

# THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

# CAMP HOBÉ

WINTER 2024



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Each January, I take time to be grateful for the year just ended. I give myself space to focus on **why** I (and my staff) do this important, and sometimes challenging, work. My reason this winter is this quote from one of our Teen campers:

“This is a place where I can be myself. I found friends in other cabins and the staff. I felt powerful (and not in an evil villain way). Being at camp is empowering and I feel safe here.” Camp Hobé is about community and belonging (and also **fun!**).

Thanks for all **YOU** do to make these life-changing programs possible. Whether you are a family whose kids participate in our activities, a volunteer who gives their time, or a donor who gives financial support! **YOU** make this happen. We couldn't do our work without you. Happy 2024!

**Christina Beckwith (aka Wapiti Mama) - Executive Director**

## PARTICIPATION STATISTICS

Welcome to 2024! We are so excited to kick off the new year. My staff has so many wonderful ideas for amazing programs to support our campers and their families. Find all our program dates on our event calendar, check out this QR code!

Our 2023 summer camps were a fantastic Medieval Magic adventure, serving **216** kids and teens: 43 kids registered for Day Camp / Hobé Juniors, 74 for Kids Week, 75 for Teen Week, and 24 for Virtual Camp. Forty-two percent were new campers, and 58% had participated in Camp Hobé before. Thirty-nine percent were patients and 61% were siblings. Of our patients, 93% had a diagnosis of cancer and 7% had related illnesses. Approximately 93% of our campers live in Utah, and the rest in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Wyoming. We offered 5 free family activities to our families in 2023, serving almost 880 people in 2023! Our family activities included a Grizzlies Hockey night, a Cookie Social to kick off camper registration, a parent breakfast after camper drop off, the Big Dig (in partnership with the local American Cancer Society), and a Family Virtual Paint Night.



Camp Hobé provides psychosocial support for kids with cancer (and similarly-treated disorders) and their families, through summer camps and family outings. Our mission is to create an atmosphere that enhances self-esteem, fosters independence and friendships, and creates a feeling of belonging.



## DAY CAMP / HOBÉ JR

One of the most memorable moments at Day Camp/Hobé Jr occurred during the zipline activity, there was a camper who really wanted to participate, best of her. When it was this camper's turn to try the zipline, she mustered the courage to climb up the steep hill to the zipline platform. As she reached the top, a chorus of cheers and encouragement filled the air, creating a heartwarming atmosphere of support.

on the second day of camp, but her nerves were getting the

However, once she was safely hooked up to the zipline, she realized she wasn't quite ready and decided to give it a try next year instead. What followed was truly touching: the campers and counselors continued to cheer for her as she made her way back down. The smile on her face spoke volumes about the sense of joy and accomplishment she felt, even though she hadn't taken the zipline ride that day.

It was moments like these that make us appreciate the essence of the camp experience. Witnessing campers stepping out of their comfort zones and embracing challenges with determination was incredibly rewarding. The way they supported and celebrated each other's achievements highlighted the sense of community and camaraderie fostered at Camp Hobé. These moments will stay with us forever, reminding us of the power of encouragement and the impact it can have on young hearts and minds.

**Maranda Fisher - Day/Jr Assistant Director**

## KIDS WEEK

Our Medieval camp at Kids Week was a magical experience. We had some rain during the week, but also lucked out with lots of sunshine and enjoyed the contrasting weather. The week was filled with Medieval/Magical activities such as archery, potions class, a medieval obstacle course, Dragon puppet socks, low ropes, zip line, magical sign language songs, a service project and of course, swimming.

It was an enchanting week filled with so many fun activities, songs, skits, and some playing in the rain for the directors. One of my favorite memories from this year was during the special martial arts rotation where our campers were each presented with their own white belt. I also enjoyed giving and getting "Huzzah" greetings from everyone at camp. Cheers and laughter united us that week. Looking forward to making more memories with your campers next year.

