

# Why we started Heart Camp

**Heart Camp provides an opportunity** for children and adolescents with heart disease to feel less isolated by introducing them to other children like themselves. Heart disease affects approximately 1 percent of children born in the United States and Heart Camp enables patients of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC to informally interact with others who face the same challenges in the beautiful surroundings of Camp Kon-O-Kwee.



## Dr. Bill Neches Heart Camp for Kids



**will be held June 14–18, 2011.**  
Registration deadline is May 2, 2011.  
Contact 412-692-6054 for more details.

### **IMPORTANT:**

Drop off and pick up is **ONLY** at Camp Kon-O-Kwee  
Drop off: Tuesday, June 14, 2–4 p.m.  
Pick-up: Saturday, June 18 at 10 a.m.

### **Information and Cost**

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, a **\$25 non-refundable registration fee is the only cost requested of each camper.** If you have any questions about Heart Camp 2011, please call Heart Camp Director, Keith McIntyre, at 412-821-1906.

**If your child is not a patient of Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and would like to attend Heart Camp, you will be charged \$250 to cover your child's expenses.** Also, children who are not patients of Children's are required to have their medical records reviewed by the medical staff of Children's Heart Center. Approval to attend camp will come following this review and a consultation with both your child's cardiologist and a cardiologist from Children's.

Space is limited and patients of Children's Hospital will receive first preference.

**Your child/children MUST be registered by May 2, 2011.**

Each year, more than 150 children ages 8 to 15 with heart conditions attend Heart Camp. Previous campers who are 16 and 17 years old may attend as Junior Counselors. **Campers are encouraged to make new friends, share their experiences** and participate in sports and other camp activities to the best of their abilities, without fear of being judged by others.

Campers also have role models in their Heart Camp counselors (18 years and older) and junior counselors (16 and 17 years old). **All of the counselors and junior counselors have heart conditions and were campers themselves at one time.** They can speak from their past hospitalizations, tests, surgeries and illnesses; and are proof that children with heart disease can become normal functioning adults.

Heart Camp is test-and pain-free. As such, **it provides an opportunity for the children to interact with their doctors and nurses in a non-medical setting.** In this environment, campers learn to view the medical staff as friends, while the medical staff learns more about each child's personality and limitations.

**For more information, visit: [www.chp.edu/CHP/heart+camp](http://www.chp.edu/CHP/heart+camp)**

Photos by: John Beale, Scott Goldsmith, Steve Manuel