



Memorial/Remembrance Service:

6.3 Has the Camp evaluated offering a memorial / remembrance service?

Yes- Smile-A-Mile provides a memorial service at four of our summer camp sessions as well as a large gathering every other year called Remember Their Smiles in September.

6.3.1 If the camp DOES offer a memorial/remembrance experience...

1. Is there bereavement support available to campers and staff?

Yes. There is at least one certified Child Life Specialist at all memorial services and events.

2. Has a person experienced in pediatric bereavement reviewed and approved the format?

Yes. Smile-A-Mile's Child Life Specialist has worked with other Child Life Specialists and The Amelia Center, a grief resource center, to ensure the format is appropriate for families, volunteers and participants.

Intent: When camps are designing a memorial service for campers and staff it is important that consideration is paid to timing, age appropriateness, cultural and religious sensitivity, emotional support, and whether the service is an option for campers. Camp may include feedback and/or input from campers and staff in the planning of services.

Compliance: Director description of memorial service planning and process.

Memorial Service at Camp

SAM's memorial services happen during four of our camp sessions. We do these services to give our children the opportunity to remember and honor their friends who have passed away from childhood cancer. We also provide this service to remind them that if something were to ever happen to them they are never forgotten at SAM. We talk about the memorial service the day before and let them know it is their choice if they would like to attend. The Program Staff makes sure we line up a volunteer to stay back and play a movie for any child who does not want to attend the memorial service. For the children and volunteers who want to attend, we allow them the opportunity to decorate a candle holder in memory of their friends and speak during the ceremony if they feel led too. SAM also invites the parents of the children who passed away during the previous year to send off a lantern in memory of their child. We find it important to allow them to come back to camp one more time to remember the sweet times their child had at the campsite facility, Children's Harbor. SAM volunteers sent off a lantern in memory of each child no matter if their family can attend or not.

Remember Their Smiles

Remember Their Smiles is a one-day neutral site event for Hospital Outreach Program and camp families to come together to remember their child. SAM hosts this event every other year to provide the avenue for bereaved families to come together to remember their child in an environment where people understand what they have been through. SAM also uses this event to remind families that their child will never be forgotten at Smile-A-Mile. We engage the family in fun family activities like button making and intentional activities like a butterfly release and memory key chains. Our staff makes a point to provide the high-low-high activity schedule to ensure the families do not leave the event on a low note. SAM also encourages and provides information about The Amelia Center, a grief resource center we partner with during this event.

COCA-I Gold Ribbon Standard 6.3 and 6.3.1
Smile-A-Mile Policies 1/2019