



OUR TEAM

Highly trained student volunteers from Penn State University staff our camp. Our volunteers are carefully screened through a competitive interview process and undergo extensive training prior to camp. In addition, our student leaders work year-round to raise funds, conduct outreach in their communities, and plan the programming necessary to make camp a truly unique and unforgettable experience. Each camp is also staffed with nursing and mental health professionals who are there every step of the way.



KESEM MAGIC

“Kesem” means “magic” in Hebrew, and it represents the transformational experience Kesem provides. Through our intentional programming and year-round support, we foster an atmosphere that builds community, friendship, and support for our campers.

REGISTER A CAMPER

Camper applications become available in February 2021 and remain open right up until the week of camp. Visit campkesem.org/camper-application for more information on how to apply!

“When I’m at camp, I can be a kid again. It gives me joy and makes me feel alive and free.”

– Camp Kesem Central PA Camper

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to centralpa.outreach@campkesem.org with questions, to refer a family, or to partner with us in our efforts to spread the word about our services.



CAMP KESEM CENTRAL PA 2020-2021

Supporting kids through and beyond a parent’s cancer.

centralpa@campkesem.org
(570) 634-5720
PO Box 891
State College PA, 16804
www.kesem.org/centralpa



Camp Kesem is a national organization that provides a free weeklong summer camp and year-round support for children affected by their parent's cancer. Our mission is to provide a community of people who understand what these children are going through, so that no child has to go through their parent's cancer alone.

CAMP KESEM CENTRAL PA

Founded by Penn State University students in 2013, Camp Kesem Central PA is in its seventh year. All 160 of our volunteers tirelessly dedicate themselves to providing as many children as possible with a completely free week at summer camp where kids can just be kids. This year we aim to serve 130 campers in need. Currently there are no other camps and few supportive services available to these children and families from Central Pennsylvania and beyond.

WHO WE SERVE

Camp Kesem serves children ages 6 to 18 that have lost a parent to cancer, have a parent undergoing cancer treatment, or whose parent is a cancer survivor – an estimated population of over 5 million children in the United States. Since 2013, Camp Kesem Central PA has served over 100 children impacted by a parent's cancer. Our campers leave camp with more than just happy memories. They leave with a community of support, a higher self-esteem, radiating confidence, and a positive outlook for the future.

WHAT WE DO

Our completely free week of summer camp is filled with fun and games that allow campers to rediscover the innocence of childhood and escape from the things they are facing at home. Our emotional programming gives kids a chance to open up and gain support that they can't get anywhere else. Through other Kesem programs, we are able provide additional support all year round in the form of birthday messages, anniversary recognitions, snail mail, and camp reunions.

WEEK AT CAMP

Our week of camp will be Monday, August 16 through Saturday, August 21, 2021 and is tentatively scheduled to occur in person at Camp Chen-A-Wanda in Thompson, PA.

Camp is completely free for children impacted by a parent's cancer.

We provide bus transportation for the State College area both to and from our campsite. Families are welcome to drop off and pick up their children at the campsite, and we provide support to families interested in carpooling. Please let us know if you need additional transportation support!

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic Camp Kesem 2020 was held virtually over zoom. We called this virtual setting "Kesem at Home" and it was filled with all of the same fun games, friendly faces and emotional programming. Camp Kesem Nationals is planning for in-person Camp for 2021. However, any changes will be communicated if a virtual platform is decided upon.

