

Camp Oasis is Life-Changing for Campers & Volunteers!

For over 20 years we've known that Camp Oasis is a supportive environment where children living with IBD make friends, learn more about their disease, and have lots of fun. Now, an 8-year study proves that the impact of Camp Oasis is measurable and lasting. A recent article published in the [Crohn's Colitis 360 online journal](#) sheds light on these findings.

Study highlights:

- Kids and their families overwhelmingly report that camp had a positive impact on campers' well-being.
- Campers showed measurable growth in confidence, independence, and learning new skills.
- Campers learned about managing their IBD and gained more understanding about their disease, including the importance of taking their medication as directed.
- Campers experienced a sense of belonging.
- Campers speak more openly about their disease and feel hopeful about their future living with IBD.
- The most favorable outcomes were seen in first-time attendees.

Our 2023 post-camp evaluations from campers and caregivers reaffirm these findings:

- Campers who reported feeling alone in their disease decreased from 33% to 17% after attending Camp Oasis.
- 98% of campers shared that camp was a place they felt supported and a sense of belonging.
- When asked, 92% of campers can remember the names of their current IBD medications and what they are used for compared to 83% before camp.
- Nearly every camper reported making at least one new friend and most stayed in touch after camp.
- Campers feel hopeful about their futures living with IBD after attending Camp Oasis.
- The most life-changing benefits were experienced by first-time campers. Almost 2/3 of new campers had never met another young person with IBD.

Here is what parents say about Camp Oasis:

"The camp is such an amazing place for children, especially when they're struggling. It provides a sense of belonging and togetherness."

"Camp Oasis has provided a safe and informative place, where my child can just be himself. I have seen my child open up more and be more confident. He has made great friends and a whole other family that supports him."

For volunteers, the impact is just as strong. Adult IBD patients and medical professionals who volunteer at camp feel more connected to the IBD community and gain social-emotional benefits. 8 years of volunteer surveys indicate that:

- 94% learned more about their IBD at Camp Oasis.
- 98% met someone they will stay in touch with outside of camp.
- 99% felt inspired.

Follow the inspiring story of the 2024 Camp Oasis season on Instagram ([camp_oasis_ibd](#)) or on Facebook ([@CampOasis](#)).