

Through the Years

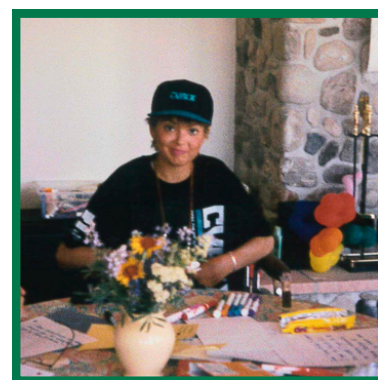
Greetings from Camp Māk-A-Dream!

This year, Camp celebrates its 30th Anniversary season. Since opening its doors in 1995 to the very first group of 46 campers from Michigan and Montana, Camp has been a place where people find belonging.

From the moment you cross the Bridge of Dreams, you can feel it. At Camp, you can fully be yourself. You find your people—the ones who understand your story without ever having to explain how cancer has impacted your life. Thirty years later, Camp continues to be that haven—a “home away from home” that has now welcomed over 10,000 campers. It remains a place to explore, try new things, build resilience, and form lasting friendships supported by a community of dedicated volunteers and staff.

This fall brought a full-circle moment as we welcomed back one of our very first campers, Sarah. Here's her story:

“When I first came to Camp back in 1995, I was almost 15 and had finished treatment only a few months before. A few things stick out in my memory from that first Camp. I had so much fun around the campfire: s'mores, ghost stories, and laughing until my sides hurt. It was really hard in pre-Internet days to meet others with similar experiences and find a sense of community.



Sarah, in Pintler cabin circa 1995.

To find a place where I could be a regular teenager and not 'that poor girl with cancer' was magical. The phenomenal nurses I had when I was first diagnosed, as well as my Camp experience, were both big reasons I chose to become an RN. I've now been an oncology nurse for almost 15 years, and I can't think of anything I'd rather be. I saw Camp mentioned in a newsletter last year and was astonished by the number of programs currently offered.

About a week after I applied, I thought, "I need to tell my mom about this!" We're both members of the two-time cancer survivor club. She has also a hard time meeting people she can relate to after her treatments. She has never had the opportunity to be a part of a community of people who understand. We had an amazing time.



Sarah and her mom in 2025.

1991: Harry & Sylvia Granader donate 87 acres of land that will eventually become Camp!



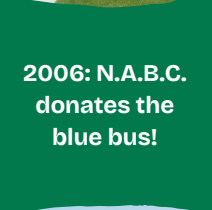
1995: Grand opening and first session of camp!



1998: Dedication of the Granader Memorial Gardens!



2003: Groundbreaking for the new Health Center!



2006: N.A.B.C. donates the blue bus!



2011: 10 Years of RATPOD, Camp's largest fundraiser!



2015: Construction is finished on the Wellness Center!



2025: Camp's 30th anniversary season!

It was wonderful to see her open up about her experiences, and meet women she just loved - it seemed like they'd been friends for years, even though they'd only met a few days before.

I would tell anyone thinking of coming to Camp that you are going to find a place like no other - a place where you belong, and can be free and open in a way you can't be in other places. The people in your daily life may not truly understand what you've been through, no matter how much they love you and how hard they try. At Camp, you will meet people who know—people who will become lifelong friends. It's a dream to be at Camp, surrounded by the beautiful scenery of Montana, and to be with people who know how you feel. It's just amazing."



As Sarah's story shows, Camp's magic endures long after campers return home. The beauty of this community extends far beyond the mountains of Montana. Camp's community is built not only by the campers, but also by over 3,000 volunteers who have given their time to make the magic of Camp possible, the 500+ summer staff who have served with dedication, and the thousands of RATPOD riders who, over 24 years, have raised more than \$7.1 million to keep Camp thriving. It's also built **by you—our generous supporters** whose gifts provide more than 45% of Camp's annual funding, keeping Camp a cost-free experience for all.

Thank you for being part of the last 30 years of belonging and dreams at Camp Māk-A-Dream. As we look ahead to the next 30 years, we invite you to continue this legacy of connection and hope.

Give today to help ensure Camp remains a place where everyone who crosses the Bridge of Dreams experiences the community and magic for years to come. Every dollar makes a difference.

In gratitude,

Jennifer Benton & Lauren Bender
Camp Directors

CAMP'S IMPACT

- **294** program weeks provided
- **10,091** campers served
- **50** U.S. states plus Canada, Mexico, Chile, Trinidad, Italy & Jordan represented
- **3,000+** volunteers giving over **225,000** hours of their time

THE POWER OF YOUR GIFT

Camp Māk-A-Dream gave me the opportunity to step away from all of my health issues to de-stress and get to know other cancer survivors who I can relate with and create lifelong friendships!

-Young Adult Conference Participant

It was one of the best weeks of my life. I made so many friends and had so many new experiences!

- Teen Camper

Camp Māk-A-Dream was a prescription I needed and didn't even know it. This was my first time attending the camp, so I was open to anything. Everything about the camp was awesome and I hope everyone who attends this camp gets the same healing as I did. Thank you to everyone who helps put this camp on.

- Women's Retreat Participant

I gave the week a 6 (out of 5) because this is the BEST WEEK EVER!

- Kids/Siblings Camper



Support Camp!