



a seriousfun camp

THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG CAMP

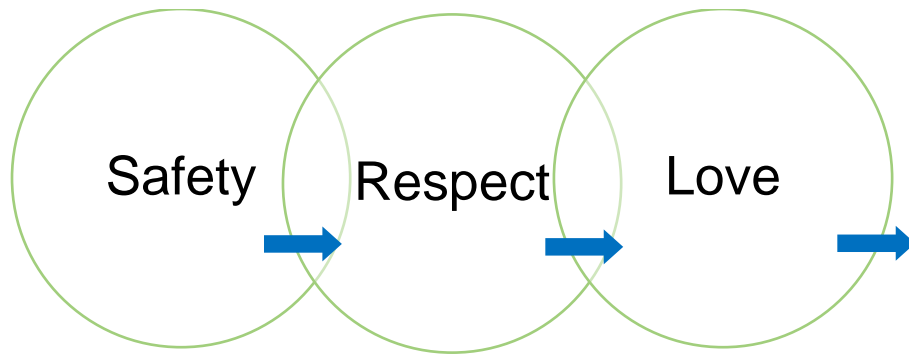
2013 Summer Camp Evaluation Report

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INTRODUCTION

Paul Newman had a vision to create a community for seriously ill children that celebrates the fun, friendship and spirit of childhood where every kid can “raise a little hell.”

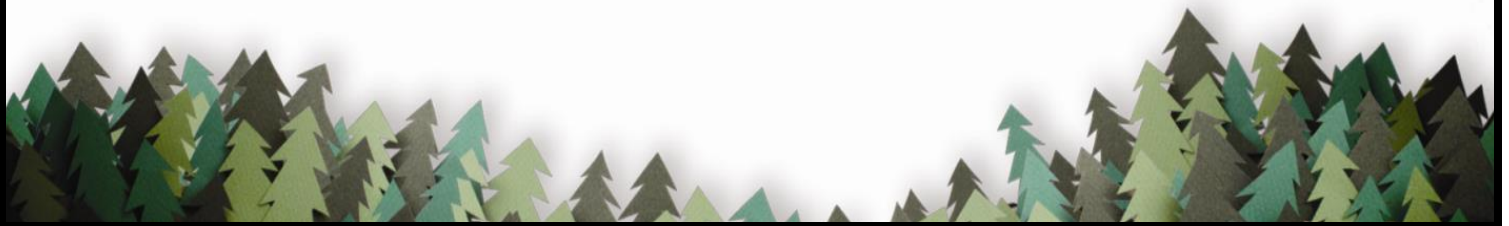
The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp provides the opportunity for children to transform into butterflies. They are able to fly, create beauty and experience the world of possibilities Camp has to offer. At Hole in the Wall, children can experience a “different kind of healing.”

To accomplish this, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp operates nine sessions of residential summer camp for children coping with cancer, blood disorders, hemophilia, sickle cell, metabolic disease, and other rare and serious diseases. One session is for siblings of children with serious illnesses. Campers stay in cabins supervised by carefully selected and trained adult staff and volunteers. During the day, campers engage in traditional camp activities such as swimming, fishing, arts and crafts, and more. All the activities are modified so that every child can participate, and a strong, yet discreet, medical presence ensures a safe camp environment.

EVALUATION OF THE SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

As the Camp celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2013, the Board of Directors approved a five-year plan that included research and evaluation as a strategic initiative:

By 2017, develop a greater understanding of 1) the impact of Camp programs in terms of camper and parent satisfaction as well as programmatic outcomes and 2) other data that will inform Camp’s future actions, including the amount of need for our services within and beyond our target disease groups.



Research and evaluation at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp will:

- 1) Support continuous innovation, promote program quality, and ensure the safety, well-being and positive development of campers and families.
- 2) Center on Camp's four core values:
 - a. **Safety:** The care of children with serious illnesses is both a serious responsibility and a serious privilege. Physical and emotional safety is paramount in all we do.
 - b. **Camaraderie:** We create a community that fosters friendship, inclusivity, a little bit of mischief and a whole lot of laughter.
 - c. **Possibility:** All aspects of our community are designed to allow every individual inspired by Camp to believe that the impossible can be possible.
 - d. **Appreciation:** We recognize the generosity and gratitude of others and intend to exemplify that in all our decisions and actions. We remain grateful for the original dream of our founder to pair good fortune with misfortune, and we cherish the friendships we have with all inspired by Camp.
- 3) Address two primary areas: satisfaction with and outcomes of the Camp experience.
 - Satisfaction is how much campers, families and staff are satisfied with programmatic elements of camp, such as activities, registration, facilities, etc.
 - Outcomes are the personal, social and other developmental changes that might occur in campers and families as a result of Camp. Outcomes relate to "a different kind of healing" that can occur through the Camp experience.

The focus of the evaluation this year was on the core values of "safety" and "camaraderie." An additional focus was on how program activity satisfaction related to camper outcomes. See Appendix B for a summary of relevant research findings about safety and camaraderie.

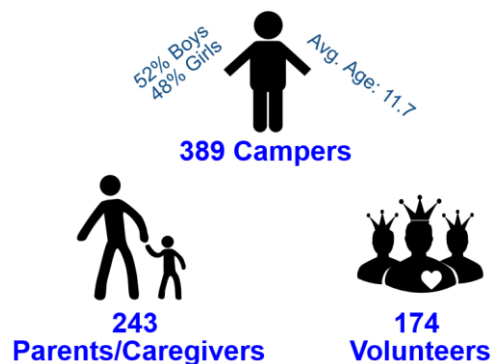
When asked what it is about The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp that makes it so special, many reply, "It's the secret sauce!" This secret sauce refers to the programming decisions, medical care, high levels of caring attention and sense of place at Camp. There is no doubt that Safety, Respect and Love are the key ingredients in the "secret sauce." This evaluation aims to better understand the sauce.



“I like racing but food and pictures are more thrilling. I can’t give them up. In racing you can be certain, to the last thousandth of a second, that someone is the best, but with a film or a recipe, there is no way of knowing how all the ingredients will work out in the end. The best can turn out to be awful and the worst can be fantastic. Cooking is like performing and performing like cooking”. – Paul Newman

METHODS

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE EVALUATION?



WHAT DID PEOPLE DO?

1. For sessions 2 - 9, either the three oldest or the two youngest units (each comprised of three cabins of 8-10 campers) completed paper surveys with the support of their counselors. As a token of appreciation, every camper received a Jolly Rancher.
2. Parents/Caregivers completed online surveys (n = 222) or paper surveys (n = 21) after their children’s sessions.
3. Volunteers completed online surveys after their sessions.
4. 60 staff agreed to participate in the structured observations in the Camp Program Quality Assessment (C-PQA). The C-PQA is a structured way to examine program quality to understand how what we do at Camp and how we interact relate to positive outcomes for campers. In the C-PQA process, we look at formal and informal experiences during Camp. Specifically, we look at activity climate, learning climate and engagement.

All surveys and observations were anonymous and voluntary. Comments are included verbatim. Please see Appendix A for copies of the camper and parent/caregiver surveys.

HOW WERE DATA ANALYZED?

