



# ***Parent / Guardian Info 2025 - Frequently Asked Questions***

## **What is Camp Hobé?**

Camp Hobé is a special psychosocial support program for kids being treated for cancer (and similarly-treated disorders), and their families. Through summer camps and family outings, we provide a place for everyone to be “kids” having fun. Our goal is to create an atmosphere that enhances self-esteem, fosters independence and friendships, and creates a feeling of belonging.

## **Who can participate in Camp Hobé summer camp?**

Kids diagnosed with cancer (and similar disorders) who are currently being treated with immunosuppressive therapy (chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or immunosuppressants) or whose final immunosuppressive therapy was within three (3) prior camp seasons may participate. Siblings of these kids are also eligible to attend. Kids from bereaved families are also eligible to participate; please see below for details. Eligible kids must also meet these requirements:

- Live in the Intermountain area (UT, ID, WY, NV), or are/were treated at Primary Children’s Hospital.
- Be between the ages of 4 and 19 years during the camp session.
- Be medically stable in order to stay overnight at in-person camp without a caregiver onsite:
  - Current physical examination certifies that the camper is appropriate for camp attendance.
  - Do not have any condition that might endanger the health, safety, or emotional well-being of others (for example, apnea, poorly controlled seizures, other poorly controlled medical conditions) when checking in at camp.
- Prior approval from the camp medical director is required before camp attendance for patients who are expected to be receiving any of the following when checking in at camp: intravenous (IV) antibiotics, total parenteral nutrition (TPN), IV fluids, or oxygen therapy.

Some kids may need extra help or supervision to enjoy in-person camp, even if they meet the medical requirements. This includes kids with any condition that might require extra help, such as blindness, deafness, muteness, autism, emotional or psychiatric problems, developmental delay, or recent significant life events. These campers may participate based on the type and amount of extra care they need, as well as how much support is available from family and other caregivers. All these factors help us decide how we can accommodate your kid. Please tell us **now** if any of these apply to your kid.

## **What if our patient has passed away?**

We are so sorry for your loss. Please let us know if you’d like us to recognize your patient during our Hobé Forever Remembering Program this summer; if you wish, you may send a photo. In addition, please consider registering your patient’s siblings for summer camp. Siblings from bereaved families may participate for three consecutive camp seasons after the patient passes. Siblings must meet the health and age requirements outlined above.

## **How does my kid register for Camp Hobé summer camp?**

Simply complete the online registration request and pay the registration fee. You will need to complete a registration request for each kid who you wish to participate in camp this summer.

## **How does Camp Hobé summer camp help my kids?**

Camp Hobé helps your kids by addressing and relieving the psychological, social, and physical impact of cancer (and similarly-treated disorders). Our summer camp lets kids participate in activities they cannot normally do and learn new physical skills. Summer camp lets your kids be kids again and spend time outside a serious environment playing and learning through play. Summer camp returns kids to a peer group that they may miss during treatment. At our programs, living with cancer (or a similarly-treated disorder) makes your kids part of the crowd.

## **How is Camp Hobé summer camp different from other support programs?**

We are committed to these kids & their families. We set specific goals for how we want summer camp to help them grow:

**Goal #1:** Provide kids with cancer (or similarly-treated disorders) & their siblings a place to “just be kids.”

What we see happening, or how we know it happens: Kids with cancer (or similarly-treated disorders) and their siblings have the opportunity to participate in camp activities just like kids whose families are not affected by these illnesses. The camp program provides a high level of medical and psychosocial supervision to keep these kids safe both mentally and physically during their experience. Licensed medical staff and mental health staff (child life specialists, social workers) are available 24/7 throughout our sessions.

**Goal #2:** Provide an opportunity to build support systems with others dealing with life-threatening illness.

What we see happening, or how we know it happens: Using recreation and leisure skills, staff provide a camping experience for patients and their siblings who would otherwise not have this group experience. Both patients and siblings find support in knowing that others deal with the same issues that they do. During the calendar year, Primary Children’s Hospital, Huntsman Cancer Hospital, and other organizations provide opportunities for the patients and their siblings to learn and talk about their disease. Camp Hobé provides a break from surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, hospitals, and illness. Campers are not expected to talk about their disease experience while at camp, although we provide a supportive environment should children wish to do so. Discussions on these topics are facilitated when patients and siblings initiate the conversations. Hobé Forever is an optional “guided” activity offered during the camp session where campers have time to remember friends who are not present that year. This activity allows campers the opportunity to express feelings of grief and loss if they desire. Camp staff members respect any requests for further counseling or discussion.

**Goal #3:** Encourage campers to learn new skills and leisure activities by participating in small- and large-group activities.

