What is Camp Courage/Camp Erin - St. Louis?

Camp Courage and Camp Erin - St. Louis are overnight camps serving children and teens who are grieving the death of someone significant. Camp Courage is a 5 day, 4 night camp for children ages 6-11, while Camp Erin - St. Louis is a 5 day, 4 night camp for teens ages 12-18. Both camps provide safe, comfortable, fun experiences where grieving kids and teens meet peers who understand them.

What is offered at Camp Courage/Camp Erin - St. Louis?

At Camp Courage/Camp Erin - St. Louis, there are times for free play, group fun, and quiet reflection. Some of the activities available at camp include:

- Fishing
- Hiking
- Archery
- Canoeing
- BB Gun Shooting
- Arts & Crafts
- Dream Catchers
- Trouble Dolls
- Worry Rockets
- Painting
- Drawing
- Spin Art
- Volcano Building
- Friendship Bracelets
- Bead Work
- Pottery
- Clay work
- Brick Painting
- Singing
- Dance
- Tie Dying
- Wacky Olympics
- Camp Fires
- Exercise Course
- Storytelling
- Pillow Fights
- Kickball
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Baseball
- Croquet
- Soccer
- Candle lighting ceremony
- Paddleboats
- Water Play
- No-Talent Contest
- Scavenger Hunt
- Challenge Course
- Parachute Games
- Alpine Climbing Tower
- Nature
- Family Picnic
- Guest Entertainment (magician, owl caller, astronomer, karate demonstration with audience board breaking, musician, etc.)

When is Camp Courage/Camp Erin - St. Louis?

Camp Courage and Camp Erin - St. Louis are usually held in early June.

Where is Camp Courage/Camp Erin - St. Louis held?

Camp Courage/Camp Erin - St. Louis will be held at Camp Wartburg in Waterloo, IL.

How will campers get there?

The campers are transported to and from camp by buses leased by Annie’s Hope. The campers will meet at Annie’s Hope, check-in, and load their belongings onto the bus. The Campers will return to Annie’s Hope after camp to be picked up by family or they will ride home with a family member who attends the family BBQ.

What are the sleeping arrangements at Camp Courage/Camp Erin - St. Louis?

The campers and counselors sleep in bunk beds in an air conditioned “cabin.” Each cabin holds 9-16 persons. The campers are divided into cabins by age and sex. The bathrooms and showers are in each cabin.
What is the ratio of campers to cabin counselors?

For every three to four campers, there is one cabin counselor. All counselors must be at least 18 years of age or older. There are also four to six “helping hands” staff who help in arts and crafts, sporting events, hiking, fishing, archery, etc.

What is the role of the cabin counselor?

Her/His most important role is to ensure the campers are safe - physically and emotionally. They are responsible for making sure each camper has the opportunity to try new things, master familiar skills, and share their grief.

What is the cost to attend Camp Courage/Camp Erin - St. Louis?

There is no fee to attend Camp Courage or Camp Erin – St. Louis, yet we need financial support to make the camps happen. The full value of attending Camp Courage or Camp Erin - St. Louis per camper is $600. We would appreciate a donation from every family with an accepted camper. We are grateful for any amount - $5, $50 or $600. Your donation amount is strictly confidential. The donation can be raised from family, friends, co-workers, etc. or it can be from personal family funds. Please do not hesitate to apply even if you cannot make a donation. No child or teen is turned away simply because he or she is unable to make a donation. All donations will pay for Camp Courage/Camp Erin – St. Louis expenses. The amount of financial support decides how many campers may attend Camp Courage/Camp Erin- St. Louis.

Can I come to camp and visit?

The last day of camp, families will be invited to attend a picnic, an award presentation, and a closing ceremony.

Will there be any medical staff on the campgrounds?

Yes. There will be a nurse at Camp Courage/Camp Erin - St. Louis at all times. First aid care is usually all that is needed. In the case of an emergency, the camper and nurse will be transported to an area hospital. Campers on scheduled medications are more than welcome to attend. The nurse will hold all medications and dispense them as instructed by the parent/guardian.

If there is an emergency at home, can a camper be reached?

Yes. You will be given a number of ways to contact the staff of Camp Courage/Camp Erin - St. Louis. Depending on the emergency, a plan will be decided on how to share the information with the camper.

How can a child or teen apply?

Visit the homepage of www.annieshope.org and complete the application forms or call Annie’s Hope and ask for a camper application to be sent to you. A Pre-Camp Party is held before the start of camp to have fun, share information, and allow kids to meet each other, staff and cabin counselors. Information such as emergency numbers, medical insurance information, recent picture, and t-shirt size will be needed. Space is limited. Campers are accepted on a first come, first serve basis, yet consideration is given first to applicants who have never attended camp before.

Annie’s Hope and The Moyer Foundation

Annie’s Hope was chosen to collaborate with The Moyer Foundation and the St. Louis Cardinals to start Camp Erin - St. Louis in 2009. The Moyer Foundation was established by Jamie Moyer, the 2009 World Series Champion pitcher of the Philadelphia Phillies, and his wife Karen in memory of Erin Metcalf. The Moyer Foundation coordinates Camp Erin camps in every Major League Baseball city. For more information on The Moyer Foundation, visit their website www.moyerfoundation.org.

For further information or questions, comments, or concerns, please call Annie’s Hope at 314-965-5015 (Office), 314-918-1438 (Fax), kidsgriefmatters@annieshope.org (E-Mail), www.annieshope.org

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