1. Camper, parent/caregiver and volunteer survey data were cleaned and entered into the SPSS software program to analyze descriptive and predictive statistics.
2. Responses to open-ended questions from campers, parents/caregivers and volunteers were entered into Excel or Word to code and find common themes of safety and camaraderie.
3. The Camp Program Quality Assessment was analyzed for themes.

WHAT DO THE DATA TELL US?

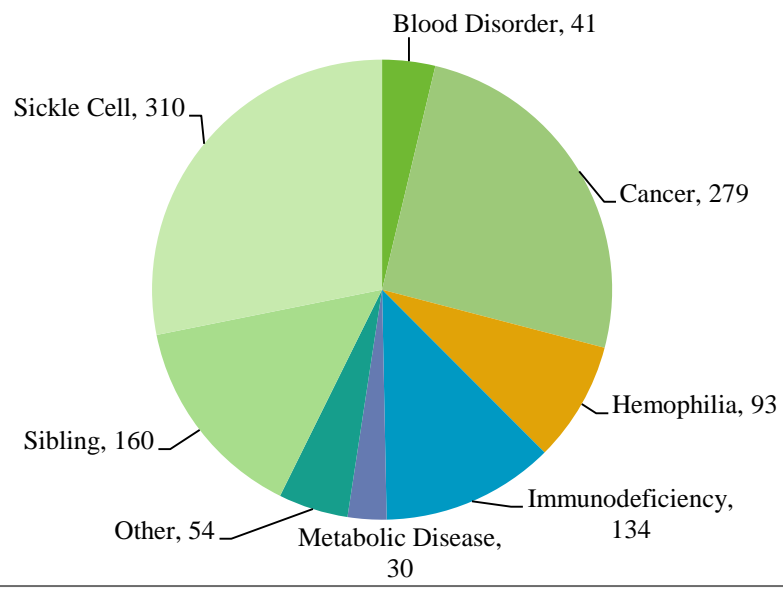
We analyzed the data to answer the following evaluation questions:

1. How much did campers experience SAFETY?
2. How much did campers experience CAMARADERIE?
3. How SATISFIED were campers with program activities?
4. How did SATISFACTION relate to feelings of SAFETY and CAMARADERIE?
5. Were there any meaningful differences in SATISFACTION, SAFETY OR CAMARADERIE for
 - a. boys or girls?
 - b. older or younger Campers?
 - c. campers in different sessions?
6. What camper outcomes were reported by parents and caregivers?
7. What camper outcomes were reported by volunteers?
8. What were the qualities of interactions and experiences in the camp setting that contributed to positive youth development?

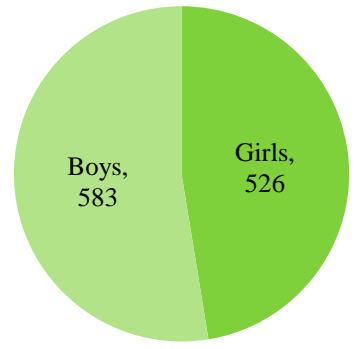


RESULTS - CAMPER DEMOGRAPHICS

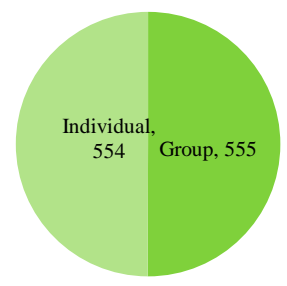
1,109 Campers Served In 2013



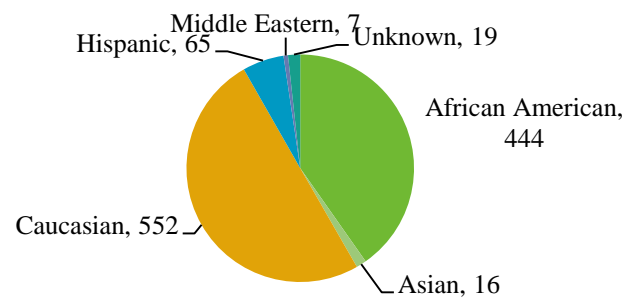
Gender

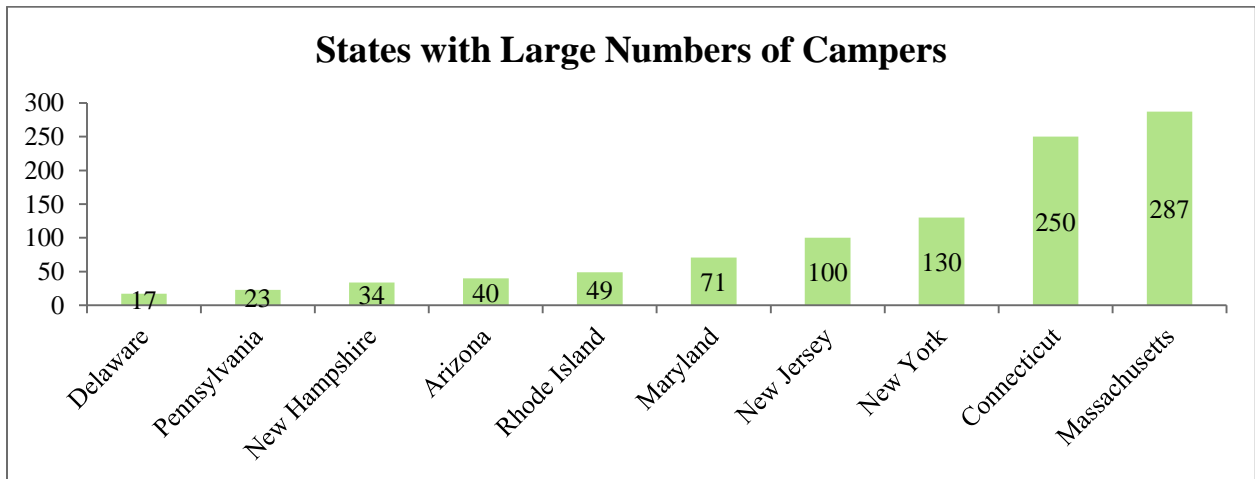
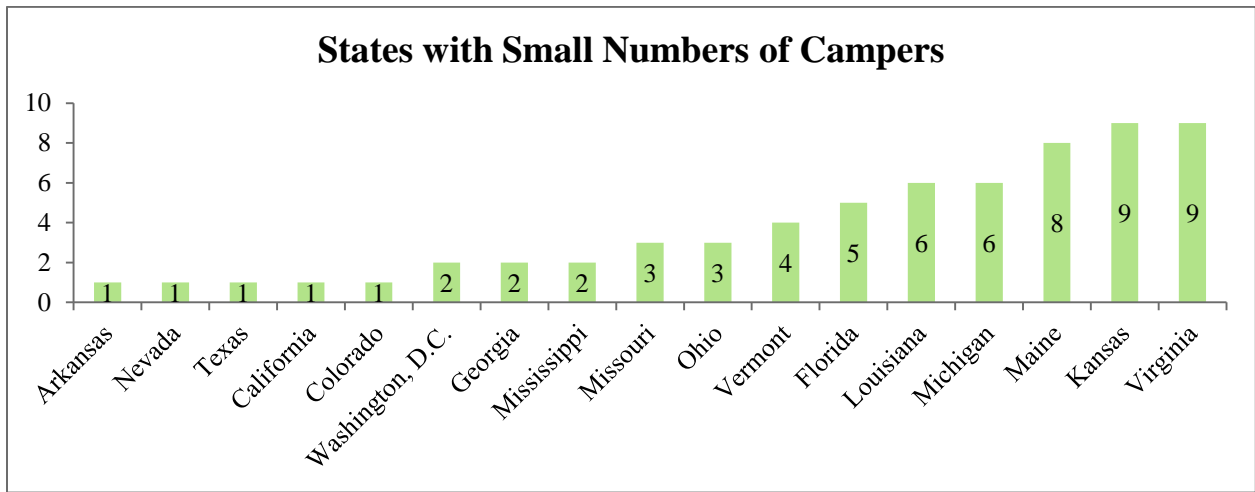
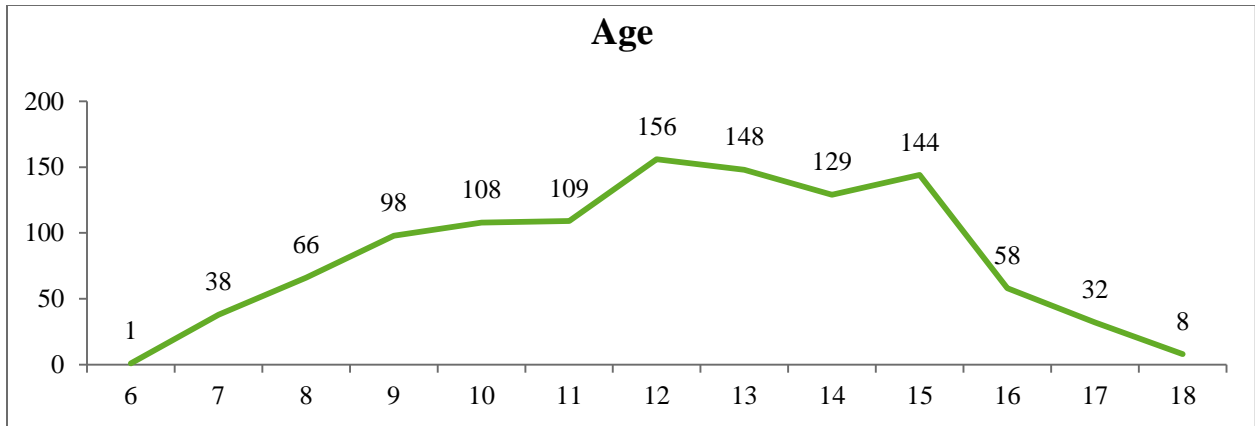


