



## LiGHT Grant Application 2024

2024 LiGHT Grant  
Cover Form and Guidelines



Name of individual, group or organization:

Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do

Contact name(s):

Jennyfer Balkema

Address:

P.O. Box 11166, Fort Wayne IN 46856

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Name of the program as it would appear on the grant award:

Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do

Camperships

Describe who the grant award will serve and approximate number affected:

This grant will

cover the approximate cost for 3 children to attend camp.

Dollar amount requested:

\$1650

Would the program be offered if only a partial grant from LiGHT is made?

yes

Summary paragraph of the grant award requested:

We are requesting \$1650 to

> May be utilized for part of the presentation.

pay for three wells county kids to attend camp.

Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do allows the kids to have fun, not focus on their cancer journey and feel "normal".

Complete all requested items below:

1) This Cover Form

2) Project Narrative, 1-5 pages typed, including:

- What need in the Community will this program address? Give evidence to substantiate your request. (i.e., data, letters of recommendation, etc.)
- What do you want to do?
- What is your timeline?
- What results do you expect?
- If partnering with other organizations, please list.
- Describe the program and tell how the funds from the grant will be used based on your budget
- Signature page: To include endorsement of the project or program by the requesting agency's Board of Directors. This page must include a signature of the Board president.

3) Detailed budget

**LIGHT grant Narrative for the \$1650 grant award to Camp Watcha  
Wanna Do:**

WHAT NEED WILL THIS PROGRAM ADDRESS AND WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do is a place where children surviving cancer can go to have fun, be themselves, feel normal and be a kid! They are supported by their peers and counselors who understand exactly what they are living day to day. CWWDD allows the parents a break from daily caregiving and gives the siblings a place where they fit in, are seen and understood. All of these kids are amazing, and these families are extremely resilient but they both deserve a break from their daily normal of battling the awful disease of cancer. Camp helps children and their families cope with the mental and emotional aspects of potentially life-limiting illnesses. We help them navigate the minefield of childhood cancer that is ever-changing.

Our program is the only Indiana oncology camp offered free to families and the only camp based in Northern Indiana serving young cancer survivors. Campers can participate in a variety of skills classes of their choosing, including water sports, culinary arts, archery, crafts, drama, horseback riding and team building. Nurses are equipped to provide treatment outside of the usual hospital walls, while campers continue to do what they “wanna do” as campers, not patients! Children aged 7-graduation from high school surviving cancer may attend camp while in treatment and throughout management of long-term effects of cancer treatment. We make accommodations for any differently abled children whether due to their cancer or other medical concerns.

The other impactful aspect to our program is that the campers who age out can come back as counselors to help the younger campers. This helps the younger campers see the past campers give back as well as know that they made it despite medical hardship when they were younger. It is a great built in mentoring system. The average % of past campers who come back as counselors has been over 80% post COVID. In 2024, only 5 of the 26 counselors/leadership staff had no previous attendance at camp as a camper. The other life-changing part of our program is the excitement of the kids; there have been years where we have applications for next year’s camp two days after camp has ended. Their enthusiasm is contagious and makes for a happy, motivated board of directors, volunteers and counselors.

The results that I expect are more happy kids and families as well as Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do continuing to make an impact to then give the organization a wider footprint. This week is said to be the best week of the year by the kids, their families, the counselors, the volunteers and the board of directors. I expect smiles and laughter and inner strength and tears and emotions and confidence to shine all week by our kids who can do what they wanna do and challenge themselves to be better than their battle with cancer. Studies also show positive outcomes for the power of nature, strong support systems and their healing qualities. We immerse these kids in nature surrounded by a support system that understands exactly what they are going through whether they are a cancer patient or sibling.

## WHAT DO I WANT TO DO?

I want to be able to send three Wells County kids to camp in 2025; these kids can then experience all the really impactful things that camp provides. With the grant to send these three kids, we can spend that money saved on other kids, more programming and more opportunities for our amazing kids. Why three? This number is not random but is the number of children that have attended from Wells County in the past few years.

## WHAT IS OUR TIMELINE?

We start planning for camp in January preceding camp in June. This planning committee decides on the theme, evening/day programming, shirt design, manages all the donations for the week of camp, figures out meals, plans Kinder Camp, provides skills classes, staffs/plans projects for the art barn and works closely with the Camp Potawatomi YMCA staff to provide the best week we can for our kids. We plan for one week of camp from January through June; six months of camp planning fun! Applications for campers start coming in around January online and then more in February/March after we send out the paper applications via US mail.

## **Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do Information**

### MISSION STATEMENT:

“Providing recreational opportunities and support for those children, and their families, surviving cancer.”

### BELIEF:

“It is our belief that all people, regardless of their individual circumstances, flourish through recreational activities.”

### HISTORY:

Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do, Ltd. is an independent 501 (C) (3) not-for-profit Indiana corporation serving adolescent cancer survivors in Northeastern Indiana and the surrounding areas. A volunteer Board of Directors, comprised of working professionals from the region, administers the organization in addition to developing and implementing our programs with the assistance of additional community volunteers. All of our programs are provided at no cost to the families and funded entirely by community support. We have never turned a camper away.

The concept for Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do began in 1991 as several people came together to find an outlet for area children with cancer or a brain tumor. Our first summer camp was held in June of 1992 with 38 children. In less than three years, over 100 children spent one week in June hiking, swimming and playing without the worries of cancer. We continue to average about 110 children each camp week comprised of cancer patients/survivors and their siblings.

