

# RUNWAY FOR RECOVERY

## Summer Camps for Grieving Children & Teens

### Camp Angel Wings

**Location:** Camp Welch, North Main Street, Assonet, MA

**Ages Served:** 6-15 years old

**Description:** Southcoast VNA will be hosting its annual Camp Angel Wings, a two-day bereavement camp experience for children and teens, who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

**For more information or to apply:** Download the registration form at [www.southcoast.org/campangelwings](http://www.southcoast.org/campangelwings) or contact Camp Angel Wings at 508-973-3426 or [campangelwings@southcoast.org](mailto:campangelwings@southcoast.org).

### Camp Erin Boston

**Location:** Camp Avoda in Middleboro, MA

**Ages served:** 6-17 years old

**Description:** A three-day, two-night camp experience for any child or teen who has experienced the death of someone close to them in their lifetime, which will be filled with traditional and fun camp activities combined with grief education and emotional support and will be facilitated by bereavement professionals and trained volunteers. The Moyer Foundation has partnered with Parmenter Community Health Care in Wayland, Massachusetts, as the Boston area Camp Erin provider. Parmenter has been a leader in Children's Bereavement Services since 1992 with its award-winning **HEARTplay** program.

**For more information or to apply:** Visit <http://www.camperinboston.org>, or contact Jennifer Wiles, Director at [jwiles@mah.harvard.edu](mailto:jwiles@mah.harvard.edu) or 508-309-5107.

### Camp Kangaroo

**Locations:** Riverband School in Natick, MA (Nationwide locations, see link below)

**Ages served:** 5-13 years old and families

**Description:** Camp Kangaroo provides a camp experience and a supportive atmosphere for children who have experienced the loss of a loved one in the last two years. Participants receive grief education and emotional support combined with fun camp activities that help them learn effective coping strategies. It gives an opportunity for children to find new meaning following the loss of their loved ones.

**For more information or to apply:** Visit <http://seasonsfoundation.org/camp-kangaroo>, or contact Luisa Kcomt at 847-692-1000 or [LKcomt@Seasons.org](mailto:LKcomt@Seasons.org).

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## Camp Kesem

**Locations:** Camp Kesem locations can be found nationwide, but they have **9 Northeast chapters** located across the region. Northeastern locations include: Becket, MA; Lenox, MA; Dublin, NH; Center Tuftonboro, NH; Madison, CT; and Hartford, ME.

**Ages served:** 6-18 years old

**Description:** Camp Kesem is a nationwide community, driven by passionate college student leaders, that supports children through and beyond their parent's cancer. Camp Kesem serves children who have lost a parent to cancer, have a parent undergoing cancer treatment, or whose parent is a cancer survivor. **NOTE:** Camp Kesem does *not* serve children and teens who have been affected by a *sibling's* cancer

**For more information:** Please visit their website, <http://campkesem.org/camp-kesem>.

## Camp Kita

**Location:** Pine Tree Camp, Rome, ME

**Ages served:** 8 – 17 years old

**Description:** Camp Kita is a week-long summer camp program open to children who are survivors of a loved one's suicide.

**For more information or to apply:** Visit <http://campkita.com> or contact [info@campkita.com](mailto:info@campkita.com)

## Camp Stepping Stones

**Location:** Glen Urquhart School (74 Hart St., Beverly, MA)

**Ages served:** Children and their families.

**Description:** The Bertolon Center for Grief & Healing, a program of Care Dimensions, has developed a day camp to support children and their families who have experienced the death of someone close to them. The camp offers a combination of child-focused activities including arts and crafts, water activities, and games. The camp also offers relaxation activities and workshops for adults. The entire family will have fun while learning new coping skills.

**For more information or to apply:** Visit <https://www.caredimensions.org/grief-support/childrens/camp-stepping-stones.cfm>; Contact Care Dimensions at 855-774-5100 (toll free: 888-283-1722) or [camp@caredimensions.org](mailto:camp@caredimensions.org)

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## Circle Camps for Grieving Children

**Locations:** Sweden, ME and Morgantown, WV

**Ages served:** 9-12 years old; teen program 13-14 years old

**Description:** Circle Camps for Grieving Children provides free week-long overnight camp programs for girls who have experienced the death of a parent. They support an environment that empowers girls to address their grief while year after year enjoying the adventures and fun of living and playing together. Through multi-year camp and leadership programming, Circle prepares girls to become confident young women.

