

**EPILEPSY
FOUNDATION**

Eastern Pennsylvania



*Epilepsy Foundation
Eastern Pennsylvania
2014 Camp Report*

**Camp
Achieve**

Camp Achieve?

What is

Camp Achieve is, of course, a camp. It is a community, a “social unit that shares common values.” But it is so much more. Camp Achieve is a magical place where kids of all ages build their confidence, connect and find friendships. Campers learn about epilepsy and they find that it’s OK to talk about their seizures and it’s OK to teach others about epilepsy. They can speak openly about medicine, shared experiences and challenges. Camp is a safe place, physically and emotionally. Often it is the very first time that a camper has been away from home, and certainly the first time they have slept in a bunk with 8-10 other kids just like them! Most importantly, campers begin to realize that epilepsy is what they have, but it doesn’t define them----and all of this happens in just five days!

What makes Camp Achieve magical? While all of this is happening, campers are just having fun! They are laughing and playing “gaga”, swimming, boating, climbing a rock wall, playing volleyball, mini-golf, archery, creating arts and crafts and participating in a talent show that puts ‘America’s Got Talent’ to shame!

Camp Achieve has an amazing group of dedicated volunteers, counselors and medical staff who give days of their vacation to dedicate 24 hour round-the-clock medical care and vigilant supervision to our campers. Many of our counselors and medical staff are role models for our campers. Having epilepsy themselves, they are living full, productive lives. Camp Achieve continues to grow each year, from a weekend retreat in 1997 to a week long sleep-over of 54 campers and 40 counselors. Our vision for Camp Achieve is not just to watch the numbers increase, but to watch each camper grow, physically, socially and emotionally, to become a strong individual with memories of a magical place and wonderful friends.



Sue Livingston
EFEP Education Coordinator
Camp Achieve Medical Coordinator



Allison McCartin
Executive Director

Camp Achieve offers a variety of activities ranging from sports like basketball and soccer to canoeing, archery and arts and crafts.

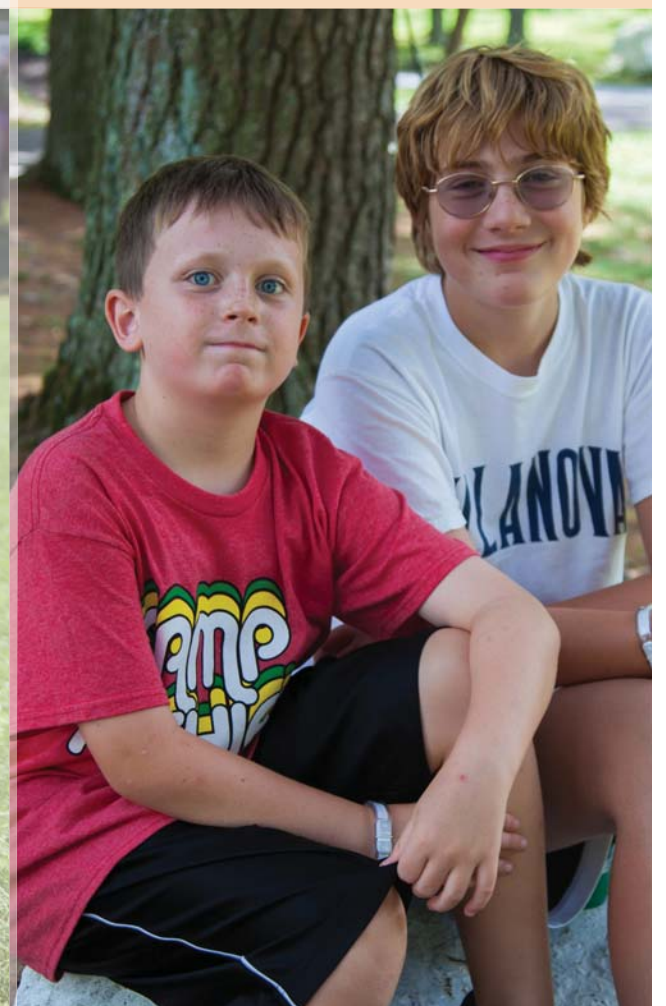


We're able to accommodate different epilepsy diagnoses, medications and treatments, including the ketogenic diet.



Camp Achieve places campers into "Activity Rings" that integrate campers and counselors from different age groups together to strengthen the sense of community. Older campers become role models while younger campers learn from their example.

Campers and Counselors also engage in epilepsy education activities that help them learn more about managing a life with seizures. They then break into their cabin groups to discuss at a more personal level.





Medical Staff

Camp Achieve would not be possible without our 24-hour medical staff. By providing supervision and support we can offer a safe environment for children with epilepsy to enjoy all that summer has to offer, while sparing their parents of the stress and concern. Plus, they help educate campers about epilepsy, how to manage their medications and ways to live a healthy lifestyle.

The 2014 Camp Achieve Medical Staff consisted of 15 doctors and nurses from the area's top medical centers including St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Each day an average of 6 medical staff were available to respond to any medical need.

Our medical staff utilizes technology to the fullest. Whether it's through walkie-talkies to communicate seizure activity quickly or iPads with all campers medical information included, the EFEPA takes all strides necessary to make Camp Achieve the safest it can be.



"The medical staff were incredible..."



They made sure I was safe all week. I was sure I was safe.

Numbers to know

54

Campers.
The largest
Camp Achieve
to date.

New
Campers.

22

Camp
Achieve
alums.

32

19

Campers receiving full or
partial scholarships for their \$325
registration fee.

Campers turned
away due to
financial
constraints.

0

Campers who
reported never
seeing a seizure
before camp &
being afraid if
they did.

37

37

Campers from Eastern PA and 17
from states including Delaware,
Maryland, New Jersey and New York.

"I love camp because
it's awesome, like me!"



New campers Addie and Analeise pose at the Camp Achieve Superheroes Ball.



At Camp Achieve, campers can let loose and have fun the way kids were meant to.

“Camp is our own little world. A place where everyone likes, respects and understands each other.”



A crucial component of Camp Achieve are our dedicated counselors. Many of our counselors are, in fact, former campers who truly treasure the Camp Achieve experience. They undergo a rigorous application process and background check to ensure they are a great fit to be leaders in the camp community.

In addition to sleeping in the same cabins as campers and facilitating activities, counselors accompany the campers throughout the day to ensure their safety. They provide support and guidance to our campers who are struggling with seizures and advice on how to manage issues like peer pressure, bullying and social isolation. Many counselors keep in contact with their campers throughout the year as mentors.

Our counselors are true heroes in the Camp community and we rely on their guidance and expertise each year to make Camp Achieve the best experience for each and every camper.

Our Counselors



Camp Achieve is made possible through the generosity of donors, small and large.



On behalf of our Campers, Counselors and Parents...Thank You!

2014 Donors

\$3,000+

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Our Mission

To lead the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and overcome the challenges created by epilepsy. We choose to fulfill that mission by meeting the non-medical needs for people affected by epilepsy/seizure disorder to enhance their lives and build supportive communities.