Attended Camp with a Hospital-Based Group or as an Individual



Race/Ethnicity





RESULTS – CAMPER OUTCOMES

SAFETY

Scale of 1 (strongly disagree) – 5 (strongly agree)

| | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. It was easy for me to get around Camp | 4.42 (SD* = .86) |
| 2. The activities were right for my abilities | 4.47 (SD = .76) |
| 3. I got the medical care I needed at Camp | 4.64 (SD = .71) |
| 4. I felt safe at Camp | 4.65 (SD = .67) |
| 5. I trusted the nurses and doctors to take care of me | 4.72 (SD = .6) |

Average Safety score: 4.58 (SD = .55)

* "SD" is standard deviation. The higher the SD, the more variable the answers were from the mean or average.

WERE THERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS ON THE SAFETY OUTCOME?

YES. There was a small and statistically significant effect of gender on the outcome of Safety, $t(384) = 3.00, p = .003, d = .36$. Girls averaged 4.67 (SE = .03) and boys averaged 4.5 (SE = .04), a difference of .17. In other words, girls reported experiencing slightly higher Safety.

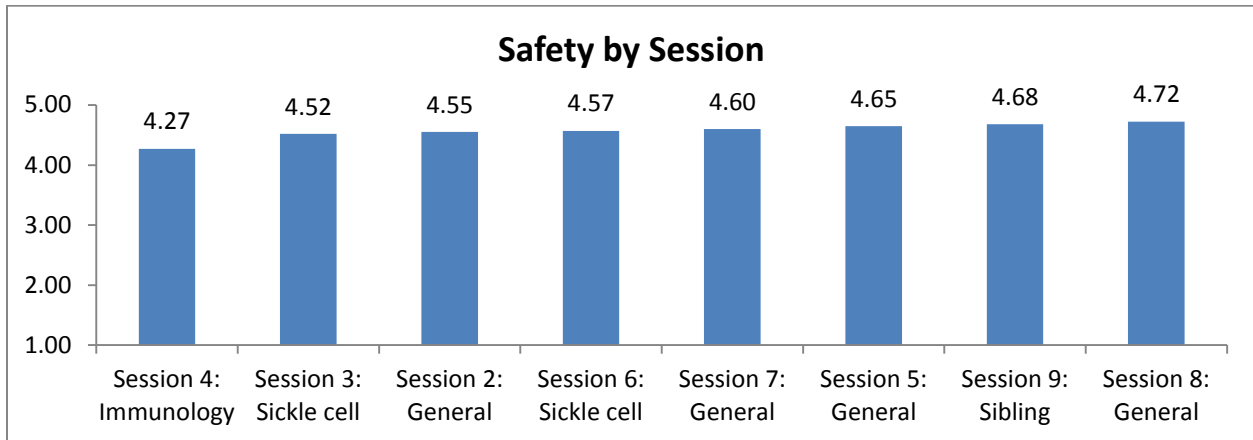
WERE THERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OLDER AND YOUNGER CAMPERS ON THE SAFETY OUTCOME?

NO. Older (12-15) and younger (7-11) campers were not significantly different from each other on the outcome of Safety.

WERE THERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SESSIONS ON THE SAFETY OUTCOME?

YES. Session 4 campers reported the lowest average Safety outcome (4.27), and Session 8 reported the highest average Safety outcome (4.72), representing a .45 difference. There was a

statistically and medium-sized effect* of session on the Safety outcome ($d = .54$). In other words, Session 8 (General) campers reported experiencing slightly more Safety than Session 4 (Immunology) campers. Note: Session 1 Campers did not participate in the evaluation because of language barriers.



* "Effect size (d) is the size of the relationship between two variables: $d = .2$ (small), $.5$ (medium) and $.8$ (large).

CAMARADERIE

Scale of 1 (strongly disagree) – 5 (strongly agree)

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. I felt left out at Camp | 1.5 (SD = .85) |
| 2. It was hard to make friends at Camp | 1.7 (SD = 1.1) |
| 3. I got along with the other campers in my cabin | 4.35 (SD = .85) |
| 4. I felt respected at Camp | 4.45 (SD = .8) |
| 5. I had someone to talk to at Camp | 4.54 (SD = .77) |
| 6. I felt loved at Camp | 4.54 (SD = .75) |
| 7. I felt like I belonged at Camp | 4.65 (SD = .68) |
| 8. I liked my counselors | 4.66 (SD = .66) |

Average Camaraderie score (after the 2 negatively worded items were reverse-scored):

4.49 (SD = .54)

WERE THERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS ON THE CAMARADERIE OUTCOME?

YES. There was a medium-sized and statistically significant effect of gender on the outcome of Camaraderie, $t(387) = 3.97, p < .001, d = .47$. Girls averaged 4.6 (SE = .03), and boys averaged 4.39 (SE = .04), a difference of .21. In other words, girls reported experiencing slightly higher Camaraderie.

