

Happy Campers

Splashing in the pool, playing outdoor games, arts and crafts—these are the simple joys of summer camp.

But for many children with diabetes, going to a traditional summer camp can be challenging.

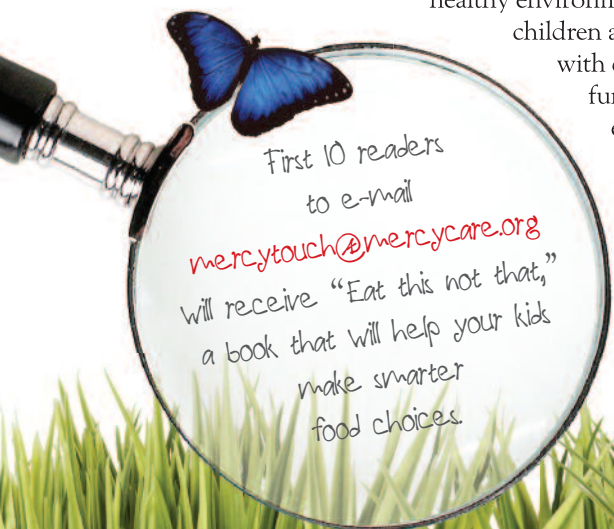
For the past 21 years, Diabetes Camp at Camp Tanager has provided a safe and healthy environment for about 50 children and adolescents with diabetes to have a fun summer camp experience.

Campers also acquire a better understanding of their illness and have the opportunity to learn that diabetes does not have

to limit their ability to live a normal, healthy life.

“It’s just a great opportunity for children to enjoy a summer camp experience. It gives them a sense of knowing they are not alone when they meet other kids their age who are living with diabetes,” says Mercy Joslin Diabetes Educator Kate Ware.

This summer’s Diabetes Camp is July 11-16 at Camp Tanager, 1614 W. Mount Vernon Road, Mount Vernon. Diabetes Camp has a 24-hour on-site physician and nursing personnel in addition to diabetes educators, dietitians and other support staff. Medical professionals are from Area Ambulance and both Cedar Rapids hospitals.



Mercy’s Joslin Diabetes Center plays a key role at the camp as Joslin experts educate the camp staff about diabetes, and provide nursing and dietary support. Joslin also donates equipment and supplies used at the camp.

Dr. Julianne Thomas, Pediatric Center P.C., established the camp and served as medical director from 1987 to 2005. For the last four years, Family Practice Physician Carla Schulz, MD, has served as the camp’s medical director. She was the assistant medical director from 1998 to 2006. Also the parent of a child with diabetes, Dr. Schulz has a very real understanding of the challenges these children face.



Dr. Schulz’s continued work at Camp Tanager’s Diabetes Camp ensures the opportunity for children with diabetes to bond with other children in the same situation. For one week, they can relish the opportunity to be with their peers and not be “different.” As an added bonus, parents can relax and rest assured that their child

is in a safe place, where any special needs are sure to be met. This experience enhances the quality of life for these children and creates long-lasting memories for them.

For more information on Diabetes Camp, please contact Kate Ware at Mercy’s Joslin Diabetes Center at (319) 533-9095.

Children with diabetes had a great time at last year’s Diabetes Camp at Camp Tanager. The camp’s theme was “The Amazing Race” and campers participated in games and activities from all corners of the world. This year’s theme is “Time Warp—Fantastic Time Traveling Adventure.”