

# **Camp Erin® – LA**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS...**

❖ **Who is eligible to attend Camp Erin – LA?**

Any child or teen ages 6-17 who has experienced the human death of someone significant/close to them. The death must have occurred at least 3 months before, and within 3 years of the camp session date they wish to attend.

❖ **My teen is 18 years old. Can they still apply?**

As long as an 18 year-old will still be enrolled in (not graduated from) high school at the time they attend camp, they are eligible to apply for camp.

❖ **I am a school/mental health/social services professional. How do I refer a child/teen to Camp Erin – LA?**

The referral process is the same as the application process. The first step would be to review the Camper Eligibility Checklist and complete an application for the Prospective Camper. For more information, please see the answer to ***“What happens after I submit my child/teen’s application?”***

❖ **When can I apply to camp for my child/teen?**

Applications for the current camp season (both camp sessions) typically open in mid-February. Any time applications are not open/posted to our website, there is an Interest Form posted. If you complete the Interest Form, you will receive an email notification as soon as applications are open. The Interest Form can be accessed at <https://www.ourhouse-grief.org/camp-erin-la-oc/>

❖ **Where can I get an application?**

You can complete an application online at <https://www.ourhouse-grief.org/camp-erin-la-oc/> or contact Robin Takashima, Clinical Coordinator of Camp, at (424) 220-6635 or [Robin@ourhouse-grief.org](mailto:Robin@ourhouse-grief.org) for a hard copy of the application.

❖ **Can my child/teen attend both sessions of camp?**

No. Due to limited space at camp, campers can only attend one session per camp season/year. Campers may return for a second year, if their date of death still falls within the 3-year eligibility timeframe and Clinical Camp Staff assess they are still actively grieving.

❖ **I have a family with multiple children/teens for whom I want to apply. Can I submit one application for the entire family?**

No. A separate application must be completed for each child/teen. We do, however; attempt to interview all members of one family at the same time and keep siblings in the same camp session.

❖ **What happens after I submit my child/teen's application?**

Once you submit your application, it is processed by our Administrative Staff and then reviewed by clinical members of the Camp Staff. After review of the application is complete, a Clinical Camp Staff will contact the applicant family directly, to do a phone screening. If at the end of the phone screening a Prospective Camper is assessed as appropriate for an in-person Camper & Family Interview, the interview will be scheduled at that time. Campers will be notified of acceptance after completion of the in-person Camper & Family Interview.

❖ **How do I know if my child/teen has been accepted to Camp Erin - LA?**

A member of the Clinical Camp Staff will notify the Prospective Camper after completion of their in-person Camper & Family Interview, whether or not they are accepted to attend Camp Erin – LA. Upon acceptance, the Camper will receive a duffel bag, packing list, and further instructions regarding attending the camp weekend. Campers will also be expected to submit all consent forms, completed and signed by their Parent/Legal Guardian, at the time of acceptance.

❖ **How long before I can expect to be contacted about my child/teen's application?**

2-3 weeks. We strive to contact families sooner, however; the application processing/review period generally has a 2-3 week turnaround. Applications for the September session of camp will be processed after we finish processing applications for the June session of camp.

❖ **It has been 3 weeks since I submitted an application and I have not been contacted. What do I do?**

Please feel free to follow up on the status of your application with Robin Takashima, Clinical Coordinator of Camp, at (424) 220-6635 or [Robin@ourhouse-grief.org](mailto:Robin@ourhouse-grief.org).

❖ **What might lead to my child/teen not being accepted to Camp Erin – LA?**

The most common reasons a Prospective Camper would not be accepted are if they do not meet eligibility criteria; if we assess based on a Prospective Camper's individual needs that Camp Erin - LA is unable to provide the appropriate level of care; or if a Prospective Camper does not want to attend camp. We also have limited space available and sometimes must waitlist campers who have applied but are unable to be accepted due to capacity.

