



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

LET'S GROW CAMP

Camp Hope Partnership

In 2017, YMCA Camp Weaver and the Family Justice Center launched Camp Hope, a national evidenced-based camping and mentoring program for children impacted by violence and abuse. Camp HOPE's vision is to break the generational outcomes of domestic violence through team building, values-based programming, and high adventure, challenge-by-choice activities.

Approximately 50 youth participate in the six-day, five-night sleepover camp. The Family Justice Center and Camp Weaver plan to significantly grow the attendance in the future. The campers are nominated by many community partners including, social workers, law enforcement, and therapists. This program has proven results and longitudinal studies have shown good outcomes for the children who attend the camp. It really can change the trajectory of their lives.

The camp's program focuses on three key elements: 1) Challenge by Choice activities; 2) Affirmation and Praise for developing observed character traits; and 3) Themed, small group discussion and activities focused on helping children set goals and then pursue those goals. Challenge by Choice refers to challenging children to set daily achievement goals by pursuing activities with perceived danger or risk (e.g., canoeing, zip line) while allowing them to opt out of the activities if the challenge creates unmanageable stress or fear.

Trained camp staff members and volunteers prove a 1:3 ratio of counselors to campers. Camp counselors have a tremendous impact on our camper's experiences, and the experience can be life-changing for both the camper and counselor. Camp HOPE counselors will serve as champions for youth attendees and will aid immensely in the goal to end the cycle of violence and change the destinies of youth exposed to trauma.

After the successes of the first year, the plan is to expand this program to serve more children in need. The camp adheres to the requirements of Camp HOPE America, which is an affiliate program of the National Family Justice Center Alliance. Guilford County was one of two FJC locations in the southeastern region of the United States selected to host Camp HOPE because of GCFJC's partnership and emphasis on implementing strategies to reduce violence and abuse in the community.

By creating the Cabin Village we can take the Camp Hope Program statewide and also serve eastern Tennessee, Southern Virginia and Northern South Carolina. We will also have the ability to offer multiple sessions that align better with summer calendars in different communities. Due to bed capacity we are currently restricted to one session at the end of the summer. With this expansion, Camp Weaver will be serving over 250 Camp Hope children per summer and work with many family justice centers and the families they represent.



YMCA CAMP WEAVER
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