



# Impact of Camp Noah in 2016

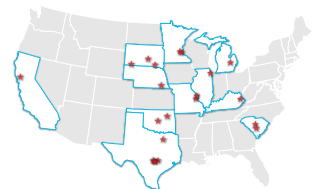


Following a natural disaster, children and youth may face an array of stressful experiences, such as loss of homes or community resources, or injury or death of loved ones. Camp Noah provides a structured and safe environment in which elementary school-age children are encouraged to face their fears, grieve their losses, identify and share their unique gifts and talents, and plan for their future.

Camp Noah is a disaster recovery service offered by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSSMN), which provides a therapeutic camp experience in communities impacted by disasters. LSSMN hosts Camp Noah in disaster-impacted communities across the country with the mission to bring hope and healing to these communities.

Feedback after camp came from

**166** parents  
and  
**754** campers



## Sources for this evaluation:

Camper Survey (N=754), Parent Survey (N=166), Follow-Up Parent Survey (N=50), Site Coordinator Survey (N=21), Local Volunteer Survey (N=45), Team Leader Survey (N=11), Team Member Survey (N=87), Mental Health Professional Survey (N=17).

In 2016, Camp Noah provided

**24 camps** and served  
**21 cities** in **11 states**

# The campers

Campers learn ways to relax, feel more prepared to handle stressful situations, and learn how to stay safe during stormy weather.



**93%** of campers  
learned ways to relax



**92%** of campers  
learned how to stay safe during stormy weather



**93%** of parents said their children  
feel more prepared for stormy weather or disasters



**93%** of parents said their children  
feel more prepared to handle challenges in life



“Each day he learned something new and was very interested and excited about sharing his day. He is now not afraid when a storm comes. He shares with me how to stay calm.”

– Parent

“My child has a stronger sense of safety. She also learned she’s not alone.”

– Parent

“It gave her an opportunity to understand how others go through life situations and still be okay.”

– Parent

## Children have fun!

Knowing that it can take time for communities to recover following a disaster, one of Camp Noah’s goals is to provide a fun day camp for children.

Kids & parents agreed!

**97%** of campers  
and  
**98%** of parents





## Campers learn that they are special.

Campers learned that they



are somebody special



have gifts and talents

Parents said Camp Noah helped their children



understand or know something that makes them unique



feel good about themselves

## Campers built relationships with others.

96% of campers said they liked their teachers

95% of campers said they liked their friends

95% of parents said their children made friends at Camp Noah

“I learned that I am special and to always look forward to a better day.”

– Camper

“My children have more confidence in their selves when it comes to trying new things.”

– Parent

“[My child] made some really great friends that have been dealing with similar loss.”

– Parent



## Camp benefits persisted.

Three months after camp, parents completed another survey about the enduring impact of the camp on their children.



### Feeling special and confident

100% said Camp Noah helped their children feel good about themselves

96% felt that Camp Noah helped their children understand or know something that makes them unique



### Improving social skills and relationships

94% reported that their children engage more with friends after participating in Camp Noah



### Having the ability to handle challenges and using strategies to relax

92% reported that their children feel more prepared to handle challenges in life

84% felt that their children used the strategies they learned at Camp Noah to relax



### Using their safe spaces and feeling prepared for stormy weather

90% reported that their children continued to use their safe spaces

98% said their children feel more prepared during stormy weather after participating in Camp Noah

96% said their children feel safer during stormy weather after participating in Camp Noah

# Community Experience

Camp Noah requires the active participation of volunteers and staff, including Site Coordinators, local volunteers, Mental Health Professionals, and Certified Camp Staff.

## Staff and volunteers gave Camp Noah high ratings.

**NEARLY ALL** local volunteers (98%) and Certified Camp Staff (99%), and all Site Coordinators (100%), would recommend Camp Noah to others as a **positive service experience**.

“I had a great time volunteering this week and it was a very fulfilling experience. A lot of the kids really opened up to me and spent time around me, even the ones who weren't in my small group. I feel like I connected with a lot of the kids as well and I think Camp Noah is doing a great thing. I don't know the backgrounds of all the kids I met but I do know that the week they were at Camp Noah was a very happy one for them filled with learning and fun to distract them from whatever they may be dealing with.”  
– Team Member

“I believe this is a well-run program that definitely helps children to be resilient and hopeful for what is ahead in their lives. Thank you for all you do to plan, organize, and ensure these camps continue for children and families around the country!”  
– Team Member



“Our community was extremely thankful and honestly blown away by the kindness of the program. Our lives are forever changed and I can say honestly even a little closer and stronger. And it is with that; that I am eternally grateful.”  
– Site Coordinator

**ALMOST ALL** local volunteers, Certified Camp Staff, and Site Coordinators would recommend Camp Noah to other communities as a **post-disaster resource**.

96% of local volunteers

100% of Certified Camp Staff

100% of Site Coordinators

“I had many parents call/text me telling me how much fun their children were having all week. I was also impressed with our community because the parents provided supper for the staff members every night of the week!”

– Site Coordinator

“The experience benefited the children from the community and allowed the children to have an outlet to share their personal experiences.”

– Mental Health Professional



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