



Thank you for your interest in A Camp to Remember!

Since 1997, A Camp to Remember has provided a fun, safe, supportive camp for youth who are grieving the death of a family member. Most of the kids who participate have experienced the loss of a dad, mom, sister, or brother. In general, at least three months has elapsed since the death in their families – and for some—many years have passed. Camp is part of Tamarack Grief Resource Center (TGRC).

Note: A completed registration form does not guarantee admission to camp. This registration form will help us get to know your child. We want to make sure that A Camp to Remember will be a positive experience for your child. Together we will determine if your child is likely to benefit from camp. Your thoughtful, honest, and complete responses will help us best support your child. If/ when your child is accepted to camp, you will receive additional information (directions to camp, schedules, times of arrival and departure, etc.).

Common Questions:

1. Who attends A Camp to Remember?

Our overnight camps welcome **40-60 boys and girls ages 8-15** who are entering 3rd through 9th grade and who are grieving the death of a family member. We do have a handful of 6 and 7 year olds attend camp with a brother or sister at the same camp. Campers must be able to engage constructively in group settings, and must not require 1:1 supervision to do so. We do maintain a 3:1 camper to staff ratio.

2. What can I expect at camp?

This summer, A Camp to Remember will be offered at Flathead Lake United Methodist Camp (June 16-19) and at Camp Watanopa on Georgetown Lake (Aug. 7-10). We'll be outside a lot – exploring the forests and playing amidst the rocks, dirt, and wild flowers in the grassy fields. A lodge is the center of indoor activities and dining, while modern bath houses and a first aid cabin round out a blend of comfort and camping. Usually there will be about 7-12 campers and 3-4 staff in each cabin.

3. What will we be doing at A Camp to Remember? Is it FUN?!

Camp days are full of fun! Traditional camp activities blend with chances to honor and remember family members. Sample activities include: Kayaking and Canoeing, Beading, Nature Adventure, Camp Fire, Flags of Honor and Remembrance, Challenge Games, and Creative Exploration! During camp we can play Frisbee and tag, splash in the water, paint rocks, sing songs, or make things for Secret Buddies, as well as share stories, light candles, and explore who we are each becoming in the process of grieving. We will have fun and we will support one another.

4. Who will be the staff at camp?

WE HAVE AN AMAZING TEAM of adults who oversee camp (CARE Team)! Our CARE Team (all volunteers) is made up of counselors, teachers, activity leaders, and other community members. Each cabin includes grief specialists and activity specialists. Volunteers complete a background check and a minimum eight hours of training and supervision. They each donate four-days of their summer to ensure a positive, healing experience for grieving kids. Some volunteers have specialized training with behavior challenges or special needs, but not all do. If your child has special needs, please let us know so we can make every effort to have the appropriate supervisors in place to ensure a positive camp for all. If your child does not do well in groups, camp is likely not an appropriate setting for him/her. Call us about other grief support options.

5. What is the Camp's philosophy?

Tamarack Grief Resource Center is committed to stabilizing, strengthening, and supporting grieving children and adults. Grief is a natural, and complex, part of life. We believe grieving children thrive amidst connections with understanding others, time to remember, immersion in a spectacular landscape, with permission to HAVE FUN! We honor death, the relationships that continue on, and on the life which we re-construct after loss.

6. Can my child(ren) attend both camps?

No, probably not. Our priority is to allow every child an opportunity to attend one grief camp. If your child is interested in both, please prioritize your first choice. IF, we have space available 2 weeks before camp, we will allow wait-listed campers to add to the second camp (we will contact you aprx. 10 days prior to camp to see if your child is still interested). **We will be offering a DAY CAMP in Missoula, July 19-22 (11am-3pm) for grieving children in elementary school.** Children are welcome to sign up for the DAY CAMP in addition to an overnight camp.

7. What are the options for high-school students – can they attend camp?

12 High-school students will be accepted to assist at each camp as PALS (Peers-as-Leaders). PALS are positive role models who have participated in A Camp to Remember in the past or in other TGRC programs. PALS are returning to camp to build leadership skills and mentor campers. PALS must complete a specific application.

Another option for high-school students grieving the death of a family member is our **TEEN CAMP Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2011** (featuring the annual

Please visit our website: TamarackGriefResourceCenter.org or call us: **406.541.8472** with any questions!

We look forward to hearing from you!

Tina Barrett, EdD, LCPC, Camp Director & Allyson Foster, Camp Assistant



Decathlon of Ridiculousness!)

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We look forward to hearing from you!

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