

Leadership Opportunities for Deaf Youth at Summer Camp



Deaf Camps, Inc.
American Society for Deaf Children
conference, June 29, 2019

Deaf Camps, Inc.

www.DeafCampsInc.org



Pat Rader & Louise Rollins,
board members



Deaf Camps, Inc.

a volunteer-run non-profit organization dedicated to providing fun, safe, communication-rich camps that promote the physical, spiritual, and social development of Deaf/hard of hearing children and children learning American Sign Language.

Our program

- 1 week overnight camp
 - Sunday – Friday, end of July
- Manidokan Camp & Retreat Center
 - Knoxville, MD
 - (between Frederick, MD and Harpers Ferry, WV)





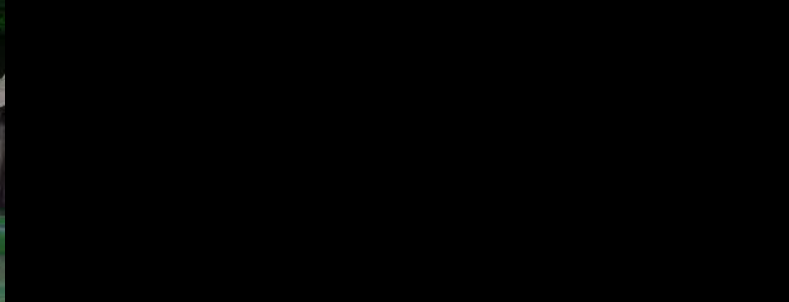
5 groups

- Younger Deaf
grades 2-6
- Middle Deaf
grades 6-9
- Older Deaf/ASL
grades 9-12
- Younger ASL
grades 2-6
- Middle ASL
grades 6-9

What do campers do?



TRY YOUR SKILLS AT ARCHERY!





Sample Schedule

- 8:15 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Bible Study*
- 10:00 am Rafting
- 12:15 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Climbing Wall
- 3:00 pm Pool
- 4:00 pm Camp Store
- 4:30 pm Free Time
- 5:00 pm Dinner
- 6:30 pm Camp-wide Games
- 8:00 pm Chapel*
- 8:30 pm Snack
- 9:00 pm Showers
- ??? pm Bedtime!

* - Deaf Camps Inc. welcomes campers of all backgrounds. Families can request for campers to be excused from morning Bible study and evening chapel.

