



2024



**MDA**<sup>®</sup>

Muscular  
Dystrophy  
Association



# SUMMER CAMP **IMPACT REPORT**



“

MDA camp has increasingly become more and more valuable for [her] each year. She has made friends with many of the other kids (especially the ones in her cabin), and it truly has become a place where looks forward to being “herself.” She doesn’t worry that she won’t be able to keep up with the other kids when she’s at camp. At home, the gap is ever widening between her friends and classmates. This year I could see that she really relaxed into the realization that the kids at MDA camp are “like her.”

- *Bethany F.*  
Camper Parent, Michigan

## MDA Summer Camp

MDA Summer Camp is a place where magic happens. Kids and young adults with neuromuscular diseases discover their potential, forge lifelong friendships, and gain invaluable skills like self-advocacy—all while having an unforgettable time. It's more than a camp; it's a transformative experience for campers and volunteers alike.

In 2024, MDA partnered with some of the nation's top residential camp facilities, chosen for their accessible accommodations, adaptive programming, and expertise in serving individuals with complex medical needs. Many of these facilities are accredited by the American Camp Association, reflecting MDA's commitment to health, safety, and excellence.

Hundreds of dedicated volunteer counselors immersed themselves in the camp experience—sharing in adaptive activities, dances, and games, while also supporting campers' physical, emotional, and personal care needs. On-site health professionals ensured every camper had a safe and well-supported experience, guided by best practices developed with the Alliance for Camp Health.

For campers who preferred an online format, MDA Virtual Summer Camp offered a vibrant, interactive experience. With supply kits in hand, participants connected through arts and crafts, STEM activities, and Cabin Chat video calls, building the same sense of camaraderie and fun as in-person sessions.

At every session, in every setting, the heart of MDA Summer Camp is the same: a powerful sense of community and belonging. Together, we're creating moments that matter, building confidence, and inspiring the next generation to dream big.

As we approach 2025, MDA is thrilled to celebrate 70 years of life-changing impact through Summer Camp. This milestone is a testament to the dedication of donors, volunteers, and partners who make this program possible. Thank you for being part of this journey—your support ensures the magic of camp continues for years to come.



What three words would you use to describe your child's MDA Summer Camp experience?

FUN

LOVE

JOYFUL

HAPPY

FRIENDSHIP

Life -

Changing

Belonging

SAFE

INDEPENDENT

EMPOWERING

ADVENTUROUS

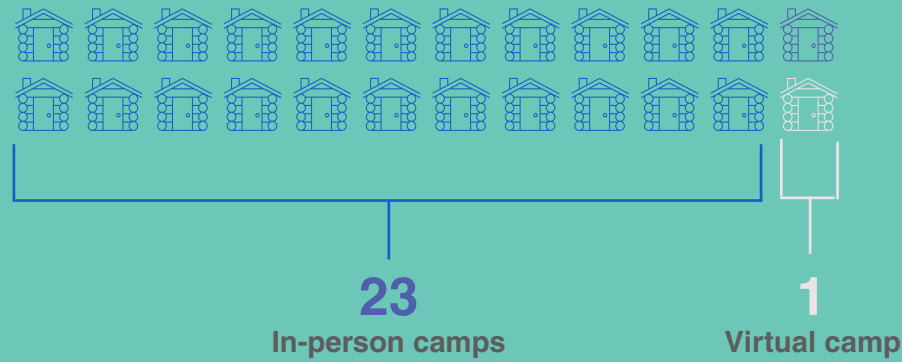
INCLUSIVE

CONFIDENCE-BUILDING

Unforgettable

# MDA Summer Camp by the Numbers

**24** MDA Summer Camps in 2024



**848** MDA Summer Campers in 2024



**167** first year campers  
140 in-person  
27 virtual

## Volunteer Survey

Hear what summer camp volunteers had to say!

**741** total volunteers

**735** in-person volunteers

**6** virtual volunteers

**97%** of volunteers leave with a greater understanding of neuromuscular diseases

**9 in 10** volunteers see their camp experience as beneficial to their career or future



*"I love MDA Summer Camp! It's such an incredible week for everyone involved. It's a lot of work, but it is so worth it. The campers have the best time with other kids doing fun camp activities and you get to be part of that joy. It always fills my cup."*

- Volunteer, Minnesota

*"I had an absolute blast at camp. Everyone there was so welcoming and fun and truly made it a once in a lifetime experience. I loved being able to get to know the campers and counselors throughout the week and just be able to help provide a unique and fun experience for all of the campers. I felt so supported in my role and knew that if I ever needed help with anything I could ask any other volunteer and they would be willing to step in immediately. It was an incredible week."*

- Volunteer, Illinois

**550+** friendship bracelets made and shared

**1,127** rubber ducks hidden duck hunt activity

**184** bananas used in the Banana Olympics

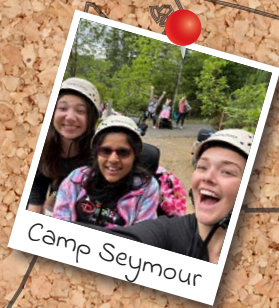
## Camp Fun

### Favorite Activities:

- Dance
- Boardwalk Bash
- Duck Hunt
- Talent Show
- Ziplining
- Swimming

*"My child left MDA Summer Camp with a more positive outlook on their body and living with neuromuscular disease. It's very helpful for them to know that they're not the only ones who struggle and they have all this wonderful support going to this camp."*

- Camp Parent, Washington



Camp Seymour

This is an unforgettable experience, not only for the campers but also for the volunteers. The sense of community and family created during this week is amazing and cannot be described in words.  
- Counselor, Florida



Being able to join a camp at no costs to us was a huge blessing. Usually, with a disability, medical bills pile up but it was nice having a week of fun and creative learning where we did not have to worry about the cost.

Noah



Wonderland Camp



Camp Cavell



Recreation Unlimited



Happiness is Camping



Grizzly Creek Ranch



Rocky Mountain Village

He's described it as better than Disney, and there's no replacement for it.  
- Camper Parent, Texas

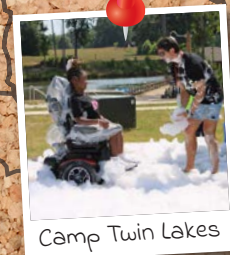


TPOC

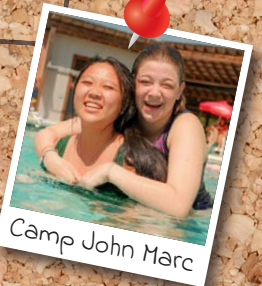
This camp offered so much for me to experience and learn from, was an unforgettable clinical experience as a nursing student!  
- Medical Team Volunteer, Arizona



Camp Aldersgate



Camp Twin Lakes



Camp John Marc



Camp For All



Camp Twin Lakes

My camper has a great time, makes friends, and learns independence while being supported by an absolutely wonderful group of counselors and medical professionals.  
-Camp Parent, Florida



HAPPY



## Join the Community

 Instagram: @mdaorg

 Facebook: MDAorg

 X: @MDAorg

 LinkedIn: Muscular Dystrophy Association

 YouTube: YouTube.com/MDA

 Advocacy X: @MDA\_Advocacy

 TikTok: @mdaorg

 Twitch: MDA\_LetsPlay

 Discord: MDA Let's Play