#### PROGRAMS:

All programs are medically supervised; we have a "med shed" which is staffed around the clock with volunteer pediatric oncology nurses. When needed, a pediatric hematologist/oncologist is available, and children may receive their medical treatment at camp as appropriate. All children must be cleared by their doctor to attend camp and participate in activities. All counselors and staff receive additional training to best meet the special needs of the cancer patients.

#### Resident Camp:

A weeklong camp for children, ages 7 through high school graduation, with a focus on skill development and overall achievement. Campers have the opportunity to try many camp activities and develop new skills by participating in courses of their own choice. Campers make new friends and experience new activities such as: archery, boating, crafts, dance, drama, a high-ropes course, hiking, music, swimming, team-building and other special events.

#### Kinder Camp:

This is a camper's first step into the camp experience, with a one-day adventure at camp. We provide a safe, comfortable and fun program for our youngest campers (ages 2 – 7). Our staff guides campers throughout the day with a caring approach and individual attention. This fun program, loaded with traditional camp activities, prepares a child for a full week of camp in the future.

#### Other Programs and Partnerships with other organizations:

- We work closely with Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, Parkview Oncology Children's Clinic, The Affiliates, Tin Caps/Parkview Field, Lutheran Child Life Specialists, and the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne.
- There are several local businesses (i.e. Indiana Auto Auction, Starbucks, Midwest America Federal Credit Union, Preferred Auto, Christopher James Menswear, Casa Restaurants, Anytime Fitness-Georgetown) and non-profit groups (i.e. Appleseed Quilters Guild, RSVP group in Auburn, Elkhart Optimist Club, Tri Kappa, Girl Scouts) who partner with us and donate to us throughout the year in various capacities.
- We also hold two bigger fundraisers (Golf outing in June and Gala in the winter) and several smaller ones throughout the year to help us raise funds for camp as it is free for all campers and their siblings.

#### PEOPLE SERVED:

Our main focus is serving children who have or have had cancer or a brain tumor. Children with a terminal illness usually cannot play sports or attend camp due to medical restrictions, but with a

volunteer medical staff available at all times these children have the opportunity to attend summer camp like many other healthy children. We accept children from all over the state of Indiana, Western Ohio, Northern Kentucky, Southern Michigan and Eastern Illinois. If they can get to/from camp and are surviving cancer they do not get turned away, even if not from one of the surrounding states.

DISTINCTIONS:

In 2024, Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do, Ltd. celebrated its 33rd summer camp program with a Space theme – There’s Space for everyone! The 2025 theme is Medieval 😊.

Camp Watcha-Wanna-Do, Ltd. is a long-standing member of Children’s Oncology Camping Association International (COCA-I), which allows for networking and program expansion opportunities and helps in providing a safe and memorable experience for campers. Additionally, our organization is accredited by the Better Business Bureau of Northern Indiana.


HOW WILL THE FUNDS BE USED?

The \$1650 grant will be used to send the three children that attend from Wells County to camp for the week. It costs about \$550 for each child to attend camp; this is the approximate cost of the rental of the campground, food and programming costs per person for the week.

I have reviewed the LIGHT grant application and endorse its contents to be accurate. We, the board of Camp Watcha Wanna Do, thank you for your consideration of this grant award of \$1650.



Carmen DeBruce, Board President



Jennyfer Balkema, Program Director

	2024							
<b>Support &amp; Revenue</b>								
Donations (individual and business)	\$ 70,000.00							
Grants/Foundations	\$ 30,000.00							
Care Camp Grant for The Camp Show	\$ 2,500.00							
Fundraisers	\$ 50,000.00							
Bank Interest	\$ 10,000.00	with the new savings account						
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$162,500.00</b>							
<b>Expenses</b>								
Wages	\$ 37,000.00							
Computer software (zoom, protection, etc)	\$ 350.00							
Storage Unit	\$ 1,188.00							
PO Box	\$ 350.00							
Office Supplies	\$ 500.00							
Postage/Mailing	\$ 1,200.00							
Website	\$ 1,000.00							
Donor Stewardship	\$ 150.00							
Meals/Entertainment	\$ 100.00							
Programs/ Camp Supplies	\$ 10,000.00							
Camp Rental	\$ 46,080.00							
Camp Staff Pay	\$ 11,000.00							
Camp staff training	\$ 750.00							
Background Checks	\$ 750.00							
The Camp Show	\$2,500	**will host The Camp Show once a year						
Credit card/bank charges	\$ 1,000.00							
Fundraising costs	\$ 20,000.00							
Memberships (COCA, nursing, BBB)	\$ 650.00	(BBB is 80, COCA is 460)						
Camp Insurance	\$ 4,500.00							
Professional Services	\$ 3,500.00							
Advertising/promotion/marketing	\$ 7,000.00	*\$500 per month Poet Marketing and a little bit for other things						
Cell Phone	\$ 1,300.00							
Development (COCA conf. Etc.)	\$ 9,000.00							
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$159,868.00</b>							
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 2,632.00</b>							
<b>CAMP</b>	<b>Costs</b>							
Programs/supplies	\$ 10,000.00							
Camp Rental	\$ 46,080.00	*rent is \$512 per kid x 90 kids						
Camp Staff	\$ 11,000.00	*20 counselors at 405 with room for medical counselors making more						
Insurance	\$ 4,500.00							
Camp staff training	\$ 750.00							
Background Checks	\$ 750.00							
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 73,080.00</b>							