Sample Schedule

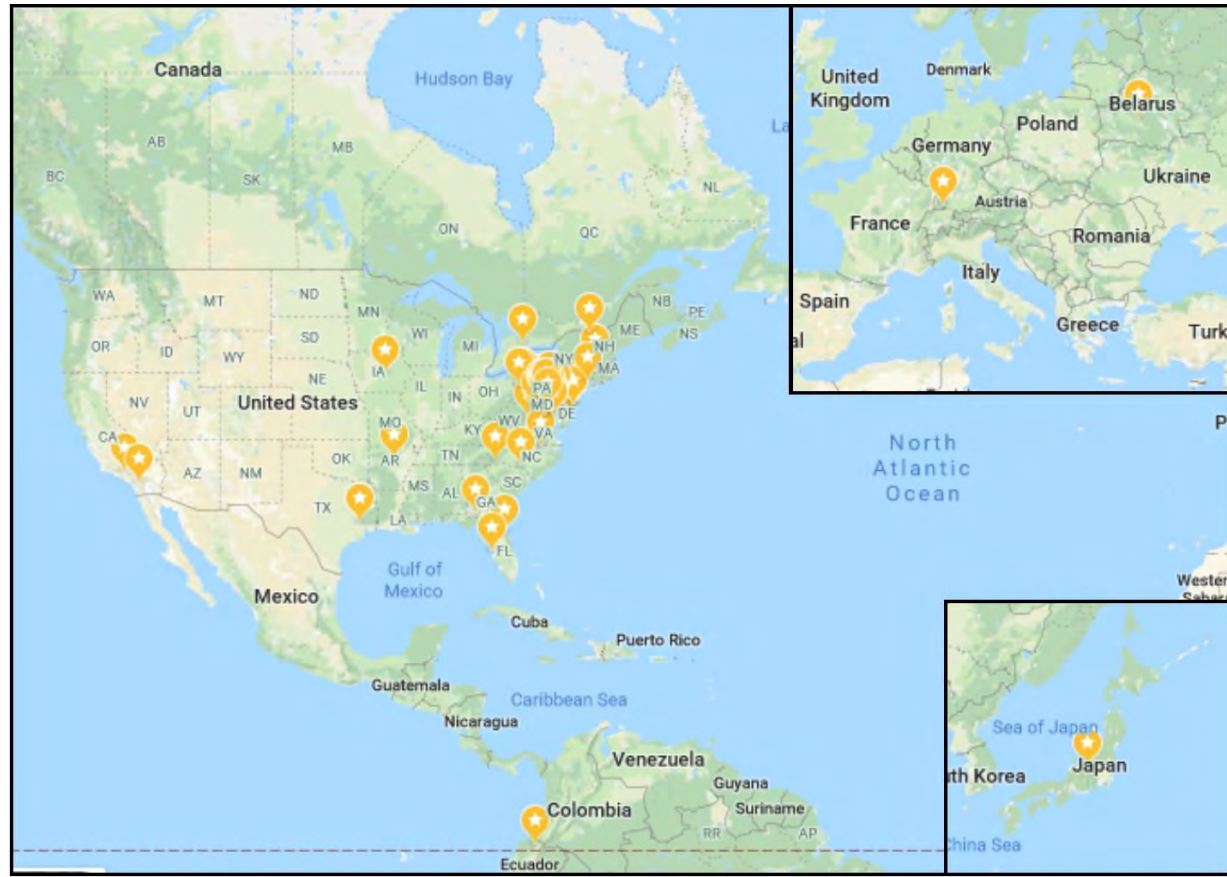
Red = Deaf & Hearing campers together

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Where are the campers from?

- Local deaf schools
- Targeted outreach to public school Deaf programs
- CODAs, siblings, friends, neighbors, etc.



Deaf Gain in Younger & Middle Camp

Sample Schedule

Red = Deaf & Hearing campers together

- 8:15 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Bible Study*
- 10:00 am Rafting
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- 9:00 pm Showers
- ??? pm Bedtime!

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Deaf Gain in Older Deaf/ASL Camp

Sample Schedule

Red = Deaf & Hearing campers together

- 8:15 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Bible Study*
- 10:00 am Rafting
- 12:15 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Climbing Wall
- 3:00 pm Pool
- 4:00 pm Camp Store
- 4:30 pm Free Time
- 5:00 pm Dinner
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Counselors In Training (CITs)

- 16 or 17 years old
- Up to 4 positions available
 - Younger Deaf Camp – 2
 - Younger ASL Camp – 2
- ASL-friendly application process
- Weighing CITs' qualifications
- Paying for CIT training

Counselors

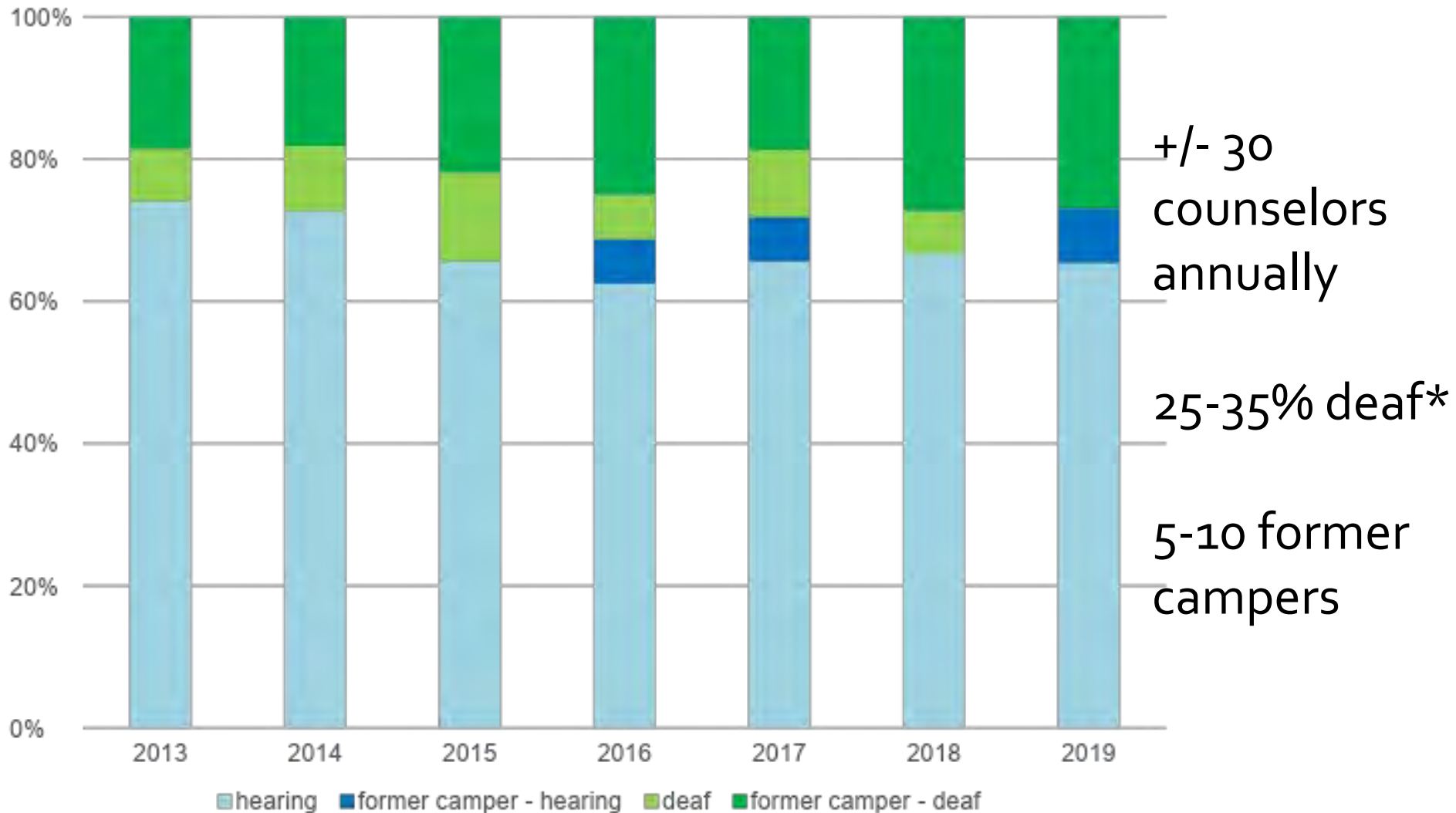
- 18 and up
- ASL-friendly training
 - Online videos
 - ASL-to-English interpreting
- Targeted outreach to:
 - previous campers
 - Gallaudet
 - local Deaf community