**Jessica Bertrand - Kids Week Director**



## TEEN WEEK

Hello Teen Week Campers! As I reflect on the week we shared this summer, I am once again amazed by the amount of love and inclusion that I saw. This year was particularly special as we had a few campers who required a little extra help; a few that barely received sign-off by their doctors; siblings struggling with the emotional toll of it all. And what I saw was every single one of you putting your all into helping these campers have the time of their lives. I saw campers from other cabins push wheelchairs. I saw Poolside cabins help campers from Hillside cabins in activities they struggled with. I watched, on multiple occasions, campers of all ages and genders helping an individual who was really struggling to get involved. In every activity it was a different person helping them to get involved. By mid-week, they were smiling, giggling and having fun on their own accord.... Because of all of YOU. This isn't the only instance, but just ONE example of what each and every one of you bring to camp.

You may never know the impact that each of you have on another. The kind words that may bring someone out of a very dark place, the little actions that remind others that they are worthy. You are all incredible and remind me, and every volunteer at camp, how to be our best the rest of the year.

**Nicole Ledford (Princess) -Teen Week Director**



## VIRTUAL CAMP

Virtual Medieval Camp Hobé was a blast this year! It was so fun to connect over a virtual platform and experience the magic of Camp. Each day of our virtual session was a spirit week themed day. It was SO fun to see our campers come prepared for camp in the different outfits for the theme that day. One memorable moment I had was seeing our campers' faces light up as they participated in a virtual magic show. The awe and amazement from our campers was contagious! It was so fun to see them engage and participate with each other and with the guest magician. I love that virtual camp can spread the Hobé magic to our campers who for one reason or another, can't be with us for in person camps. Can't wait for next year!

**Heather Hibbert - Virtual Camp Director**





### MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S NOTES

What a wonderful summer we had together this year!! As your medical director, I could not wait to tell everyone NO MASKS! It was so wonderful to see everyone's beautiful smiles as they laughed and played. We made it through camp without any out-breaks or major illness or injury.

Some of you may remember I had another wonderful (sort of) opportunity this year, one that was so appropriate for our medieval times....I was dragon bound. Riding my blue dragon (aka wheelchair) around camp I was able to have a different viewpoint of camp. From that perspective I witnessed our campers slaying more than dragons and conquering more than just knights. They conquered first times away from home, treatment related exhaustion, nausea, and pain. They shared their most true selves, their biggest hopes and their biggest worries. They found friends and a family of sorts. We honored those who can no longer be with us and celebrated those who can. In every possible way our camp family grew this year!

I also must put my personal thanks in here. Arriving in my dragon, I worried. Would I be able to participate? Or get to Arts and Crafts? It was harder but also more special because I found the helpers everywhere. Our campers and staff went above and beyond to help me, to make it easier for me and to include me. I wasn't surprised though. It is one of the things I love about camp, the compassion, the inclusivity, and the joy. I look forward to seeing you all next year.

**Jamie Seale - Medical Director**

You can help our campers and families year-round in many ways, including shopping programs, car donations, and monthly giving. More info at [camphobekids.org](http://camphobekids.org) ➡ Learn More and Help.

**Smith's Inspiring Donations** ([smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations](http://smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations)): Your participation is free. The more you shop, the more you help. Log in to your existing frequent shopper account, then choose Camp Hobé as your charity. The donations add up when you buy groceries, gas, or other items at Smith's / Kroger. Organization #TN890

**Car donations: CARS** ([careasy.org/nonprofit/camp-hobe](http://careasy.org/nonprofit/camp-hobe)): Donate your clunker, running or not! Use the online form or call 855-500-7443. CARS will pick it up and sell it, then send Camp Hobé a check.

**Social media:** Camp Hobé is an official non-profit with Facebook and Instagram. That means you can easily host a fundraiser for Camp Hobé on your social accounts. It's simple for your friends and family to donate, and there is no cost to you or Camp Hobé. Fundraise for your birthday, in celebration of camp, to honor someone special, or simply to start a conversation with friends and family about what Camp Hobé means to you. Learn how at <http://bit.ly/48GtLxo>.