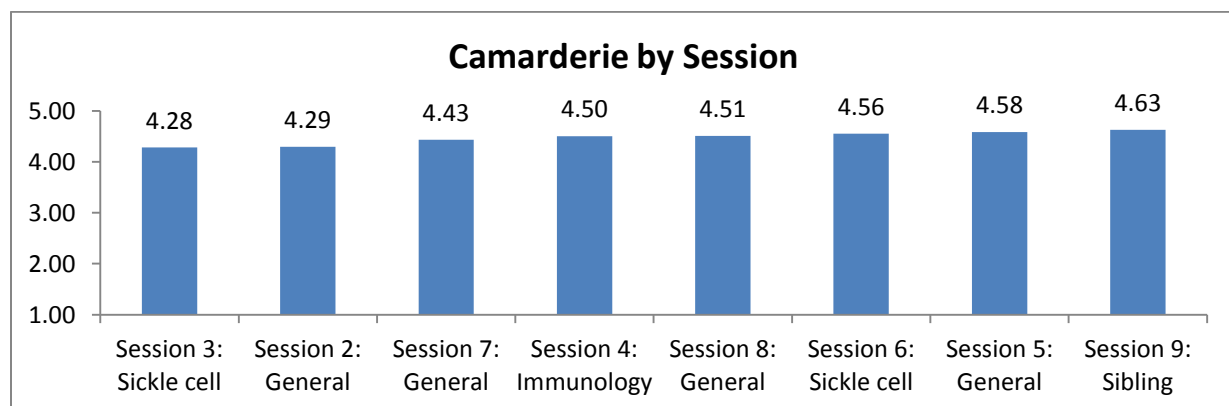


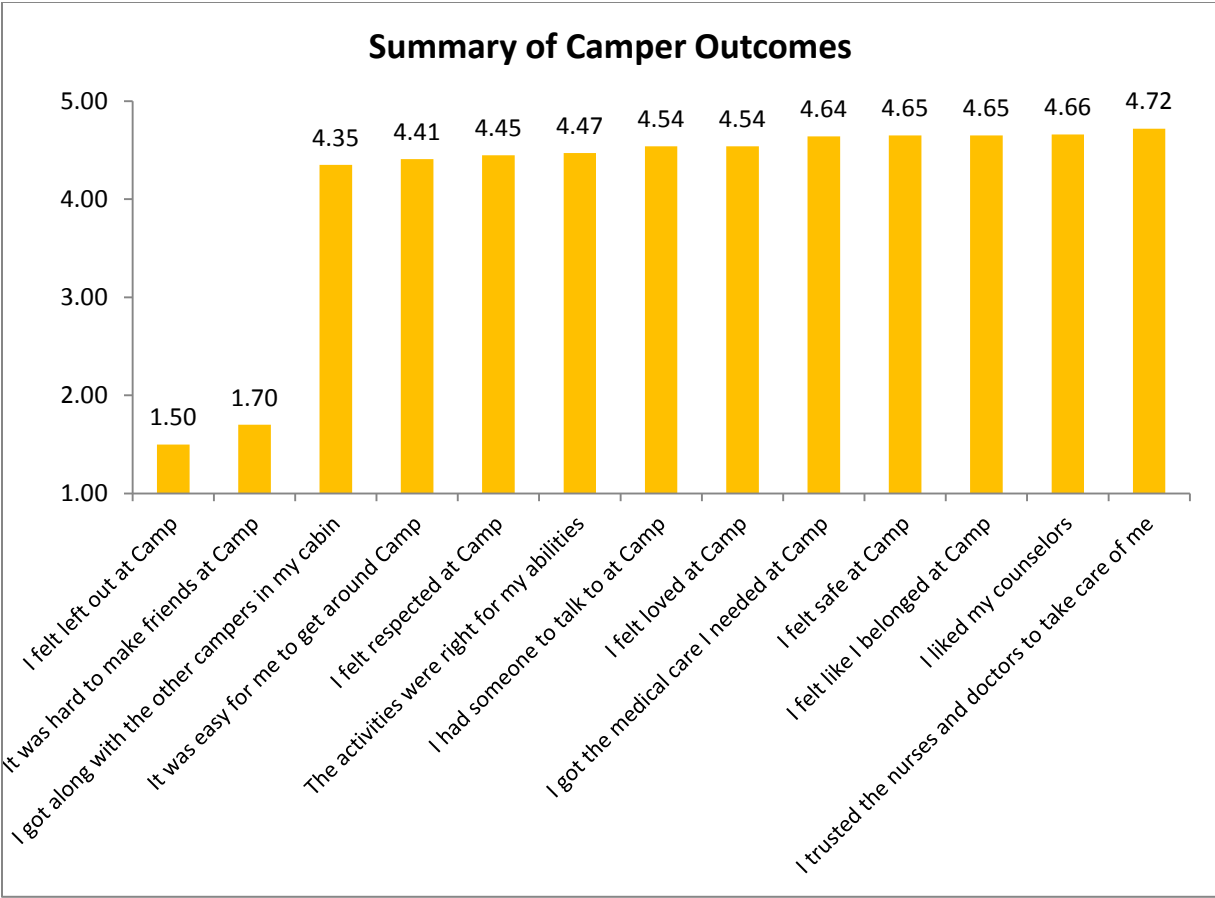
WERE THERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OLDER AND YOUNGER CAMPERS ON THE CAMARADERIE OUTCOME?

NO. Older (12-15) and younger (7-11) campers were not statistically significantly different from each other on the outcome of Camaraderie.

WERE THERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SESSIONS ON THE CAMARADERIE OUTCOME?

YES. Sessions 3 and 2 campers reported the lowest average Camaraderie outcome (4.28, 4.29), and Session 9 reported the highest average Camaraderie outcome (4.63), representing a .35 difference. There was a statistically significant and medium-sized effect of session on the Camaraderie outcome ($d = .63$). In other words, Session 9 (Sibling) campers reported experiencing slightly more Camaraderie than Session 3 (Sickle Cell) campers.



