

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 encourage the camper's parent/guardian to complete an online application. 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?**

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/eforms/camper-interest-form-2020/69/>

❖ **Where can I get an application?**

You can complete an application online at <https://www.ourhouse-grief.org/camp-erin/> or contact Talya Schlesinger, Clinical Coordinator of Camp and Children's Programs, at (424) 220-6634 or Talya@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 Zoom Camper & Family Interview, the interview will be scheduled at that time. Campers will be notified of acceptance after completion of the Zoom 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 Zoom Camper & Family Interview, whether or not they are accepted to attend Camp Erin LA. Upon acceptance, the Camper will receive a packing list and further instructions regarding attending the camp day. Campers will also be expected to submit all consent forms digitally, completed and signed by their Parent/Legal Guardian, prior to the interview.

❖ **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.

❖ **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 Talya Schlesinger, Clinical Coordinator of Camp and Children's Programs, at (424) 220-6634 or Talya@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 prospective campers due to the capacity of the camp session.

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/>

❖ **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 2021.

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

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

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

We call our camp counselors Cabin Big Buddies. 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 day 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); and certified staff for specialized camp activities. 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. 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.

This summer, we require one parent/guardian from each camper family to attend camp and participate in separate adult programming throughout the day. We will provide meals and offer programming that includes grief support activities, educational workshops and space for self-care.