhance family check-ins for campers, with the pharmacists playing a crucial role in organizing each camper's medical care plan and managing medication storage.

Throughout the summer, our medical team administered over 7,250 medications—an increase of 2,348 doses compared to the 4,902 administered in 2023.

An additional benefit for campers this summer was our focus on behavioral health programming. For many campers, a week away from home, meeting new people, and adjusting to a new schedule can bring about challenges. Our behavioral health team provided a safe and supportive environment for campers who needed extra assistance, helping them navigate tough moments so they could return to their cabins feeling more relaxed and ready to embrace the day's adventures.

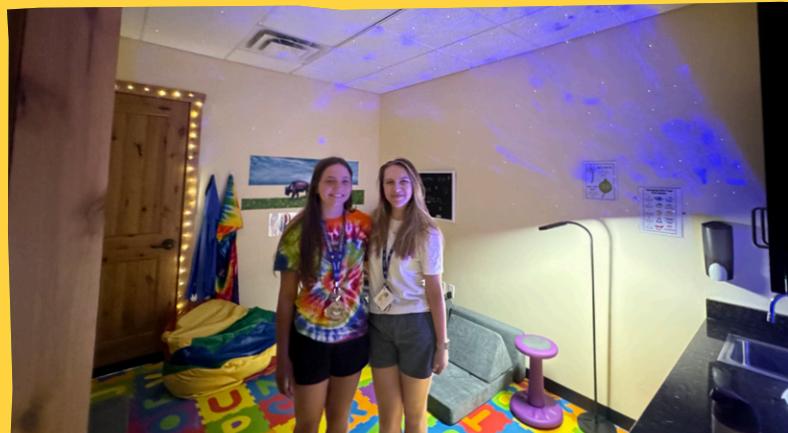
The behavioral health leads had a range of resources to guide campers through emotionally complex situations, including the Zen Den, a new addition to Roundup this year in The Depot. Leanna shared that the Zen Den was especially helpful for campers experiencing medical anxiety, offering a calmer space to meet with the medical team and engage in medical play.

"Having a dedicated space and a person to focus specifically on this need takes pressure off our cabin leaders and program leaders, allowing them to focus on the bigger picture," said Ashlyn, behavioral health lead. She also emphasized that autonomy is key to campers' growth. ***"At camp, we prioritize giving campers the opportunity to make choices, which is important because in the hospital, many of those choices are taken away. Understanding each child's background and the challenges they face outside of camp helps us provide them with the autonomy to make decisions for themselves."***

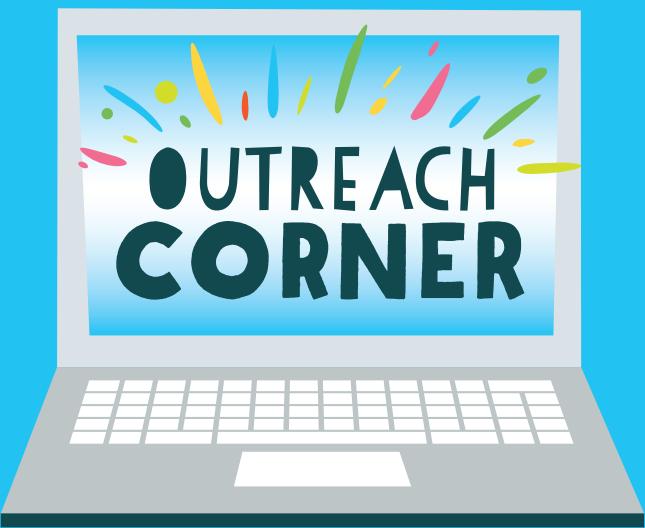
We are deeply grateful to our medical team and volunteers, whose care and support allowed families to find some much-needed respite this summer.



Our 2024 seasonal and full-time medical team!



Our 2024 behavioral health leads in the Zen Den!



Introducing Teen Club Online! (NEW!)



This fall, we were thrilled to introduce Teen Club Online - a new online camp experience, uniquely designed for campers ages 13-17! This program offers interactive and engaging recreational activities that hone critical life skills while, most importantly, delivering joyful and inspiring experiences.

September - Expressions of Joy

October - Crafty Careers

November - The Roundup Rock Out

December - Seasons of Giving

Camp Club Online

Camp Club Online continued with great success with campers between the ages of 7-12. Activities during Camp Club Online were tailored to younger campers, for a lighthearted and fun-filled experience!

September - Expressions of Joy

October - Fun with Fibers

November - The Roundup Rock Out

December - Seasons of Giving

Seacrest Studios - DENVER

Our Outreach Director, Khalil (AKA Glitter), completed training as a program host at Seacrest Studios within Children's Hospital Colorado - Aurora. Roundup River Ranch has reached even more young patients by hosting two camp-inspired segments each month!

During each visit, Glitter delivers camp boxes directly to kids' hospital rooms, where they can tune in to the Seacrest Studios channel and join in as he brings a bit of camp magic to the hospital through fun, interactive activities.



FUN AT THE FALL FESTIVAL

Fall Festival 2024 was AMAZING! We had such a fun time with our community soaking up all the fall feelings. In October, we hosted our 3rd Annual Fall Festival, proudly sponsored by Wintrust! Our Roundup River Ranch community came together at Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms for a morning filled with family fun and camp games. We welcomed 239 attendees from 58 families, made possible thanks to the amazing volunteers and staff!

Guests enjoyed a variety of activities, including mug decorating, face painting, "Pin the Face on the Pumpkin," yard games, and the delightful "Sneaky Snacky Squirrel" game. A big thank you to Lynx Grills for providing a delicious lunch that perfectly complemented our hot chocolate and cider! To cap off the day, every camper had the joy of selecting a pumpkin from the patch.



LONG LASTING IMPACT

82%

of campers said that attending camp made them more confident.

93%

of campers said that they felt like they belonged to a group and felt welcomed.

99%

of families said that camp welcomes and celebrates people with unique characteristics

“ *It is so great to see all walks of life, different diagnoses, and several kinds of family dynamics and all feel included and welcome.* **”**

“ *Everyone was so supportive of everyone with a totally safe space and zero judgment.* **”**

Thank You Camp In Your Community Partners!

Children's Hospital Colorado
& Seacrest Studios
National Jewish Hospital
Morgridge Academy

**Rocky Mountain Hospital
for Children**
Ronald McDonald House Aurora
Ronald McDonald House Denver

Brent's Place
Hope Kids
Rocky Vista University

Camp In Your Community is a partnership program that delivers camp activity boxes and resources to like-minded organizations, spreading the joy of camp to even more children across Colorado.

Thank You Program Sponsors!

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This listing does not include our generous event sponsors.

On behalf of all our campers, thank you, thank you, thank you!