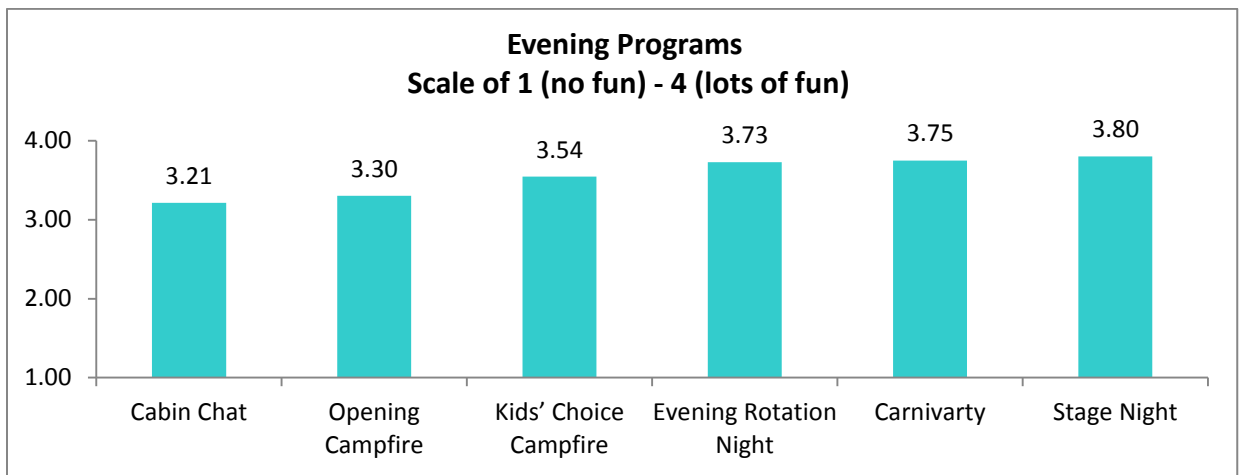
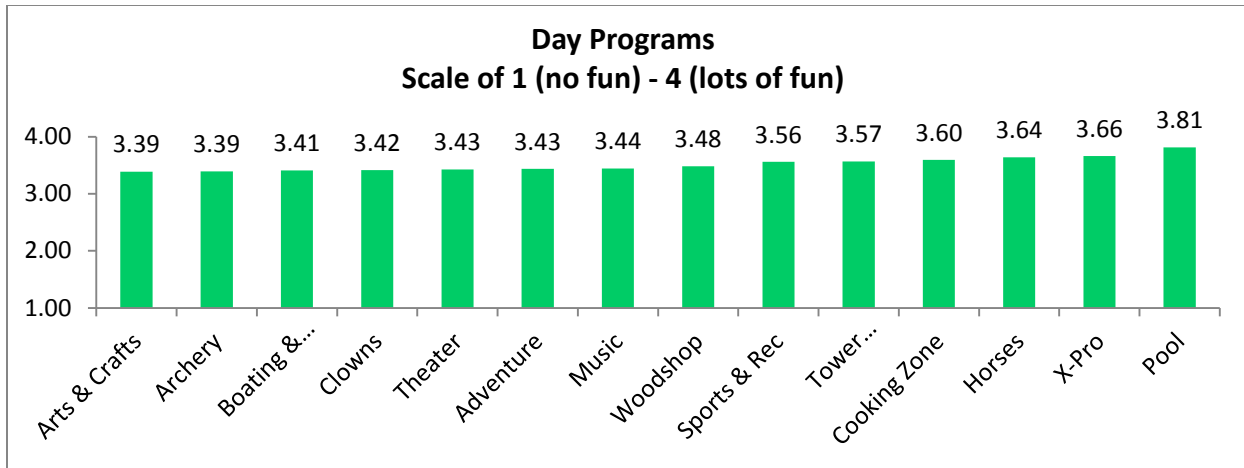


Bottom line: There was about a 2/5 point difference between the highest and lowest average score for outcomes, meaning that campers agreed (4) or strongly agreed (5) that they had these outcomes during their Camp experiences.

PROGRAM SATISFACTION

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. The activities were right for my age | 4.4 (SD = .81) out of 5 |
| 2. I liked the food | 4.07 (SD = .91) out of 5 |





Bottom line: There was about a 1/2 point difference in fun between the highest and lowest program activities, and all activity averages were between “some fun” (3) and “lots of fun” (4).

*Overall satisfaction or fun score: **3.54** out of 4 (SD = .4).*

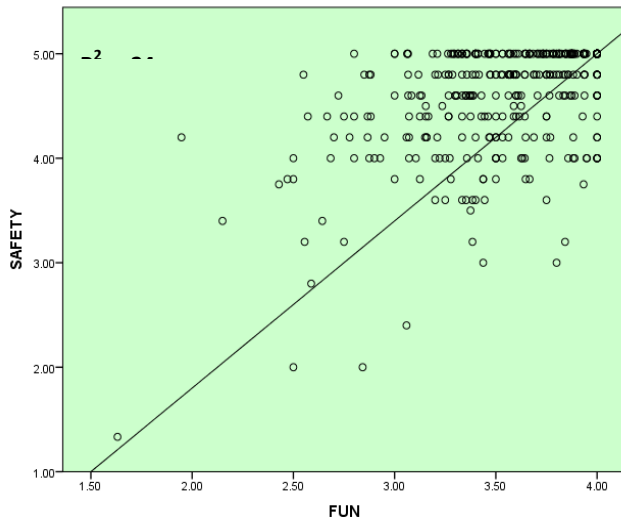
***90%** of Campers averaged some or a lot of fun at Camp.*



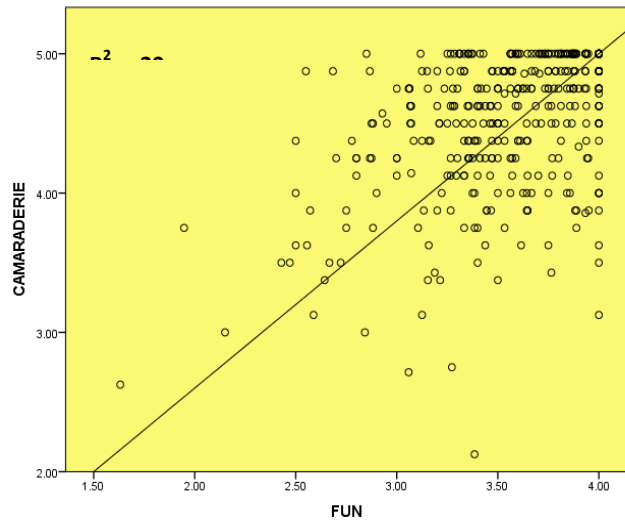
DID FUN PREDICT SAFETY AND CAMARADERIE?

YES.

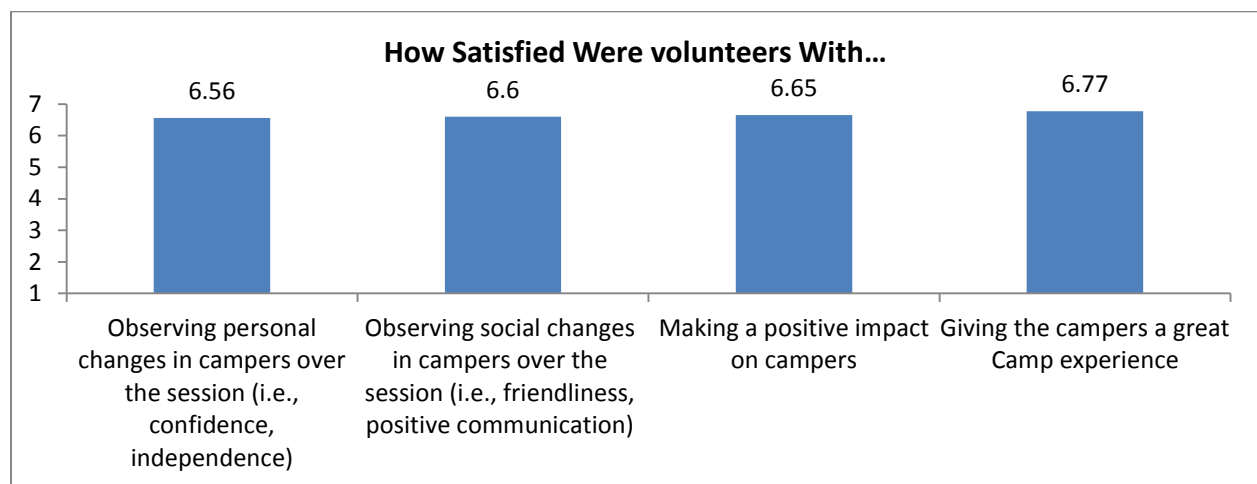
The more campers had fun, the more they felt Safety.