Thanks for all you do to support our campers and their families!



### CIT DIRECTOR

This year at Camp HOBÉ the CITs focused on the sense of community and building an organization of inclusivity and togetherness. This is what creates our HOBÉ family. The campers love the energy the CITs bring to camp every year. From singing campfire songs to swimming laps in the pool, the campers made friendships that will last a lifetime. We will never forget the tears shed and laughs shared this year. We are so excited to see what next year has in store for our HOBÉ family.

**Emma Fisher- CIT Director**

Each year brings new staff and new campers, along with familiar and comforting faces. Here you can find the spirit and camaraderie that only exists at Camp Hobé. We celebrate, make new friends, strengthen existing friendships, laugh, play, plant flowers and even cry sometimes. We get up on stage, step out of our comfort zones, sing, dance, talk, create and swim!

This year we tried something new.... For the parents. :)

Since our campers and families come from all over the state of Utah and other surrounding states, it can be difficult to get together. The time we spend together is what creates the magic and beauty of Camp Hobé. To help build this connection this past year, we held a Parent Breakfast! After dropping off their children for Day/Jr session, 82 parents and siblings stopped to chat, eat and meet one another. It was the highlight of my summer seeing how open and loving everyone was at this breakfast. The kindness and conversations that I heard, brought me to tears. Here we also laughed and talked, sharing experiences and ideas. The sense of this special community was felt by everyone who attended.

We often talk about how amazing our campers are because IT'S TRUE..... they are amazing! But I want to give a special shot out to the amazing parents that allow us the opportunity to help their children and be a part of their journey. This whole organization is a family effort and we are grateful for all those involved. Next summer we are planning on doing Parent Breakfasts at EVERY in-person session! I can't wait to spend more time and connect with all of you! See you there!

**Ashley Clinger (Queen Smashley) – Deputy Director**



# SUMMER CAMP SESSIONS

- Day Camp / Hobé Juniors (ages 4-6 years):  
Friday 6/7 and Saturday 6/8
- Kids Week (ages 7-11 years):  
Monday 6/10 to Friday 6/14
- Teen Week (ages 12-19 years):  
Monday 6/17 to Friday 6/21
- Virtual Camp (ages 6-19):  
Monday 7/15 to Thursday 7/18

Our mission to create an atmosphere that enhances self-esteem, fosters independence and friendships, and creates a feeling of belonging for our campers could not be realized without the time, energy, and dedication of our incredible volunteers. Our campers include children in Utah and surrounding states tackling psychosocial and medical challenges that occur with cancer and similarly treated disorders.

We value and appreciate each volunteer and the unique skills they bring to our program. Their support and service allow us to continue to fulfill our mission each year. We are always looking for good people who want to be a part of a program that helps support our campers and families through our summer camps and year-round family outings!

We have a variety of positions that are suitable for all ages and skills sets and are now accepting applications for the 2024 season. All volunteers must apply, interview, and complete staff training before camp. New this year, is our Year-Round Program Volunteer Position. This position is a year-round volunteer and helps with our family events, single-day programs, activities, and recruitment.

Visit <https://camphobekids.org/home/volunteer/> for an overview of all our volunteer opportunities and more information.

We thank you for your consideration to volunteer with Camp Hobé. It is an opportunity to make a difference, meet new friends, and provide our campers with the support they need to discover the joy and freedom of being a kid.

**Shamar Lejardi - Volunteer Coordinator**

To see all important Camp Hobé dates, visit our event calendar here:  
<https://camphobekids.org/home/camp-hobe/camp-dates/>



Psychosocial support programs for kids with cancer (& similarly-treated disorders) and their families.

[HTTPS://CAMPHOBEKIDS.ORG](https://CAMPHOBEKIDS.ORG)