❖ **When do applications close?**

We will stop accepting applications after May 15, 2019 for the June session of camp and after August 14, 2019 for the September session of camp. In the event that there are Camper spots open on the closing date for applications, we will post notice of an application extension on our website. You can stay abreast of camp updates on our website at <https://www.ourhouse-grief.org/camp-erin-la-oc/>.

## **ABOUT CAMP...**

### ❖ **Why was Camp Erin created?**

Karen and Jamie Moyer (former Major League Baseball pitcher) met a young woman named Erin Metcalf through the Make-A Wish Foundation after she was diagnosed with cancer. When Erin died at age 17, the Moyers wished to honor her memory, and felt a grief camp was befitting. The first Camp Erin was established in 2002 by the Moyers and their organization, Eluna. Eluna partners with bereavement programs in local communities to help fund, develop and grow Camp Erin® nationwide. OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center is the Los Angeles partner who hosts Camp Erin – LA.

### ❖ **We don't live in Los Angeles. Can we still apply?**

While we welcome applicants from outside of the LA area, Camp Erin is a national network of bereavement camps, with 45+ locations. For information on the Camp Erin nearest to you, please visit <https://elunanetwork.org/camps-programs/camp-erin/>

### ❖ **When does Camp Erin – LA take place?**

We hold two weekend-long sessions of Camp Erin – LA every summer. Typically we hold one session in June and one session in August, although our camp dates vary from year to year and are subject to the availability of our partner campsite.

**Please note:** *Camp Erin – LA runs Friday through Sunday and requires attending Campers miss a partial or full day of school the Friday of camp.*

### ❖ **Where is Camp Erin – LA held?**

Due to the devastating Woolsey Fire, Camp Erin – LA will not be held at Camp Bloomfield in Malibu, CA as in years past. We are fortunate to have forged a new partnership with Camp Bob Waldorf in Glendale, CA to host Camp Erin – LA 2019.

### ❖ **How much does Camp Erin – LA cost?**

Camp Erin – LA is **free of charge** to any Camper who is accepted to attend.

### ❖ **Do you provide transportation to and from camp?**

OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center provides transportation for campers **TO CAMP ONLY**, by chartered bus. Campers are required to meet at one of two bus drop-off locations (West Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley), from which they will ride the bus to camp. **Parent/Guardians are required to**

**pick their Campers up directly from camp to transport them home.** This is so Parents/Guardians can participate in our camp Closing Ceremony on Sunday afternoon.

***Please note:*** Prospective Campers are also required to attend an in-person interview at one of OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center's locations. Families are responsible for their own transportation to and from the interview.

❖ **Who are the adults who staff Camp Erin – LA?**

We call our camp counselors Cabin Big Buddies. All of our Cabin Big Buddies are caring, dedicated volunteers who come from diverse professional backgrounds. Prospective Volunteers participate in a rigorous application, interview, and training process, prior to being accepted as a Cabin Big Buddy. OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center staff clinicians conduct and oversee volunteers throughout the application and training process, as well as serve onsite during the camp weekend as bereavement professionals who provide support to the campers and supervise the volunteer Cabin Big Buddies. Additional camp staff include security guards; a Camp Nurse (RN) who is available 24/7; and certified staff for specialized camp activities (eg. lifeguards at the pool.) All camp staff must pass a criminal background check.

❖ **What do Campers do at Camp Erin – LA?**

Camp Erin – LA is a combination of grief education and emotional support with fun, traditional camp activities, such as swimming, tie-dye, and a dance party. Campers are provided a safe environment to explore their grief, learn essential coping skills, and make friends with peers who are also grieving. Grief support activities are focused on the expression of thoughts and feelings, as well as preserving and honoring the memories of and the relationship with the Camper's person who died.

❖ **How many kids go to Camp Erin – LA every year?**

We host approximately 75-90 campers per camp session.

❖ **How are kids assigned to cabins?**

Cabins are broken down by gender and age. There are a maximum of 10 Campers per cabin, with 4-5 Cabin Big Buddies assigned to each cabin.

❖ **Can I attend Camp Erin – LA with my child/teen?**

No. Camp Erin – LA is not a family camp and we are only able to accommodate grieving children/teens as participants.