



Camp Rising Sun Newsletter • November 2017

## CRS 2017: Around the World in Six Days!

Another memorable camp week has gone down in the record books as this past summer campers were taken on a virtual trip around the globe with this year's Around the World theme for Camp Rising Sun's 34th annual camp week.

The staff did a great job transforming Colebrook's YMCA campground into a world map, taking campers to countries such as Australia, Italy, Egypt, France, Iceland, Mexico, Jamaica, Ireland, and of course, the good ol' U.S. of A!

The week kicked off with an opening ceremony where we introduced and raised our new Camp Rising Sun flag. Our 130 campers enjoyed a week of

waterslides, boating, swimming, fishing, ziplining, inflatables, sports, horseback riding, arts and crafts, laser tag, spa massages, movies, rock climbing, mountain boarding, archery, robotics, pizza making, cookie decorating, curious creatures, rocket building, face painting, hiking, and more!

We also enjoyed some special attractions such as a magic/comedy show, inflatables, a barbecue and concert on the beach complete with a fireworks show and a Hawaiian dance with song and dance routines from the Disney movie, Moana. Campers also took the stage to share some of their talents during the Camp Talent Show. We even had a chance to view the solar eclipse that took place early in the week.

The week capped off with campers and staff returning to our Camp flag for closing ceremonies, where we set down rocks that we painted around the flagpole as we closed the chapter to another year. Campers' families later joined us to view a video slideshow to see just how much fun we had during camp week.

The joy and memories that



*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.*



come out of this one week each year are impossible without the help and generosity of our many friends and supporters who come through for Camp Rising Sun each year. We would like to offer our deepest gratitude to all of the individuals and organizations who donated their time, efforts and funding to Camp. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

If you would like to become a sponsor or volunteer your business for a camp activity, please contact Melissa Pandolfi at [melissa@camprisingsun.com](mailto:melissa@camprisingsun.com).

Planning has already started for next year and our theme will be... SUPERHEROES! The CRS staff will regroup in January for staff training as we prepare for this extraordinary week that promises to be fun for children of all ages.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Mini-Camp in March!

*Camp Rising Sun Charitable Foundation*

P.O. Box 472  
Branford, CT 06405

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## Save The Date – CRS Gala!

To celebrate our 35th anniversary, Camp Rising Sun will be hosting a gala on March 3, 2018. The event will take place at Amarante's Sea Cliff in New Haven, and is sure to be a great time. If you're interested in sponsoring this great event, please contact Melissa at melissa@camprisingsun.com.



## Sibling Camp Continues to Shine

Circle the Sun Sibling Camp's second summer was even better than the first! All 51 kids came ready to enjoy the week-long FIESTA! Dressed in our finest sombreros, we started the fun immediately!

Our first night was kicked off with our favorite game show hosted by Hollyrock Entertainment. This year, the boys took the win with the most points! The next day began our long list of activities for the week. We did rock climbing, kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming, tie dye, candle making, arts and crafts, outdoor cooking, sports, GAGA ball, the big swing, archery,

and SO much more!

We also enjoyed some special activities throughout the week. A highlight of the week was when Wicked Z Dance & Fitness sent us two of their best instructors to teach us Zumba! We learned new moves to some of our favorite songs.

We also got to watch the movie Sing outside! We dragged our mattresses out to

the field and got to enjoy a movie with snacks and hot chocolate under the Colebrook stars. Another night we got to hike up Sunrise Mountain where we got the best view of the fireworks! Our final night, we got a surprise dinner...CHIPOTLE, which was followed by an EPIC fiesta. We danced, dressed up in fiesta ponchos, played the maracas, and had the time of our lives!

We were so sad to leave on our last day. Our amazing counselors showed our parents one of the many funny songs we learned that week and then we busted open a ton of piñatas.

This summer was so amazing and couldn't have happened without the help of Camp Rising Sun and Circle of Care. We also can't thank our counselors and volunteers enough. We loved them so much and they taught us so many awesome things. We can't wait to see what next summer will bring!



## Hospital Outreach Spotlight

Meet Lynn! After attending our Annual Night Out in 2016, she knew she wanted to help in some way. Lynn contacted Melissa, our Outreach Coordinator, and set up a monthly pickup of goody bags for our patients at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island. Every month the goody bags have a theme. In October, Lynn dropped off 12 Halloween-themed buckets filled with a pumpkin, paint, a sun catcher and wind chime. Thank you Lynn for donating every month!



