

Programmatic Philosophy

Philosophy

Every child deserves to feel **safe, respected, and loved**, regardless of their medical condition, ability, or background. SeriousFun Partner Programs create camp environments built on this foundation while using the mediums of play and experiential learning to deliver the highest quality camp activities. This is the serious business behind all the fun.

All activities at camp encourage a '**challenge by choice**' approach which allows campers to make decisions and take control over how they participate in our programs. Campers are challenged to try new things and step out of their comfort zones; however, they are never pressured to do anything they choose not to do.

Our approach to **inclusive** and **adaptive** program design ensures that every child is presented with an attainable challenge aimed at increasing their self-belief that they are able to achieve goals they may have thought were out of their reach. No child is ever left out of an activity, and instead we create inclusive experiences that are adapted based on the unique ability of each child so that they can participate in a meaningful way.

We find value in creating a **non-competitive** environment to ensure each person leaves the programs feeling more empowered. We understand that success and winning is individual, and all **successes are celebrated equally** at camp.

Programmatic Goals

Goals

SeriousFun camps and programs strive to achieve the following health and psychosocial outcomes:

Hope	Instill a sense of optimism that life is full of possibilities that are within reach
Resilience	Strengthen the ability to 'bend, but not break' or even grow in the face of adversity
Choice & Control	Provide opportunities to give a child their sense of choice and control back at a time when so many other decisions in their lives are made for them
Positive Relationships	Foster pro-social behaviors and meaningful human connection
Confidence	Increase confidence and a self-belief in the skills, talents, and activities that one is good at
Health & Well Being	Create more optimistic attitudes and behaviors that strengthen a child's ability to manage their medical condition into adulthood

Sample Activities

Arts & Crafts

Our Arts & Crafts program incorporates age-appropriate, creatively driven projects that encourage campers to express themselves in their own unique way. At camp, anyone can let their inner artist shine no matter if they are painting spirit stones that line the walkways at camp, beading friendship bracelets, or fashioning designer clothes from newspapers. This activity creates a space for children to discover their artistic talents through individualized and group projects.

Discovery

The Discovery program allows campers to explore nature, science, and interact with the environment around them. Activities may include identifying insects, bird or plant species through exciting scavenger hunts, participating in science experiments, baking with a solar oven, making jewels with natural materials, and exploring the outdoors. Discovery gives campers the opportunity to have a hands-on experience with nature and creates endless possibilities as campers tap into their curiosity of the world and environment.

Creative Arts

Creative Arts is an area where campers can express themselves through the mediums of theater, dance, and music. Here, campers participate in activities including improvisational games, skits, songs, dance routines, creating commercials and music videos, drumming, puppetry, and making musical instruments from recyclable materials. This program allows campers to step into the spotlight, nourish their confidence, learn the importance of teamwork, and use their imaginations!

Teambuilding

The Teambuilding activity offers mental, physical, and emotional challenges that inspire teamwork and individual commitment. All activities are universally accessible so that every camper can participate while offering team initiatives in a series of activities designed to bring out teamwork, problem-solving, and communication. Campers gain new skills by trying new things-whether they are learning how crack the code of our maze challenge or deciphering a secret message through a matrix of communication

Life Skills

The goal of the Life Skills activity is to develop campers' confidence, self-efficacy and to learn skills and attitudes that help them take responsibility for their own health. Through interactive and carefully planned activities campers are presented with knowledge and skills on a variety of topics including: nutrition, hygiene, HIV education, medication adherence, sexual health, and leadership skills. Life Skills creates a safe and fun space for children to discuss health related while also fostering a sense of community and togetherness.

All Camp Activities

Our all-camp activities are filled with creativity, energy, expression, and they help create connections and memories between campers of every different age range. These all-camp events can range from campfires, carnivals, stage-nights, awards-night and mealtime entertainment. One of the highlights of the mealtime program is the Super Camper Award where our staff have the opportunity to praise and recognize children for their unique strengths and successes in a public forum. Overall, our all-camp activities help to magnify the excitement and creativity involved with the camp experience.

Small Group Activities

Cabin Chat

We recognize the value in allowing children to express themselves, and at the end of each day we set aside time to ensure children have the opportunity to do just that. Cabin chat is a quiet time at the end of the day where each group sits in a circle with a candle lit in the middle, and they are asked one question by their Group Leader. Campers are given the choice to participate by listening or participate by answering the question. Questions can range from funny and imaginative, to serious and inspirational.

Sample questions:

- If you could fill a swimming pool with anything other than water, what would you fill it with?
- If you won the ultimate ticket that could be used for anything you want (concert ticket, sports event ticket, airline ticket, etc.) what would you use it for?
- Who or what inspires you most?