



CAMP DISCOVERY

CASE FOR SUPPORT

Our Mission

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan leads the fight to stop seizures, find a cure, and overcome challenges created by epilepsy.

About Us

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan, founded in 1948, is a voluntary health organization providing education and consultation services, public awareness, camp programs, support services, advocacy, and employment guidance for people with seizure disorders, their families, and the general public. The Foundation helps individuals living with epilepsy become more knowledgeable and confident managers of this complex condition.

What is Camp Discovery?

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan's Camp Discovery has proven to be a life-changing event for campers and volunteers alike. Youth ages 8-17 with epilepsy spend 5 days and 4 nights enjoying all the activities that camp has to offer, including rock wall climbing, canoeing, horseback riding, swimming in a lake and an Olympic-sized swimming pool, arts & crafts, forming life-long friendships, and much more. Camp Discovery promotes wellness through extensive physical activity, consistent sleep schedules, information on epilepsy self-management, and a session called "Ask the Neurologist" where campers get the chance to ask a Pediatric Neurologist whatever they want. Camp Discovery is the only camp in Michigan that specializes in children with epilepsy.

The Need

Many of our campers cannot afford this opportunity. Only 15 percent of families can afford to pay the full camp fee. Almost half were only able to contribute \$75 or less toward the cost of camp. More than half of the campers come from single parent households. No one is turned away based on their ability to pay the fee.

In addition to the standard costs that come with an overnight camp, there are costs associated with Camp Discovery's 24-hour medical supervision, the extensive training provided to camp volunteers and staff, the high staff-to-camper ratio, and the wide range of supervised activities offered. The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan does not profit from Camp Discovery; rather it is our mission to provide this life-changing program and work extremely hard to make it as cost-effective as possible.

Why Camp Discovery is so important

Because young people with epilepsy are important, and we are here for them. Epilepsy can be very isolating and eat away at a child's self-esteem and self-confidence. It is hard to believe that a five-day camp can address this huge issue, yet it does. These are the words of a Camper Parent:

"By donating, you are allowing a child with epilepsy the chance to go to a camp where their disorder is what makes them 'normal,' not different; where all the children around them have the same doubts, fears, and concerns about who they are and what they can do in the face of their seizures; and where they can be safe doing activities that they wouldn't otherwise experience; with staff that won't panic, freeze, or treat them differently if they have a seizure. It was a wonderful opportunity for a child to see that they aren't "that kid with epilepsy," but - look! - here is a WHOLE CAMP of kids facing many of the same obstacles that the child handles every day. Often I think that a child with epilepsy believes they are the only one - the only kid on the baseball team with epilepsy, the only child at school, the only one in ballet class - and Camp Discovery shows them that not only are there others, but they are just like you!"

Why YOU are so important

Without your support, Camp Discovery would not be possible. Without your support, feelings like these wouldn't happen:

"Camp Discovery is soooo much fun, and you can learn about your epilepsy at the same time." - camper

"Camp Discovery is an encouraging, fun place with lots of other kids. You have lots of friends by the time you leave. Camp Discovery is awesome, and I want to come again next year." - camper

"It's the best place to express yourself. I enjoyed myself this year very much." - camper

Camp Discovery changes lives. Your support will change lives.



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