



Camp Mak-A-Dream
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Frequently Asked Questions About HUC (Heads Up Conference)

What is HUC?

The Heads Up Conference (HUC) is a unique program designed for young adult survivors of brain tumors. HUC offers an opportunity for these young people to meet, learn, share and have fun.

Who attends HUC?

Participants come from all over the United States and Canada. The number of participants per session is generally 40-50. About 40% of the participants have previously attended Camp.

What kind of medical support exists at Camp?

Our modern Health Center is staffed with volunteer nurses and doctors during Camp. They review medical information about each camper so that they are able to provide the best possible care. Our medical staff is able to provide advanced treatment at any time. The role of the medical staff is non-intrusive to the daily activities at Camp.

Can I come even if I am in the midst of treatment?

Our medical team is able to administer advanced treatment such as oral chemo therapy, IV antibiotics, blood transfusions, platelets, and blood tests.

What are the facilities like at Gold Creek Lodge, home of Camp Mak-A-Dream?

Gold Creek Lodge is located in a small ranching community 65 miles east of Missoula. Although the Lodge is nestled at the foot of the Flint Mountains amongst incredible Montana scenery it is not a rustic camp. Facilities include modern cabins, an art studio, health center and main lodge as well as, a swimming pool, hot tub, ropes course and climbing wall.

Where will I sleep?

Participants stay in one of 4 large cabins (2 male & 2 female). Each cabin sleeps up to 20 people comfortably. There is also a common area with a fireplace and kitchenette and two handicapped-accessible bathrooms with showers. A Concierge (host/hostess) stays in a private room in the cabin to assist the group throughout their stay.

What do we eat?

Everyone at Camp eats together in the main lodge for each meal. Large round tables create an atmosphere of community. Food is abundant and nutritious and is served buffet style. A variety of snacks is also available in the cabins. For staff and participants who require vegetarian or other dietary alternatives, we ask you to let us know and will do our best to accommodate any special needs.

What activities are offered at Camp?

Camp offers many opportunities for outdoor recreation. Swimming, field sports, ropes course & climbing wall, hiking, fishing, horseback riding and archery are some of the activities offered. Campers also enjoy spending time in the art studio working on projects ranging from tie-dye to pottery and from weaving to jewelry making. During the evening we plan special events such as pool parties and dances designed to enhance community and friendship. We also hold *Cabin Chats*, which are special time set aside for participants to talk and share with one another. *Cabin Chat* is a great way to wind down from the day and reflect on the time shared, friendships formed and challenges faced.

Will I have an opportunity to see much of Montana, (off camp property)?

We usually spend at least one day participating in an off campus activity. We may mine for sapphires and attend a live theatre performance in historic Philipsburg or visit nearby Deer Lodge to tour a nineteenth century prison and ranch.

Do participants get a chance to talk about cancer?

During *Cabin Chat* participants have the opportunity, if they choose, to share in a safe and supportive environment, their feelings and thoughts about living with cancer. We also believe, however, that Camp Mak-A-Dream is a place for participants to get away from cancer for a short while and experience new friendships, opportunities and challenges.

How does HUC differ from the other camp sessions?

HUC is designed to meet the unique needs of brain tumor survivors. We offer a number of educational workshops in addition to numerous recreational opportunities. Workshops covering such topics as relationships, navigating the health care system, nutrition and exercise or career choice may be offered. The program is packed with opportunities to learn and have fun and although we encourage participants to take advantage of scheduled activities, attendance is not required. We also hold *Cabin* and *Fireside Chats*, time set aside for participants to talk and share with one another. Late night, participants are free to soak in the hot tub, work in the art studio, watch movies or play pool in the recreation room. Although activities vary at each conference, we always make sure to provide a varied program, giving participants plenty of options.

Who makes up the Camp Mak-A-Dream staff?

Our first priority at Camp Mak-A-Dream is the safety and well-being of each camper. A large number of qualified applicants apply each year to come to work at Camp Mak-A-Dream. This group is comprised of people from all walks of life; teachers, retirees, counselors, social workers, students, nurses, homemakers and doctors to name just a few. Qualified staff members and volunteers assist in every area of camp; from meal preparation, to running program activities. Staff is available 24 hours a day to offer encouragement and support. Their role is to provide a safe, comfortable setting, in which participants can make the most of their time at camp. All prospective staff members participate in an extensive application and interview process to ensure the safety and care of our participants.

How much does it cost to attend Camp Mak-A-Dream?

Once you arrive, Camp is completely cost free. You will, however, need to provide your own way to Missoula, Montana. United, Delta, Northwest, and Alaska airlines fly into Missoula. We suggest booking a ticket as soon as you are confirmed as travel to Montana can be expensive. We offer a limited number of scholarships to help cover the cost of travel. Travel scholarships are available to new participants only. Call the office to request a travel scholarship application. Travel scholarships are issued on a first come first served basis. We must receive the completed application at least 30 days prior to your travel date.

How do I apply?

Applications are available on our website: www.campdream.org or call our office at 406-549-5987 to have one sent to you. We encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible. The confirmation process begins in April for the summer sessions and November for the winter Young Adult Conference. Applications are processed in the order received, with consideration being given to the applicant's current stage of therapy and whether or not the participant has previously attended Camp. All applications are reviewed by our selection committee to determine the applicant's eligibility. Applicants who have attended Camp Mak-A-Dream three or more times will be put on a waiting list. Anyone selected from the waiting list will be notified at least 30 days prior to the camp session.