## Camp – Not Just In August

Days at the clinic or in the hospital can drag on for what seems like forever. Kids often need some sort of distraction to take their minds off medical happenings and to keep boredom at bay. That's when Melissa Pandolfi, our Community Outreach Ambassador, might show up in the CRS van armed with games and crafts to keep the kids occupied for a spell. Melissa makes regular visits to CCMC, Yale and Hasbro



Hospitals. Melissa says, "My time in the hospitals is fun for the children and rewarding for me. It often gives the parents a little break. Plus, I love telling families about camp."

Donations for our outreach program are gladly accepted. Gift cards to Michaels or JoAnn's, sharpies, stickers, small art canvases and card games like Uno are on Melissa's wish list. Drop Melissa a line at melissa@camprisingsun.com.

## Out And About With Camp Rising Sun!



Camp Rising Sun staff members and friends participated in the annual New Haven Bed Race. The team finished in 3rd place, and had a lot of fun!



Counselors Jen and Jason were among the many CRS family and friends who ran races or volunteered (or both!) at the 2017 Hartford Marathon.



CRS staffers, Crafty Patty and Cindy take part in a role-playing exercise at staff training over the summer. Every year, all volunteers attend trainings and take online courses to prepare for Camp Week.



Camper Zach won a contest to design the official Camp Rising Sun sock! These socks make great gifts, and part of every purchase is donated back to CRS. To order: <http://www.camprisingsun.com/crs-socks>

We love our campers, families, and fans – connect with us online!

Head on over to [www.camprisingsun.com](http://www.camprisingsun.com) today!

Visit us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/camprisingsun](http://www.facebook.com/camprisingsun)

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

- Catherine has been busy this fall playing on her high school's field hockey team. Recently, her team dedicated a game to childhood cancer awareness, and Catherine spoke about her cancer and Camp Rising Sun experiences before the game.



The team raised over \$3,000 for Lace Up 4 Pediatric Cancer! Nice work!



Awareness Month. An excerpt: "September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and you can go to the store and buy wait, oh wait, nothing! But you can buy pink for breast cancer anywhere you go. Kids don't get the attention we need unless we scream like we are here today." You tell 'em, Matty!

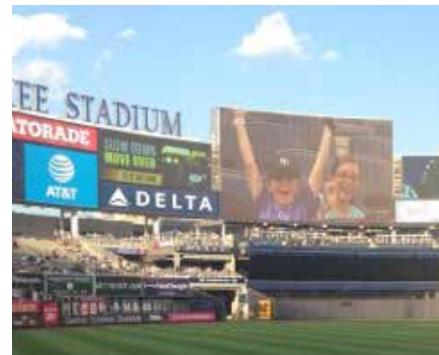
- Jenna suffers from a rare blood disorder called Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura, or



ITP for short. To recognize ITP Awareness Day, Jenna asked friends and family to wear purple and to donate a dollar to Camp Rising Sun. Jenna must have had a lot of friends wearing purple that day, because she raised over \$900 for CRS! Way to go, Jenna!



- Looking good! Luke, Ali, and Chris are all dressed up for the E.O. Smith High School Homecoming dance! Good friends at camp, they couldn't wait until Mini-Camp Weekend in March to see each other again!
- Alex is enjoying fifth grade and is excited to be two years cancer-free. Lately, he's been golfing



and enjoying Yankees baseball and Patriots football games. In fact, check out the photo – yup, that's Alex and his sister on the Jumbotron at Yankee Stadium! That's so cool!

- Mimi has been busy scoring goals with her twin sister while also



achieving high honors in 7th grade. She recently ate her way through the Big E and is a regular visitor of the giraffes at the Franklin Park Zoo. She can't wait to see her camp friends at Mini-Camp Weekend in March!

- May River High School is putting on its first-ever theatrical production, *Almost, Maine*, and guess

who's the stage manager? Why, our very own Mia, of course! If you're in the area, be sure to check out the performance.

- And last but not least, a very special shout-out to Marik! He recently took a trip to Louisiana to visit family,



enjoy some Cajun food, and watch some football. He also spent a whirlwind week in California seeing the sites – and chowing on an In-n-Out burger or two! CRS loves #TeamMarik!

## Jay Mirecki's Amazing Ride

Today, Jay Mirecki is a 19-year-old sophomore at Tufts University. 10 years ago, though, he was a new camper at Camp Rising Sun. After 9 years as a camper, Jay "felt a responsibility to give back to an organization that had given so much to me."

When Jay, an avid biker, discovered that Camp was 160 kilometers from his house, and idea was born. To honor 16 years since his diagnosis, Jay would bike the 160 kilometers to camp, while trying to raise a whopping \$16,000.