The more campers had fun, the more they felt Camaraderie.

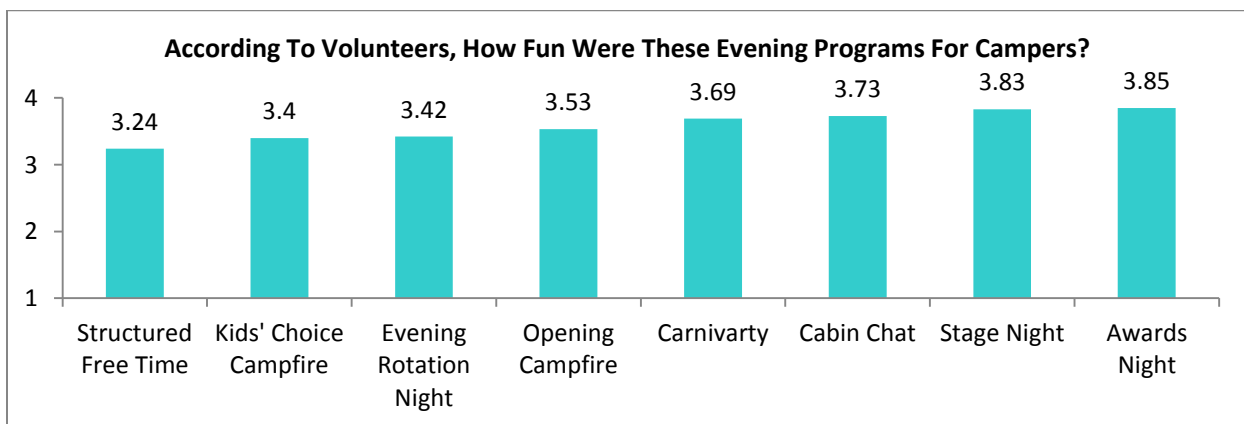
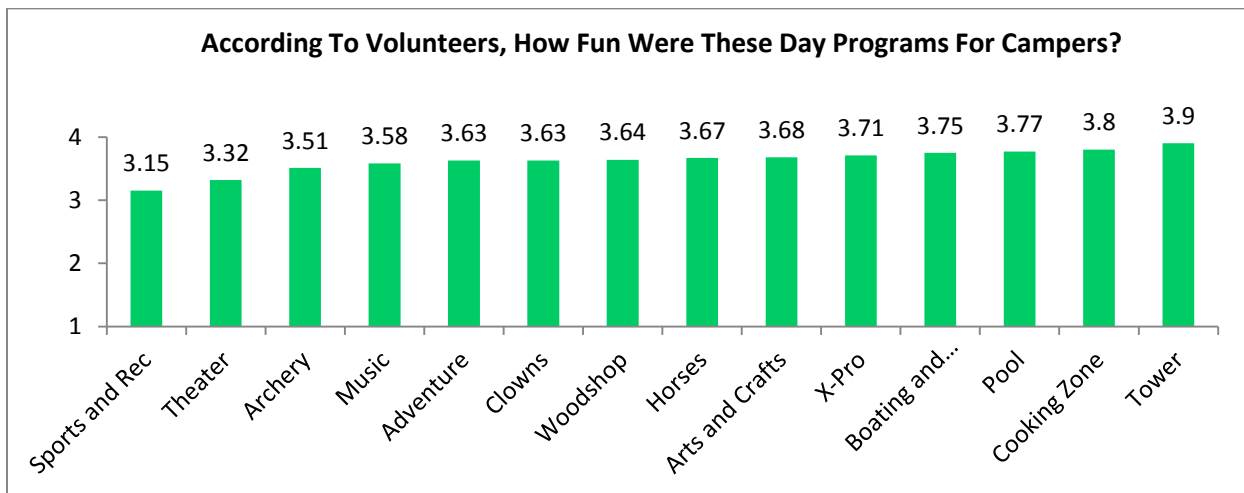


RESULTS – VOLUNTEERS

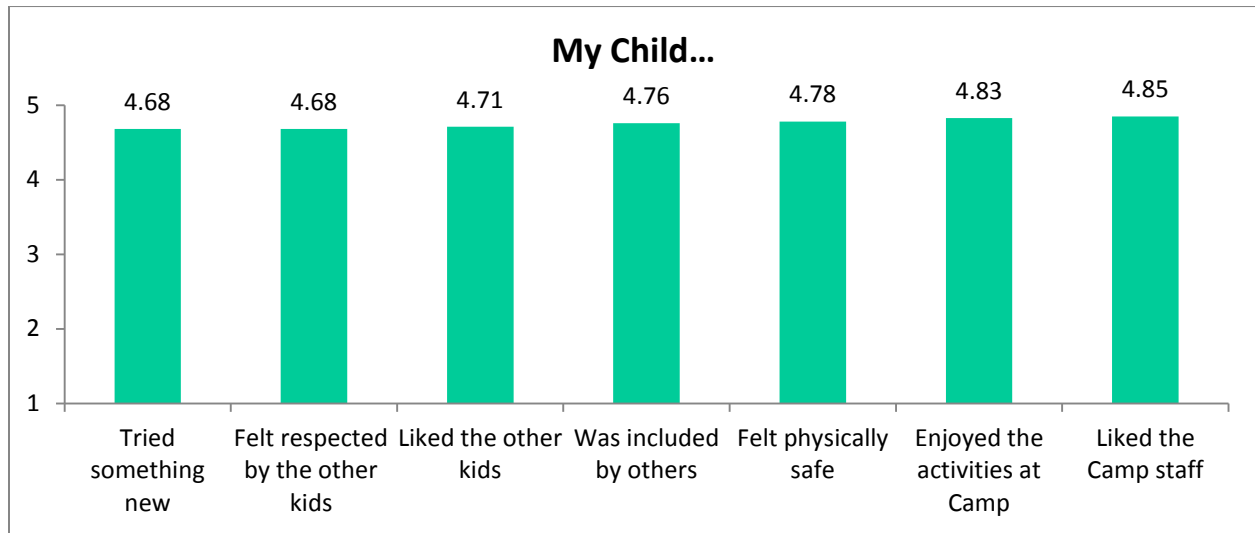


Comments are verbatim from volunteers.

- 30 of 46 comments reflected positive statements about camper outcomes:
 - I really believe you really see the biggest change in campers on that last night, making the whole week worth it.
 - Best part of Camp is watching the kids develop and have fun!
 - I'm pretty sure I (we) didn't give our campers their experience. They came ready to make their own. We were just lucky to be along (witness) for the ride! There were a number of campers I want to be like when I grow up!
 - We often spoke about how you don't have to be the "cool kid" at Camp and they truly took that to heart and jumped into the fun and adventure with both feet.
- 14 of 46 comments reflected frustrations with camper outcomes, including group dynamics, struggles with expectations of individual campers and working with staff.



