

Hospital Camp: Bringing Camp to Those Who Can't Always Make It

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Background

- History of experience with hospital outreach
- Opportunities to reach more children with cancer
- Strategy to increase our visibility with hospital staff
- Other programs: Camp Get-A-Wella and Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in a Suitcase

Proposal

- Camp Sunshine Program Staff formulated ideas and outline of a day camp program on the inpatient unit of the AFLAC Cancer Center and Blood Disorders Service at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) – November

Proposal

What

A day camp for children on the inpatient unit of the AFLAC Cancer Center at CHOA during the two weeks of Camp Sunshine summer camp

When

Camp would be held on four days one week at Scottish Rite campus and four days one week at Egleston campus

Proposal

Where

Ideally, a location would be identified as the “camp” for the week. Camp Sunshine would provide theatrical scenes of camp.

Campers

Any child hospitalized on the inpatient unit of the AFLAC Cancer Center could participate. Campers unable to go to the scheduled activities could have projects delivered to their rooms.

Proposal

Staff

Project was planned and implemented by Camp Sunshine professional staff who are familiar with the hospital. Camp Sunshine requested the hospital Activity Assistant to be present during “camp”. Hospital volunteers or VolunTeens were welcome.

Proposal

Needs Identified

- Contact person on each campus
- Hospital staff to give CS census each day highlighting patients to recruit and those to see at bedside
- Staff to promote the camp
- Activity Assistant and /or volunteers
- No funding requested from hospital

Timeline for Approval

- Submitted a proposal to leadership at AFLAC Cancer Center at CHOA – December
- Developed a committee of AFLAC Cancer Staff and Camp Sunshine – February
- Committee met - March
- Submitted final schedule – April
- Received final approval – May
- Camp Sunshine Comes to You - June

Financial Considerations

- Costs
 - Materials
 - Staff time
- Funding
 - Budget
 - Grant Proposal

Collaboration with Hospital Staff

- Needs Assessment
 - Does hospital staff see this as a valuable service
- Program Content and Delivery
 - Activities and supplies
 - Schedule
 - Location in the hospital
 - Staffing/Volunteers
 - Nurses to monitor IV or medical issues
- Review hospital policies
 - Camp Sunshine volunteers and staff
 - Infection control
 - Photographs
 - Nurse volunteers

Program Delivery

- Preparation
- Supplies/Set
- Camper Registration
- Daily Activities
- “Camp-like” Extras
- Staffing and Support

Preparation

- Activity brainstorming
- Finalizing the schedule
- Securing entertainment
- Ordering supplies
- Recruiting volunteers
- Marketing
- Communicating with hospital staff

Supplies/Set

- Activity supplies
- Camp backdrop
- Campfire set
- Door decorations
- Camp music





Camper Registration

- Identify campers
- Explain program and invite camper to participate
- Camper items delivered
- Photo releases signed by parent
- Bubble sheets

Daily Activities

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10-12	Wood Craft Mini Basketball Fishing Lava Lamps Newspaper Door Decorating	Clay Scavenger Hunt Gold Panning Flower Pot Cooking Newspaper Door Decorating	Tie Dye Archery Build a Boat Tracks Newspaper Door Decorating	Rain Sticks Spaghetti/ Marshmallow Towers Putt Putt Smores Newspaper Door Decorating
2:30-3:30	Magician	Storyteller	Carnival	Campfire and Singing











Bone Marrow Transplant Activities

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
Wood Craft	Tracks	Tie-Dye	Shell Frames
Basketball	Scavenger Hunt	Archery	Putt Putt
Lava Lamps	Build a Boat	Clay	Rain Sticks
			Camp CD



“Camp-like” Extras

- T-shirts
- Hats
- Water bottles
- Nametags
- Camp Sunshine Logo for patient doors
- Activity Sheets

Staffing/Support

- CS Staff responsible for planning and facilitating activities
- Hospital staff identified appropriate children to participate and in what capacity
- One hospital staff person was contact for CS
- Staffed with 2 CS staff members and 5 volunteers
- One RN volunteer to assist with IVs

Evaluation: Successes

- **Reached children who would not have been able to attend camp**
- Hospital staff overwhelmingly enthusiastic
- Increased Camp Sunshine visibility in the hospital
- Siblings and parents could participate
- Children who would not leave their room did so for camp!
- BMT patients walked more
- New and unique experience for Camp Sunshine volunteers
- FUN!!

Evaluation - Challenges

- Identifying a dedicated location for 4 days
- Some playrooms are not restricted to Oncology patients
- Holding camp at the hospital could be a strain on staff during the weeks of camp
- Logistics of an outside group coming into the hospital setting

Considerations

- Working in a hospital environment versus a camp setting
 - Flexibility
 - Sensitivity
 - Confidentiality
 - Infection Control
- Hospital/Camp Relationship
- Transportation and storage of supplies

Future Plans

- We plan to repeat this program during the weeks of summer camp 2008
- We want to evaluate other ongoing opportunities in the hospital



Camp Sunshine Saves the Day

by Marquita

Camp Sunshine day three,
so many fun activities.
Tie dye, archery and animal tracks,
build a boat that's long and flat.
Fun things that brighten your day,
while continuing your hospital stay.
No pain or tears to get in your way,
because Camp Sunshine saves the day!