



Camper Graduate Plan:

**6.4 Does the Camp have a plan regarding the transition of campers to graduate camper?
YES**

Once a patient turns 19, they are eligible to join the Smile-A-Mile Beyond Camp program. In 2000, the pediatric cancer patient population began to show an increase in survivorship and the fact that emotional and education in survivorship was limited for pediatric oncology survivors, Smile-A-Mile Staff recognized this. Staff also listened to the needs of the young adult survivors which were specific to learning more about their survivorship issues as they aged, having access to educational resources that would provide a means for a 'life after cancer' and social support of graduated campers. Therefore, a Young Adult Retreat weekend was developed for 'graduated' campers once they reached age 19. Today, this survivorship program has expanded and developed into Beyond Camp.

Beyond Camp is year-round programming for adult survivors of pediatric cancer. Beyond Camp is divided into two groups-Young Adults and Sustainers. They Young Adult group is for survivors ages 19-25. They attend a young adult retreat each year and learn how to improve their lives through educational sessions.

The Sustainers are ages 26 and older. Most survivors of childhood cancer face late effects of treatment well into adulthood. We provide these survivors with avenues for fellowship to cope with these effects. We also facilitate opportunities to develop their leadership skills. It is our goal that the Sustainers will give back to Smile-A-Mile and become leaders in their communities. Smiles-A-Mile hosts quarterly educational dinners for Beyond Camp at Smile-A-Mile Place in Birmingham. These dinners provide social time together as well as learn about financial success, health and wellness and other ways to improve their life.

Many members of the Beyond Camp program volunteer their time at summer camp, day camp, various programs and activities throughout the state and at Smile-A-Mile Place, as well as local fundraisers in Birmingham.

Those graduates seeking a higher education are also eligible for the Smile-A-Mile Scholarship Program. A battle with pediatric cancer can be financially devastating to a family. With this reality in mind, Smile-A-Mile created the scholarship program in 1999 to assist families in sending their patients/survivors to college, university or trade school. Scholarship recipients must show academic progress as well as continue to give back to the organization by volunteering at fundraising events. Since 1999, Smile-A-Mile has given over \$800,000.00 in scholarships to more than 150 recipients.

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