RESULTS – PARENTS/CAREGIVERS



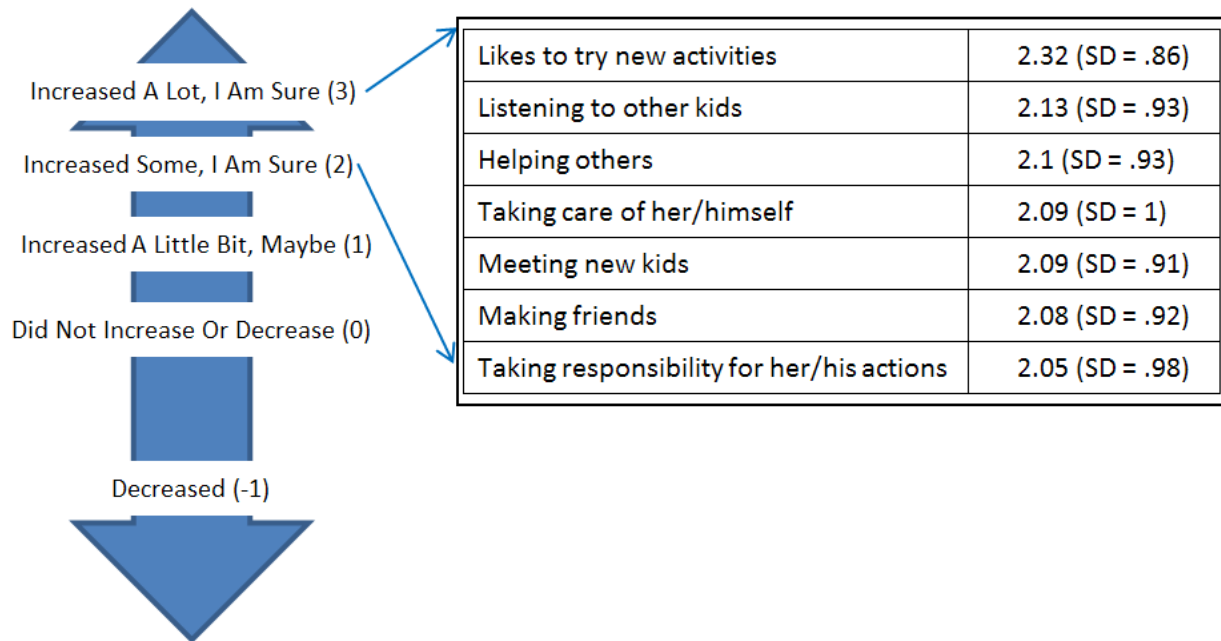
Comments are verbatim from parents/caregivers.

WHAT DID PARENTS/CAREGIVERS SAY ABOUT CAMARADERIE AND SAFETY?

- 23 of 80 comments about the above activities related to Camaraderie, and three related to Safety:
 - Camp was the one place she felt secure and comfortable enough with staff, campers, and herself to truly let herself enjoy without being judged!
 - My daughter become very close with all of the Camp staff that she become in contact with and talks about the other kids quite often.
 - Where else can a child who recently had heart surgery climb a 30 ft. tower and zip line down?
- 7 of 80 comments related to suggestions for improvements to staff supervision of campers (3) and medical care (2).



How much, if any, has this session at Camp changed your child?



- 10 of 45 comments about changes in their children related to Camaraderie and Safety:
 - One thing he talks about and showed me how much friends he made and the connections they have/similarity. They texting each other every day--is like he almost made brothers and sister.
 - There were times when she wasn't feeling her best and she was surprised that these were activities for her to do and she still was having fun - craft activities poolside
 - My son learned to infuse his medicine this year and has tried on his own since returning home.
 - The most touching story I heard was my daughter overheard a nurse saying to a camper the need for blood work to be done. My daughter's understanding and compassion toward that camper was heartfelt, and the concern real, but for her to witness another child having to endure the ritual and not her, was so important for her to see and hear. Did it make her realize she is not alone, she is not able to tell us that, but I would hope in some way that it what it did.



RESULTS - CAMP PROGRAM QUALITY ASSESSMENT

STRENGTHS ACROSS PROGRAMS:

1. High levels of staff attention and friendliness and circulation
2. High levels of emotional safety provided by staff to campers
3. All programs got campers to work together in pairs or small groups
4. All programs got campers to work cooperatively toward shared goals
5. Evidence of “challenge by choice” philosophy because campers could make some choices within activities (i.e., where to sit, to perform or not, where to shoot arrows)
6. High support for active learning – hands-on activities, tangible products, problem solving, and great variety of opportunities to express creatively or manipulate ideas or practice a skill

INCONSISTENCIES ACROSS PROGRAMS:

1. Dealing with conflict situations (i.e., acknowledging feelings, asking what happened, helping campers respond appropriately)
2. Several structured and planned opportunities for campers to feel a sense of belonging with other campers (i.e., icebreakers, get to know you games, reflection activities)
3. Reflection – asking meaningful questions (i.e., open-ended, making connections, analytical, thoughtful)
4. Structuring communication and activities to be appropriate for a variety of ages, developmental levels, previous activity experience, and abilities



RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTINUE

1. **Continue** to provide high-quality programming.
2. **Continue** to provide high levels of medical care.
3. **Continue** to use evaluation as a tool to inform programming and decision-making.

CONSIDER

1. **Consider** why girls reported higher gains than boys did on nearly all measures.
2. **Consider** the critical elements of the most popular program activities and how these critical elements can be integrated into less-popular program activities.
 - a. Specifically, consider how program activities can meet campers' basic psychological needs for choice, connection and competence.
 - b. Utilize a positive youth development theoretical framework to guide programming decisions, assess performance, and bring together multiple viewpoints about how and why Camp "works."

FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR EVALUATION

1. Consider ways to collect evaluation data from more parents/caregivers and volunteers, considering that we had response rates of 24% and 49%, respectively.
2. Investigate other ways to collect evaluation data from campers, such as through iPads, structured observations by counselors, outside of Camp, etc.
3. Explore more rigorous evaluation designs, such as longitudinal and comparison studies.



APPENDIX A – SURVEYS

Camper Survey

We want to know about your time at Camp!

This will help us learn more about camp and how to make it even better.

Directions:

1. Please circle or check the answer that best describes your feelings about Camp.
2. Please read the questions carefully – there are some trick questions!
3. Please do NOT write your name on this paper!

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| What is your age? _____ | | | | | |
| Please circle: Boy Girl | | | | | |
| | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 1. I had someone to talk to at Camp | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 2. I felt left out at Camp | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 3. I liked my counselors | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 4. I felt safe at Camp | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 5. I felt respected at Camp | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 6. I felt loved at Camp | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 7. The activities were right for my abilities | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 8. It was hard to make friends at Camp | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 9. I got the medical care I needed at Camp | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 10. It was easy for me to get around Camp | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 11. The activities were right for my age | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 12. I got along with the other campers in my cabin | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 13. I trusted the nurses and doctors to take care of me | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 14. I liked the food | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
| 15. I felt like I belonged at Camp | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |

Draw or write about your favorite moment at Camp:

--Please turn over--

Please tell us what you thought about these programs. Circle or check your choice for each program. If you want, tell us more about your answer in Comments.

| Day Programs: | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | Comments? |
|-------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| Adventure | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Archery | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Arts & Crafts | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Boating & Fishing | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Clowns | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Cooking Zone | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Horses | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Music | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Pool | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Sports & Rec | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Theater | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Tower Experience | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Woodshop | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| X-Pro | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |



| Evening Programs: | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | Comments? |
|------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| Cabin Chat | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Carnivarty | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Evening Rotation Night | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Kids' Choice Campfire | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Opening Campfire | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |
| Stage Night | I Didn't Do This | No Fun | A Little Fun | Some Fun | A Lot Of Fun | |

What did you do at Camp that you didn't expect you could do? Draw or write your answer below.