What we see happening, or how we know it happens: Campers rotate through activities such as arts and crafts, drama, archery, yoga, science, swimming, and nature. They may also take part in challenge activities and carnivals. Activity leaders are chosen based on interest, experience, and/or training in their assigned area, to promote program quality.

**Goal #4:** Offer opportunities for campers to learn about nature, ecology and their part in preserving the environment during recreation and outdoor living.

What we see happening, or how we know it happens: Specific topics about nature will be offered during the camp sessions. Each cabin group will be assigned chores, including cleaning the dining hall, shower/restrooms, grounds, and cabins. In addition, camp administration and kitchen staff may discuss reducing food wastage and the proper disposal of food. In the local community, all trash collected from the campsite is sorted for recycling prior to disposal at the landfill. The campsite has both trash and recycling dumpsters for waste disposal. This ensures that campers have the opportunity to participate in this recycling program by sorting trash from recycling at meal times and at the dumpsters. Camp administration and volunteers discuss the recycling options with the campers at mealtimes and during chores.

**Goal #5:** Help each camper develop socialization skills and new interests.

What we see happening, or how we know it happens: In addition to other program activities, each camper will be able to work with their cabin group to create and perform a skit and a cheer. They will sit together for meals and will use the “buddy system” during activities and when moving between locations. Campers are encouraged to try activities that involve controlled risk, such as the ropes course, and to participate in other activities that may be new to them. The Bead Nomination program encourages campers to reflect on how the camp programs impact their personal growth and relationships with those around them. It gives them the opportunity to recognize others for acts of friendship, kindness, courage and strength

Goal #6: Give campers opportunities to develop leadership skills

What we see happening, or how we know it happens: Some activities give campers the chance to volunteer to be the “first” one to try it. Campers can also be leaders by following camp rules and contributing to and participating in all activities. After campers reach the age of 16, they are eligible to apply to be volunteer Counselors-in-Training and help staff with program activities or assist an adult counselor with a group of kids.

**What else do I need to do to get my kids and teens ready?**

Once we receive your registration, we will send a confirmation notice. After this, you will be able to view more information in the online database, including when to arrive at in-person camp and what your campers need to pack. You will also be able to access the forms that you need to complete before camp for your kids and teens.

**Do my kids need a physical examination to attend in-person camp?**

Yes, you need to schedule a physical exam (or doctor visit), for each of your kids before camp. In order to care for our campers, we require physical exams for patients within three (3) months of camp and for siblings within six (6) months of camp. You will be able to access the camp physical form online once your family’s registrations are confirmed. Please contact our office if you need the form earlier (like if you have an appointment already scheduled).

**Will my kids be assigned to stay in the same cabin group at in-person camp?**

Not necessarily. Cabin groups are assigned by age and sex/gender identity, in order to best meet the physical and psychosocial needs of our campers. Siblings of the same sex/gender identity who are close in age may be assigned to the same cabin group, although this cannot be guaranteed. Most campers need, and enjoy, the chance to spend time with peers. Each camper gets individual attention from their counselors, whether they are a patient or a patient’s sibling. Each camper creates special memories to share with their siblings at mealtimes, all-camp events, and after camp.

**Can my kid attend more than one in-person camp session, if their age falls between the session ranges?**

No, unfortunately this is not allowed. Each kid may register and attend only a single in-person camp session each summer. This policy helps us make sure that we are able to serve as many eligible campers as possible. However, campers may participate in **both** in-person camp and virtual camp.

**Can you tell me more about the camp staff and volunteers?**

Adult staff members must be at least 19 years old for Kids Week, Day Camp/Hobé Juniors, or Virtual Camp; and at least 21 years old for Teen Camp. Our Counselor in Training (CIT) volunteers are 16 to 18 years old; CITs may supervise campers only when an adult is present. All new and returning staff members must reapply and be re-interviewed every year. In addition, Camp Hobé conducts criminal background checks every year on all adult staff members. For CIT volunteers, we require letters of reference and contact several personal references. Training is mandatory for all staff members every year. Cabin groups may be assisted and supervised by staff members of the same or opposite gender identity at any time, based on camper needs and staffing levels. Pre-camp training sessions cover topics such as working with kids, handling behavior problems, medical concerns, appropriate boundaries, child abuse prevention and detection, emergency procedures, and teambuilding. Staff members are trained on the “rule of threes”, which is our official policy that staff members may never be alone with a camper, except in very unusual circumstances, like an emergency.

**What if I have other questions?**

We are happy to answer your questions. Please contact us at 208-403-7845 or [ashley.clinger@camphobekids.org](mailto:ashley.clinger@camphobekids.org). Please know that our office is not staffed full-time. If we do not answer your call, please leave a message and we will get back to you within 2-3 business days. You may also text this number; please include your first and last name in the text.