



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is camp? The camp is held in late summer each year, and usually runs on Wednesday through Friday.

How much does it cost? The camp is **free**. It is through fundraising efforts, grants and donations that Wellspring Lutheran Services is able to sponsor this program free of charge.

Who will be at camp with my children? Wellspring Lutheran Services has a team of social workers who serve as camp leaders. All adults at camp receive specific training in order to be a Camp Hope volunteer. Camp Hope also has a partnership with UM-Flint, which provides nursing students and their instructor as camp volunteers. We are very selective about who is at camp with your children.

Where is the camp held? The Springs Campsite, located in Gladwin, Mich., hosts Camp Hope.

How will the children get there? Wellspring Lutheran Services provides transportation to and from camp. Campers are picked up at a designated location in Frankenmuth and returned to that same location.

How do I apply for camp? Applications are accepted each spring. To request an application, please call 989.652.4663 or email camphope@wellspringlutheran.com.

How do you select children for the camp? A Screening Committee comprised of medical social workers and grief counselors from Wellspring Lutheran Services reviews all applications and determines whether or not the child would benefit from the camp experience.

When will I know if my child is accepted? The Screening Committee will meet immediately after the application deadline. You will receive a letter notifying you about your child's acceptance, along with further instructions and information about a *mandatory meeting for parents*.

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What if my child has already been to this camp? If your child has already attended Camp Hope, they will automatically be placed on the waiting list. We want to give every child an opportunity to attend this camp at least once, and space is limited to 40 campers. First priority is given to children who have never been to camp. You may also want to apply for other grief camps that are offered in the area. Check your local hospices for their camp information.

What do you do at camp? The camp is set up according to the child's age and developmental level. Children are placed in groups according to age and participate in age-appropriate grief and fun play activities. Some of the grief activities may include creating memory pillows and goal boxes. Fun play activities may include swimming, boating, challenge course and bonfires.

What if my child gets homesick? The caring professionals and volunteers spend time with your child to assess their needs. Every attempt will be made to reassure and comfort your child. If your child is still *very* homesick, as a last resort they may place a phone call to home. *Please note, this has only happened one time in all the years we've been conducting Camp Hope.*

What do you do about discipline? All campers and staff are to be treated with dignity and respect at all times. Because we will not condone any behaviors that could cause physical and/or emotional harm, we have a "Three Strikes, You're Out" policy. It works like this:

- *Strike #1.* The child's group leader will talk to the child.
- *Strike #2.* Some of the child's recreational activities will be limited.
- *Strike #3.* If the negative behaviors continue after the first two strikes, the next strike could involve dismissal from camp.

Does it matter who died or how long ago the death was? No. Any child can attend who has experienced the death of a close loved one, whether a parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, friend, classmate, babysitter or close neighbor. Children are also encouraged to attend no matter how recent or how long ago the death occurred.

What if I have more questions? Call Wellspring Lutheran Services at 989.652.4663 to learn more. Our bereavement staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks!

Camp Hope Staff