



Camp Easter Seal is BACK...



...and better than ever!



Dear Salutation

It's the news hundreds of children, youth and adults experiencing disability in Saskatchewan have been hopeful to hear...Camp Easter Seal in-person programming is back! Known for its historic facility that sits on lush 100 acres of shorelines, overlooking Little Manitou Lake – Camp Easter Seal is the only barrier-free camp of its kind in Saskatchewan. While the infamous grand chalet, dining hall and 14 cabins have been without the hustle and bustle of activities, campers will return to their favourite stomping ground with some visible upgrades and new additions – including a renovated aquatic centre and accessible treehouse.

We are marking our calendars! Camp staff have been waiting with anticipation and excitement alongside campers to return to the magical green grounds of Camp Easter Seal. "After a two-year pause of in-person programming, Camp Easter Seal is excited to welcome campers back. We are eagerly planning for 11 weeks of summer camp, busy recruiting an amazing team of staff members, and designing great fun for all! We are thrilled to be working towards welcoming campers back on site to experience the true

magic that is Camp Easter Seal. What a great day it will be when campers arrive – we can hardly wait," exclaims Christine Epp, Manager at Camp Easter Seal.

While many campers joined us the past two summers for the dynamic 'Camp Connected' virtual program, we know nothing beats the fresh air, freedom and adventure of an in-person experience. No one knows this better than 35-year-old camper, Cody Stack. Willing to trade his Camp Connected, virtual alter ego 'Detective Cody White-Edge' for the opportunity to return to in-person camping, Cody's excitement upon hearing the good news is both visible and palpable. Jumping up and down with a huge smile on his face, there is no mistaking that energy. It is very clear just how much Cody has missed being able to visit his, and so many other campers,' little piece of paradise on the prairies.

We invite you to share in our excitement and help us make the return to Camp Easter Seal a real possibility for the many children, youth and adults experiencing disability across the province! Since 1954, Camp Easter Seal has been providing an experience like no other to campers – with the help of generous donors like you! Donating to Camp Easter Seal ensures the impact and legacy of Camp continues, one happy camper at a time.

Experiencing disability after heart surgery at the tender age of four, Cody didn't attend Camp Easter Seal until he was 19 years old. Despite some initial jitters and a bit of hesitation from mom and dad, Cody was hooked after just one week! "He'd be out there all summer if it was allowed," exclaims Cody's dad, John. "Cody lives for the moment. To have an environment like Camp Easter Seal where he can go and squeeze a little bit extra out of life, experience a level of freedom he doesn't usually get. It means so much to him and for us, his family – to see his excitement, it makes us so happy that he has something that brings him so much joy in his life." Noting the importance of



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Camp Easter Seal for families of campers too, John knows the excitement felt right now extends to every camper mom, dad and caregiver. Camp is back!

For individuals like Cody, Camp is a symbol of freedom and independence. It is a place where everyone belongs, limitations don't exist, and participants can just be themselves! While these past two years have been difficult for everyone to navigate, they have been especially isolating for individuals in the community experiencing disability. With your support, we can give the gift of Camp to the many participants who are desperately missing their camp friends, favourite counsellors and that feeling of unlimited adventure!

Shaving his head, wind-up parties, whip cream pies in counsellors' faces and good ol' fashioned barbeques are just a few Camp Easter Seal essentials on Cody's list. "When I first met Cody, I knew instantly he was a fun-loving and energetic person. Cody made Camp his home away from home and made his cabinmates and counsellors feel like they were part of his family. Cody's personality helped push himself and those around him to

enjoy and participate in all the fun adventures we have everyday at Camp," explains former staff member, Erikk Heggstrom of his fond memories with Cody, who is certainly known for his big personality and his 'game for anything' attitude.

We know how important this upcoming camp season is to Cody and the many campers across the province who will be counting down the days until their return to Camp Easter Seal. We are so looking forward to once again opening the gates to Camp Easter Seal and feeling the grounds come to life with the excitement and laughter of campers. We hope Cody knows we are stocking up on cans of whip cream, so he can serve an overdue face pie to one of his favourite camp counsellors. It's going to be a great summer out at Camp Easter Seal!

Sincerely,

Ian Wilkinson,
Executive Director

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for families, EASTER SEALS™ SASKATCHEWAN
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