

The best thing about Camp M.A.S.H. is the people! The people I met while I was at Camp made it fun. I have so many wonderful memories of the friends I made there. For the first time in my life I got to be friends with other kids my age that had Arthritis too. My friends gave me a lot of support and great advice on how to deal with Arthritis.

I was able to do things at Camp that I thought I would never be able to do. I really enjoyed activities like rock climbing without being afraid or embarrassed, because everyone else had Arthritis too and they knew what it was like. I could take as much time as I needed on activities and there was always someone to help me when I got stuck.

Camp M.A.S.H. gave me the confidence in both my social and physical abilities. I learned how to support my friends with Arthritis when I was a camper. I also learned how to be a mentor to a new generation of kids with Arthritis when I came back to camp as an adult and volunteered as a counselor. I enjoy sharing my personal experience with campers in hopes that it will help them in some way.

Many of the skills I learned at Camp prepared me to eventually become a Childlife Specialist at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital. At the hospital I provide emotional, psychosocial and developmental care for children and their families in healthcare settings. I work in the Emergency Department and on the trauma team.

Gina Yocum~ 28 years old
Childlife Specialist, Cincinnati Children's Hospital