**For more information or to apply:** Visit <http://www.circlecamps.org> or contact Circle Camps at [info@circlecamps.org](mailto:info@circlecamps.org) or 412-491-8151.

## Comfort Zone Camp MA

**Location:** Listed below

**Ages served:** 7-17 years old (18 years old, if still in high school)

**Description:** Provides Family Programs (one-day camps), as well as weekend-long camps that will include confidence-building programs and age-based support groups that break the emotional isolation grief often brings. There will also be fun activities including a challenge course and bonfire. Because everyone here has had a loss and can relate on a level that few others can, lasting friendships are formed. There are also times to hear others' stories, and to tell your own. Everything is done by choice, so you can share as much— or as little —as you want.

**For more information or to apply:** Visit <http://www.comfortzonecamp.org/parents-and-guardians>, or call toll-free: 866-488-5679

## Manitou Experience Camp (for boys)

**Location:** 47 Camp Manitou Cove, Oakland, ME

**Ages served:** Boys, ages 9-16 years old (entering grades 4 through 12 in 2019-2020 school year)

**Description:** The Manitou Experience provides bereavement support to children who have lost a parent, sibling or loved one. Manitou Experience Camps are one-week summer camp for boys that help build confidence, encourage laughter and navigate grief through friendship, teamwork, athletics, and the common bond of loss. They've put together a selection of the best activities that a summer camp has to offer. They have land sports, water sports and creative activities. They have integrated the camp program with bereavement activities and projects designed to help the boys express feelings, explore memories, build confidence, and find comfort in the presence of their peers.

**For more information or to apply:** Visit [www.experience.camp](http://www.experience.camp), call 203-286-2886 (winter and summer), or email [campers@experience.camp](mailto:campers@experience.camp).

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## **Somerset Experience Camp (for girls)**

**Location:** 11 Somerset Lane, Smithfield, ME

**Ages served:** Girls, ages 9-12 years old (entering grades 4 through 7 in the school year)

**Description:** Similar to the Manitou Experience, Camp Somerset is a one-week camp for girls who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling or primary caregiver. It's a place where kids can laugh, cry, play, create, remember the person who died, or forget the grief that weighs them down. It's a place where they can feel "normal", because everyone there has been through something similar and understands what it's like to lose someone important to them.

**For more information or to apply:** Visit [www.experience.camp](http://www.experience.camp), call 860-850-0397 (winter and summer), or email [campers@experience.camp](mailto:campers@experience.camp).

## **Outward Bound Programs – Expeditions for Grieving Teens**

**Ages served:** 14 – 17 years old

**Description:** Grieving Teens Programs offered by the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School are now enrolling. These 7-day journeys are a life-changing opportunity. They are for those seeking a fresh challenge in a unique environment and in an intense team setting. Grieving Teens expeditions help participants acquire coping skills, build an ongoing supportive peer network, and to honor the griever through compassionate, purposeful grief processing and activities. Through the generous support of the [New York Life Foundation](http://www.newyorklifefoundation.org) and other donors, this program is being offered at reduced tuition. Additional need-based scholarships are available.

**For more information:** Visit <http://www.outwardbound.org/group-programs/grieving-teens>

## **Wildflower – Providing Support for Summer Camp Experiences to Grieving Children**

**Ages served:** campers up to 18 years old.

**Description:** Wildflower provides the gift of summer camp and enrichment opportunities to children who have lost a parent. Our unique program provides individually tailored support for grieving families. Wildflower provides emotional and logistical support to the surviving parent, and the opportunity for at-risk children to receive the incredible experiences that summer camp brings.

**For more information:** Visit <https://www.wildflowerforkids.org/>

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## Programs Especially for Military Families

### **TAPS National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp for Survivors**

**Location:** New England area including Boston

**Ages served:** Children, teens and adults

**Description of program:** The TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) Good Grief Camp for children and teens provides support and comfort for children and teens facing the loss of a loved one in military service. The safe and supportive atmosphere offers opportunities to learn coping skills, establish and identify support systems and create awareness that they are not alone in the grief of their loved one. Children and teens meet others of their own age to share and learn together. Each Good Grief Camp participant has a military mentor who serves as a companion throughout the weekend, providing them with special one-on-one attention and showing them that the military has not forgotten about them. *Other summer camps are offered across the US.*

**For more information or to register:** Visit <http://www.taps.org/Seminars/>