Thanks for your help!



Parent/Caregiver Survey 2013

Directions: Circle the number that best describes your feelings about Camp.

| BEFORE and AFTER Camp... | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | Not Applicable |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. The application process (e.g. paperwork, calls, coordination, etc.) was difficult. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 2. When I arrived on Camp, I felt welcomed. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 3. When I arrived on Camp, the check-in process was easy to navigate. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 4. During check-in at the infirmary, the nurse understood my child's needs. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 5. Picking up my child after Camp was an easy process to navigate. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |
| 6. I was comfortable with the medical care my child received at Camp. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | NA |

Comments? _____

| My child's experience AT Camp... | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|
| 7. My child liked the Camp staff | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. My child tried something new | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. My child was included by others | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. My child liked the other kids | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11. My child felt respected by the other kids | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12. My child felt physically safe | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13. My child enjoyed the activities at Camp | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14. My child enjoyed the Camp experience | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Comments? _____

| How much, if any, has this session at camp changed your child? Please check the most correct response. | Decreased | Did Not Increase or Decrease | Increased a Little Bit, Maybe | Increased Some, I Am Sure | Increased A Lot, I Am Sure |
|--|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 15. Meeting new kids | | | | | |
| 16. Making friends | | | | | |
| 17. Listening to other kids | | | | | |
| 18. Taking responsibility for her/his actions | | | | | |
| 19. Taking care of her/himself | | | | | |
| 20. Helping others | | | | | |
| 21. Likes to try new activities | | | | | |

Comments? _____

Directions: Please fill in your answer to the open-ended questions in the boxes below.

22. What was your child's favorite story they shared about Camp?

23. How did you benefit from sending your child to Camp?



24. What else would you like to tell us about Camp?

25. Please circle if your Camper is a BOY or a GIRL?

26. How old is your child? _____

27. Which session did your child attend? (Check one):

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session 1: June 5 - 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 4: July 3 - 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 7: July 31 - Aug. 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session 2: June 14 - 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 5: July 12 - 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 8: August 9 - 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session 3: June 23 - 29 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 6: July 21 - 27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Session 9: August 18 - 24 |

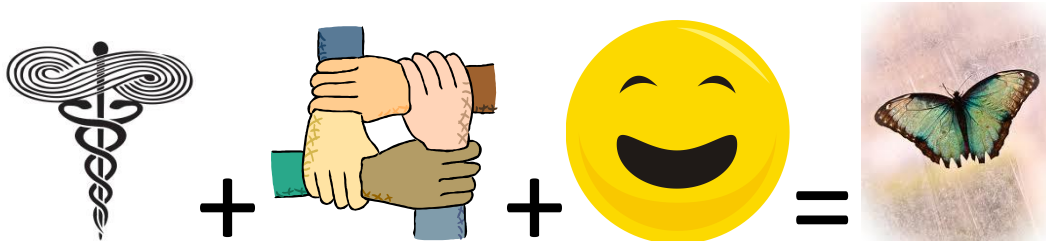
28. Besides this year, how many times has your child attended a SUMMER session at Hole in the Wall?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 summers | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 - 9 summers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - 3 summers | <input type="checkbox"/> 10+ summers |

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us!

APPENDIX B: HOW DO OUTCOMES LEAD TO A DIFFERENT KIND OF HEALING?

Safety + Camaraderie + Program Satisfaction = “A Different Kind of Healing”



Much research supports intentional programming aimed at increasing young people’s feelings of safety and camaraderie (or social support).

- Camps can be safe places for learning and development (Dahl, Sethre-Hofstad, & Salomon, 2013).
- A safe and inclusive environment is one of three essential elements of youth development. The other two include relationships with a caring adult, and self-determination and mastery (Garst et al., 2011).
- In a study of 2,120 children with serious illness at the Barretstown Gang Camp in Ireland over three years, 48% of campers required medical care for pain, injury and cold/flu symptoms, and only eight children required medical transfer (Kinsella et al., 2006).
- In comparison, at a World Scout Jamboree that did not specifically focus on children with serious illness, of the 40,061 participants, 7.3% needed medical care, with the distribution of cases being approximately one-third surgical, one-third medical and one-third unspecified (Jammer et al., 2013).
- Overall illness and accident rates are low in camps, especially residential camps, and campers are more likely to be ill at camp than to be injured (Garst, Bialeschki, & Comstock, 2008).
- Children are less likely to be injured in day- and resident-camp settings when compared with participation in community-based sports. Primary injury topics included supervision patterns, falling on uneven terrain and head injuries. Two significant clusters of illness

were identified—throat, nose, lung, ear and eye maladies, and upper and lower gastrointestinal illnesses (Erceg, Garst, Powell, & Yard, 2009).



Beyond these physical safety outcomes, emotional safety in the form of social support is also critical to the positive development of youth with serious and life-threatening illnesses. Social support has been well-examined in camps for youth with disabilities and chronic illness.

- Social comparison was a critical mechanism for perceptions of social support at a camp for siblings of youth with cancer (Roberson, 2010).
- Social support as a camp experience can support higher self-concept of siblings of youth with cancer (Murray, 2001).
- Peer support was one of the main reasons cited by campers and parents for satisfaction of a camp for children with cancer and their siblings (Wu, Prout, Roberts, Parikshak, & Amylon, 2011).
- At a camp for youth with HIV/AIDS, one of the major outcomes was the formation of caring connections (awareness of commonalities, lack of isolation) that were linked to the intentional programming processes of formal and informal education, staff-camper interactions, long-term relationships, outside-of-camp support, activities, planning for camper needs, accessibility, and freedom from worry (Gillard, Witt, & Watts, 2011).
- At a week-long residential camp for youth with cancer, girls reported receiving more support than boys, and both genders reported receiving more support at camp than children in the general population (Conrad & Altmaier, 2009).
- Children with craniofacial differences gained in feelings of social acceptance at the end of their camp sessions, but these gains faded 6-8 weeks later (Devine & Dawson, 2010).
- Adolescents with neurofibromatosis increased in social performance after a week of camp but did not increase in social self-efficacy (Allsop, Negley, & Sibthorp, 2013).

Camp-based intentional programming to support campers' experiences of safety and camaraderie can supplement the provision of these experiences from other sources such as

families, school, support groups and friendship groups. Safety and connection are two protective factors that can help guard against risk factors by increasing resilience of youth. Additionally, feelings of safety and camaraderie are often scarce for youth facing serious and life-threatening illness. Summer camps can serve a supporting role in providing such developmentally important experiences for these youth.

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