With his dad and two friends riding along, Jay set out for camp the morning of Sunday, August 20. Many hours later, Jay arrived at camp to a hero's welcome. "When we crested the hill to head down to the water and I saw all the campers, I was just shocked."

After many high fives, hugs, and chats with his former fellow campers and counselors, Jay presented Camp Rising Sun with a check for over \$26,000.



*Forever In Our Hearts*



**Nick Tiseo**

## Camp Rising Sun Calendar of Events

Friday, November 17

### **Knights of Columbus Beer Tasting**

Columbus Lodge, Hamden, CT

Saturday, November 18

### **Paradise Alley Professional Wrestling**

Joseph Melillo Middle School  
East Haven, CT

Mid-December

### **Camper and Staff Applications Open!**

<http://www.camprisingsun.com>

Saturday, March 3, 2018

### **Camp Rising Sun 35th Anniversary Gala**

Amarante's Sea Cliff, New Haven, CT

March 24-25, 2018

### **Mini-Camp Weekend**

**Camp Jewell, Colebrook, CT**  
Contact [Tina@camprisingsun.com](mailto:Tina@camprisingsun.com)

August 19-24, 2018

### **Camp Rising Sun Camp Week**

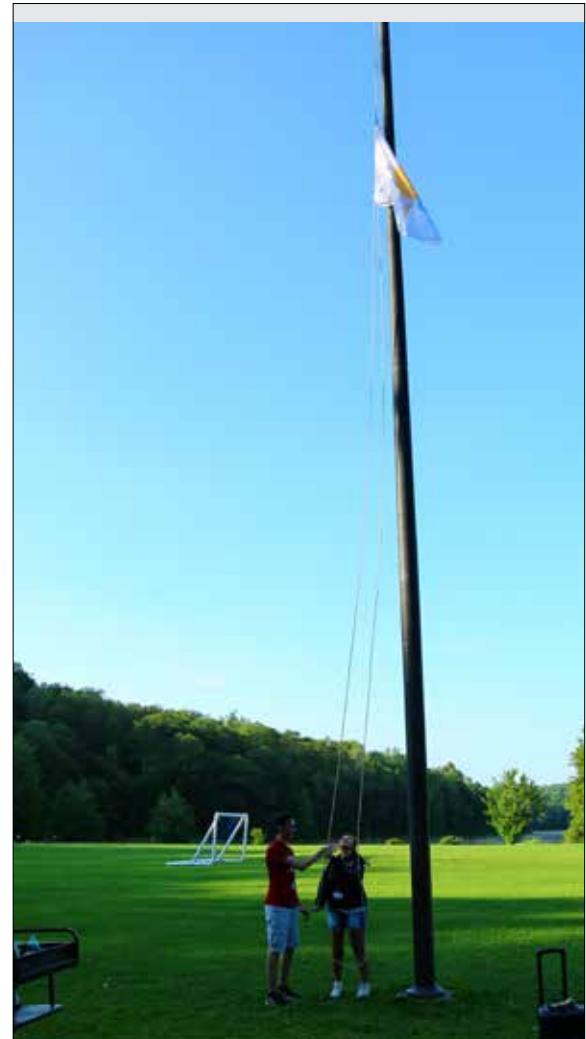
**Camp Jewell, Colebrook, CT**

Contact [Tina@camprisingsun.com](mailto:Tina@camprisingsun.com)

**For more information on any of these events, please visit our website or Facebook page. If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser to benefit Camp Rising Sun, please contact Shaun at [shaun@camprisingsun.com](mailto:shaun@camprisingsun.com)**



When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Camp Rising Sun Charitable Foundation Inc. Support us every time you shop.







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### **Return Service Requested**

## **Luke Loses Locks, Lands Lots of Loot**

“After 9 years of going to Camp Rising Sun, I felt it was my turn to give back. I also wanted to pull my community in.” And with that, the idea for “Lose Your Locks With Luke” was born.

Teaming up with friends and staff at Old Saybrook High School, Luke Duffy accomplished both of those goals, and then some. The head-shave event attracted over 100 attendees – including many CRS campers and counselors – and

raised over \$7,200! Luke had his locks shaved off, as did fellow campers, Andrew and Cameron. Counselor Mike Donahue also went bald for the cause.

The event included a dunk tank, games, food, music, and more. Luke also took the opportunity to speak about Camp Rising Sun and what it has meant to him over the years.



In addition to the head-shave event itself, Luke arranged to have a portion of breakfast sales at the Parthenon Diner donated to the cause.

As Luke says, “Camp Rising Sun is a special place and a true home away from home. The friends I make at Camp are friends forever.”

It’s a safe bet that the rest of the Camp Rising Sun family would agree!

