



Diabetes
Education & Camping
Association

**& PATIENTS
& PURPOSE**

STEERING COMMITTEE

December 8, 2023

UPDATED MESSAGING

WHAT ARE DIABETES CAMPS? (FOR PARENTS)

Living with diabetes can be hard for a child. But they're not alone. There's a place where diabetes doesn't make them feel different—at camp! Here, all kids living with diabetes can build skills to manage their condition, gain confidence and independence, and find friendships and support that last a lifetime. Because every child with diabetes deserves to feel like they belong.

WHAT ARE DIABETES CAMPS? (FOR PARENTS)

Living with diabetes isn't easy, especially for a child or a teen. There's much to learn for both kids and parents to get prepared for the future. But they don't have to do it alone—and neither do you.

At diabetes camps, all kids can come together and grow in a safe, helpful environment. They can learn age-appropriate skills to manage their diabetes, find friends and support that will last a lifetime, gain confidence and independence, and have some fun in a place where diabetes doesn't have to be a barrier!

At camp, diabetes doesn't make kids feel different. Here, they can just be kids—and learn how to manage their condition at the same time. Because every child with diabetes deserves to feel like they belong.

WHAT ARE DIABETES CAMPS? (FOR TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS)

Living with diabetes can be hard. But you're not alone. There's a place where diabetes doesn't make you feel different—at camp! Here, you can build skills to manage your condition, gain confidence and independence, be a leader in helping others with diabetes, and find friendships and support that last a lifetime. Because everyone with diabetes deserves to feel like they belong.

WHAT ARE DIABETES CAMPS? (FOR TEENS/YOUNG ADULTS)

Living with diabetes isn't easy. There's much to learn to get prepared for the future. But you don't have to do it alone.

At diabetes camps, people can come together and grow in a safe, helpful environment. Here, you can learn how to manage your diabetes on your own, find friends that will last a lifetime, gain confidence and independence, and have some fun where diabetes doesn't have to be a barrier! Camp can also be a great place to be a leader, if you feel ready to make an impact for your peers and for kids learning how to live with diabetes.

At camp, diabetes doesn't make you feel different. Because everyone with diabetes deserves to feel like they belong.

WHY CAMP?

Going to diabetes camp gives kids a space to feel like they truly belong, in a space where they're supported and safe when it comes to their diabetes.

At diabetes camp, kids can find:

C: Community where they can meet other people living with diabetes from all backgrounds, learn from their peers, and find friendships that last a lifetime

A: Adventures where they can have fun, learn, and build their confidence—where diabetes doesn't have to be a barrier

M: Management tips and training to help set themselves up for success with diabetes in the future

P: Professional support from diabetes educators to provide one-on-one support

DECA'S ROLE IN COST AND ACCESS

When it comes to making sure diabetes camps are affordable and accessible, DECA is here to help. DECA supports camps and helps to keep costs low by:

- Facilitating fundraising, where proceeds benefits camps in their network
- Offering training and materials to diabetes camps free of charge or at low cost
- Sharing best practices between diabetes camps
- Helping to secure medical supplies for diabetes camps so neither camps nor parents need to pay for diabetes management tools while kids are at camp

COST AND ACCESS

(for HCPs/nurses/advocacy)

Cost shouldn't be a barrier to stop kids from being able to go to diabetes camp. Each camp has different fees, but most of them charge fees that are much lower than their actual costs, to help camp be more affordable. Most diabetes camps also provide financial assistance to cover some or all of the costs, depending on household income.

(for parents)

If you're interested in a diabetes camp, cost doesn't have to be a barrier. Most diabetes camps have programs to help lower the costs—some even fully cover the camp fees. If you find a diabetes camp that you're interested in for your child, you can call or email them to better understand the financial options they have available.

MANAGING PARENTS' WORRY

The thought of sending your kid away overnight can be scary for any parent—and when your child has a chronic condition, it can feel every scarier. When you send your child to a diabetes camp, it comes with an extra level of peace of mind.

Diabetes camps are run by experts in managing diabetes—and in training kids to take on age-appropriate care. Some ways that diabetes camps work to keep your kids safe are:

- Creating an environment designed for healthy management of diabetes
- Having medical experts and educators available to provide care
- Ensuring all camp staff are fully trained in diabetes management—in fact, many counselors have diabetes themselves
- Working together with kids to make sure they feel supported, both physically and emotionally

Diabetes camps are a safe environment where your kids can just be kids. Camp gives them a space to build their confidence, learn how to manage their condition, have fun, and find friendships that last a lifetime.

SETTING PARENTS UP FOR SUCCESS

If you're interested in sending your child or teen to a diabetes camp, you may be wondering where to start. First, use our "Find a Camp" tool to locate camps near you based on the kind of experience you're looking for.

The best way to find out more about a specific camp is to call or email and ask for more details. Some key factors you may want to consider are:

- What kinds of education will my kids get for managing their diabetes?
- What kind of experts are onsite to help teach my kids about diabetes management?
- What does a typical day look like for kids at diabetes camp?
- What financial assistance is available, and who is eligible for it?
- Is there any transportation assistance or support available to help my child get to diabetes camp?
- What types of food are served for the kids at diabetes camp?
- Are there any opportunities available to meet other kids, parents, or camp staff before diabetes camp starts?

CALL TO ACTION FOR HCPS AND ADVOCACY GROUPS

Diabetes camps help build a strong community and also rely on a strong community to operate. Your voice and expertise can help realize our mission of a world where everyone with diabetes has a place to belong. Many diabetes camps need support with training and education or professionals to join camp staff. **Visit diabetescamps.org to find a camp near you, and reach out to camps directly to find opportunities to volunteer.**

CALL TO ACTION FOR POTENTIAL DONORS

Your support can help us realize our mission of a world where everyone with diabetes has a place to belong. We believe every child should be able to come to diabetes camp, and cost should never be a barrier. Your donation can sponsor a campership, to help kids of all backgrounds afford to come to diabetes camp, so they have the chance to change their future. Your support can also help provide valuable supplies and training for the camps themselves. So don't wait. **Go to diabetescamps.org and donate today.**

CALL TO ACTION FOR FORMER PARTICIPANTS

If you've been part of a diabetes camp, you know the kind of impact it can have on the future. And you know that the family you find at camp lasts a lifetime. Volunteer as a counselor or camp staff and influence the future of camps, so you too can help change lives. **Visit diabetescamps.org to find a camp near you, and reach out to camps directly to find opportunities to volunteer.**

DECA'S ROLE IN CAMPING

Here at DECA, our mission is to provide a place of belonging for every child with diabetes. We know just how much going to camp can impact a child living with diabetes—giving them the skills they need to manage their condition, a sense of confidence and independence, and friends for a lifetime. We are committed to strengthening the network of camps across the US, so every child with diabetes can access a diabetes camp.

We work to:

- **Create belonging:** We spread the word about diabetes camps to help make more people aware of the impact camp can have and how to find a camp in their area
- **Improve safety:** We provide trainings and learnings to diabetes camp staff so they are up to date on safest practices
- **Provide resources:** We help secure medical supplies, educational resources, and more for diabetes camps to help them stay cutting edge and ready to help campers
- **Connect camps:** We create a network between diabetes camps so they can share their experiences and help strengthen each other
- **Facilitate giving:** We raise funds to sponsor camperships and to distribute to diabetes camps for further resources and product donations
- **Foster diversity:** We encourage people from all backgrounds to attend, volunteer at, and support diabetes camps, working to make sure they are a safe and helpful environment for all



THANK YOU