Who can attend? Camp Kesem serves children who 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.


How long are the camps? The camps are typically one week in length.

How much does camp cost? Camp Kesem is completely free of charge to all children who attend.

Who runs the camps? Our camps are staffed by highly trained college student leaders. These young men and women 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.

80% of our student leaders have been impacted by cancer – making them empathetic and relatable role models.

100% of our student leaders undergo extensive training on how to create an environment where children feel safe, loved, and respected.

Camp Kesem is a program offered by Kesem, a nationwide nonprofit organization that supports children impacted by a parent’s cancer.

96% of parents intend to send their child back to Kesem each year.

Can children return to Camp Kesem more than once? Yes! Kesem campers are part of our family for life. Our campers love the bonds they form with friends who return year after year.

Does Camp Kesem provide therapy? No. Our student leaders provide a warm and loving environment where children are free to share their feelings with one another. Our model focuses on providing a strong peer-based support network where children can find strength, hope, compassion and fun.

Where do I find a local camp? Visit kesem.org/find-a-camp.

How do I apply? Applications open in January of each year, and are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. All applications are submitted online at kesem.org/camper-application.

Kesem’s mission of supporting children through and beyond a parent’s cancer, and our vision of ensuring that every child impacted by a parent’s cancer is never alone, can only be realized through an ongoing, steadfast commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in every part of our organization.
Camp Kesem is a nationwide community, driven by passionate college student leaders, that supports children through and beyond their parent’s cancer.

A program of Kesem, Camp Kesem operates over 100 free summer camps in 42 states for children ages 6 to 18 who have been impacted by a parent’s cancer.

97% of parents believe that Camp Kesem had a positive impact on their family.

Camp Kesem is the only safe place where my child can share their experience of loss and grief with other kids who can relate to their feelings.

—Camp Kesem Parent