



*A place where kids
with cancer have fun!*

Camp Rising Sun Newsletter • February 2016

Coming in March – Mini-Camp Weekend!

We want to see you at Mini-Camp! This year's Mini-Camp Weekend is March 19-20. This is a weekend we all look forward to – returning campers and counselors get to see each other and catch up, and new campers get to try out Camp Rising Sun for a night. Make sure to get your camper registered as soon as possible!

We will again offer bus service to

and from camp from Providence, RI and Niantic, CT. For Mini-Camp Weekend only, we will add a bus from the Bridgeport and/or New Haven areas if there is sufficient interest. To sign your camper up for the bus, please contact Tina Saunders by email (tina@camprisingsun.com) no later than March 1st. Start the countdown – see you March 19!



Camp Rising Sun Calendar of Events

March 19-20

Mini-Camp Weekend
Camp Jewell, Colebrook, CT
Contact Tina@camprisingsun.com

Wednesday, July 13

Annual Kids Night Out
Oweneo Inn, Branford, CT

August 21-26

Camp Rising Sun Camp Week
Camp Jewell, Colebrook, CT
Contact Tina@camprisingsun.com

Saturday, October 8

Team Camp Rising Sun
Runs the Hartford Marathon
Bushnell Park, Hartford, CT
Contact scapozza@hotmail.com

If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser to benefit Camp Rising Sun, please contact Shaun at shaun@camprisingsun.com

Camp Registration is Now Open! Register Online Via Our Website!

It is our mission at Camp Rising Sun to provide a safe nurturing environment to kids who have faced the diagnosis of cancer; so that they may grow and learn from their experiences to become the best they can be.

*Camp Rising Sun Charitable Foundation
P.O. Box 472
Branford, CT 06405*

www.camprisingsun.com

Camp Rising Sun Runs, Volunteers at 2015 Hartford Marathon

On Saturday October 10th, Camp Rising Sun was represented as an official charity for the sixth year at the Eversource Hartford Marathon. Campers, counselors, family and friends gathered bright and early at Bushnell Park in Hartford to run, cheer, volunteer, and participate in a fun-filled and energetic morning. The enthusiasm and spirit of the 15 runners – campers, volunteers, and supporters of camp – could be felt as the team walked up to the start of the race to begin the 5K and half marathon races.



This year, like all the years before, each runner played an important part in fundraising to help support camp and its campers. By the start of the race, CRS runners had worked hard to raise a total of \$14,784 in donations for camp. In an incredible effort, our own camper Thad Allen raised an enormous total of \$4,050 to contribute to the team total (and managed to beat, once again, Jason Atkins in their annual 5K competition). His efforts, along with the entire team of runners was much appreciated and provided the perfect incentive to want to run and represent the Camp Rising Sun family.

In addition to the CRS runners, over 30 volunteers – recruited and supervised by counselor Dan Root – agreed to offer their time to help during the Kid's K Fun



Run, as well as cheer on all of the runners during the other races. The volunteers, along with encouragement from our event team leader Scott Capozza, really helped motivate and push our runners along during the races. Overall, the participation from everyone who represented camp – through running, volunteering, and donating – created another successful, enjoyable and exciting race day for everyone.

Keeping Up With Our Campers: The Latest From Our CRS Family

- Camper **Alex** received awesome news – a December MRI came back clear, meaning he's officially cancer free! He also enjoyed a Make-A-Wish trip to Florida, staying in a Nickelodeon resort and spending time at Disney and Legoland parks. He's incredibly excited for Mini-Camp Weekend – he hasn't stopped talking about camp since it ended in August!

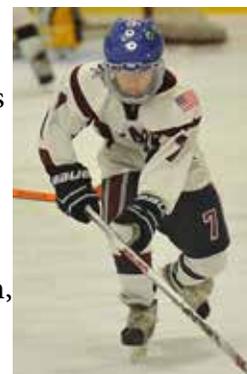
- Despite a cold, camper **Jenna** enjoyed her 10th annual holiday trip to NYC with her mother and grandmother. One highlight was a visit to the American Girl store to pick up the Doll of the Year! She, too, is counting down the days to Mini-Camp Weekend.

- Camper **Nick** celebrated his two-year end-of-chemo anniversary with his favorite treat – canoli cake! Nick's sister, camper **Aiyana**, will be celebrating her 12-year end-of-treatment anniversary in February. Congrats to both of our campers!

- Camper **Lucy** also celebrated two years in remission in September. And what better way to celebrate than with a Make-A-Wish trip to Disney!



- Camper **Joey** was able to return to his favorite sport, hockey, in September, and has scored 10 goals so far this season! He's also excited to get back to playing lacrosse this spring after missing last season while in treatment. He'll be suiting up for the Lax For Wishes program, which has raised over \$300,000 for Make-A-Wish CT. Awesome!



- Camper **Aisalynn** recently celebrated her 15th birthday and has been quite busy with dance classes – both as a student and an instructor. She's still managed to maintain high honors in high school and aspires to do something amazing in the field of oncology.

- Camper **Charlotte-Marie** has been busy since Camp Week, too. She recently started ballet class with her best friend, took a trip to Disney World, and welcomed her new puppy Iana to the family!



Camp Rising Sun

Spotlight

on Counselor Melissa Pandolfi

We all wish Camp could last all year, but our campers have school and our counselors, unfortunately, have jobs. For one of our Cabin 1 counselors though, work just got much more exciting. CRS is pleased to announce that Melissa Pandolfi will now be working year-round in a new Camp Outreach role! Melissa is a Ewing's sarcoma survivor who spent two years as a camper starting at age 16. She was instantly hooked on CRS and knew she wanted to come back as a counselor. This August will be her 14th year in that role!

Melissa has the ability to connect with campers of all sorts. She spends the days at Camp with the rambunctious 5-9 year old boys before returning to the 13-14 year old girls' cabin to paint nails at night. Fun



always seems to follow her. Campers and counselors alike look up to her as a role model. She is truly a perfect representation of Camp.

Starting in March, Melissa will be spending time every week on pediatric cancer floors in area hospitals. She'll be catching up with current campers as well as spreading word to other kids about how fun camp is, and the lifelong friendships made there. She'll also be representing

Camp at the many fundraising events that local schools and businesses conduct throughout the year. Without these grassroots fundraising events, Camp Week would not be possible. Melissa is excited to convey our gratitude to the hundreds of people who fundraise for CRS.

Thanks to a very generous donation by Bob Kaufman and Joann Chapel, Melissa will be riding in style in the new Camp Outreach van. Thank you Bob and Joann! And be sure to keep an eye out for Melissa!



Staff Training 2016: Preparing for the Camp Year Ahead

Our counselors, directors, and medical staff have been hard at work to make sure that 2016 is another great year for camp! Our annual staff training was held on January 9 in Newport, RI. Cabin 7 Head Counselor Felipe planned a busy day, full of fun and information, to get us all ready for Mini-Camp Weekend and Camp Week! We had some great presentations from some of our counselors and medical staff, and even tested out a couple of arts

and crafts activities for our campers. And in the afternoon, we had a scavenger hunt to reveal this year's Camp Week Theme – The Circus! We couldn't be more excited about the year ahead, and we hope our whole camp family agrees!



Want to stay up to date with the latest CRS happenings?
Head on over to our website: www.camprisingsun.com
Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/camprisingsun
Follow us on Twitter: [@camprisingsun](https://twitter.com/camprisingsun)





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