Challenges

- VOLUNTEERS
- Counselors that reflect the makeup of our campers
- Recruitment
- Retention
- Equitable assignments
- Year-round/board involvement

Successes

Counselor makeup



Our panelists

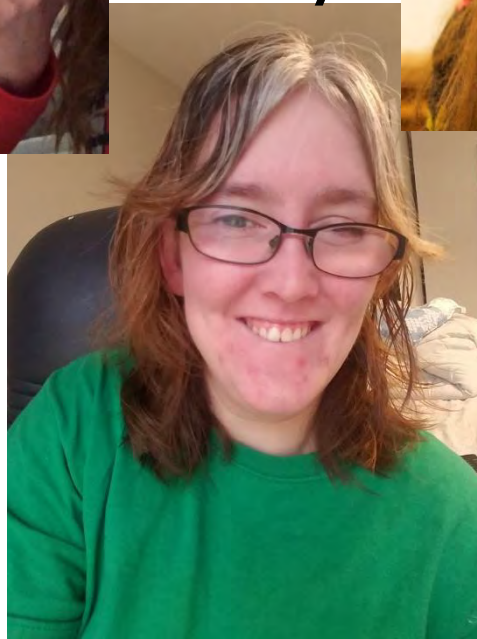


Amy

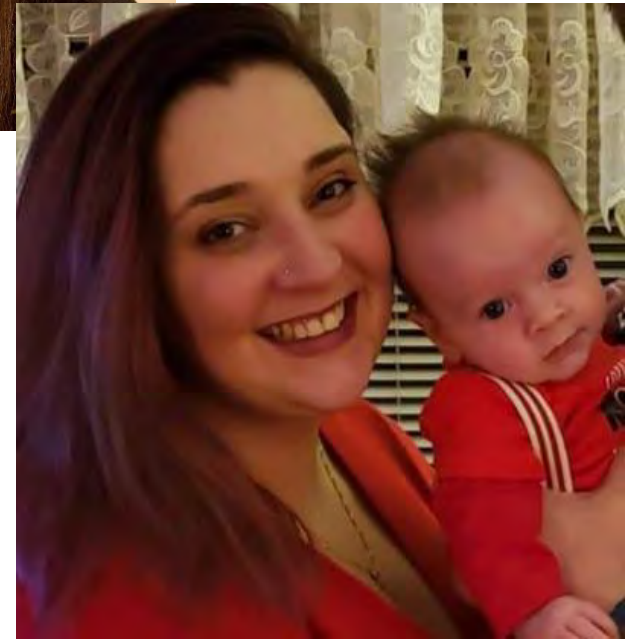


Jackie

Hannah



Marie



Your first time at camp...

- How old were you?
- Why did you go to camp?
- What was your experience like?

When you were a camper, did you interact with hearing campers?

- What was it like?
- How did it make you feel?

What made you want to volunteer?

- How old were you?
- What was it like?
- What made you want come back?
- What made you stop?

How do you think you
benefitted from camp...

- ... as a camper?
- ... as a volunteer?

What do you wish was
different about camp?

What are you doing with
yourself now?
(school, work, personal life,
etc.)

What advice do you have for...

- ... parents of potential campers?
- ... kids thinking about going to a camp?
- ... teens thinking about volunteering at a camp?

Questions from
the audience?