

PROFILE Camp Mariposa

I really appreciate the opportunity for my granddaughter to be a part of Camp Mariposa because it has helped her to express herself to me without being afraid. It has taught her to work with her peers in a positive environment. They all come from the same situations and have a support group for their age group. She gets to camp in many beautiful places that she ordinarily wouldn't due to our financial situation. She is a happier kid and I am truly grateful for Camp Mariposa.

Grandmother of a Camp Mariposa Participant

Children impacted by familial substance use disorders have increased risks of developing substance use disorders of their own. At Camp Mariposa, these children find a safe, fun, and supportive environment that is critical to helping break the cycle of addiction.

Camp Mariposa is a national addiction prevention and mentoring program run by Eluna and local partners for youth ages nine through twelve who have a family member, most often a parent, with a substance use disorder. Approximately 40% of the youth who participate in the Camp Mariposa program have lived in foster or kinship care and almost 20% of campers currently have a grandparent as their primary caregiver.

Camp Mariposa offers no-cost weekend camps that are held 4-6 times throughout the year. Families make a commitment to send their child to at least four weekends sessions within a one-year period. All campers and mentors make this one-year commitment so that the weekend camps include the same people every time which allows campers to build strong support networks. Campers who age out at 13 are able to continue to attend camp weekends as Junior Counselors and mentor younger campers who face similar circumstances.

Camp Mariposa helps me get away from all of the things that are going on in my life. When I come to camp, all of the stress goes away and I let loose and have fun! I come to camp and find family and friends who I know will be there for me whenever I am down. Camp Mariposa is a home to me and I love it here.

Isabella

During the weekend camps, campers get to participate in traditional camp activities like canoeing and ropes courses as well as educational and support exercises that are led by mental health professionals. In addition to the weekend camps, the program offers additional activities throughout the year for the entire family to attend.

Founded in 2007, Camp Mariposa currently has 13 locations and served 713 children in 2017.

Camp Mariposa is a safe place for children impacted by substance use disorders to have fun and get the support they need, and the program has demonstrated results. In the first half of 2018, 94% of campers and junior counselors had not used drugs to get high while 98% had no involvement with the juvenile justice program.

Camp Mariposa has helped me by letting my fears go. It has helped me be more confident and stronger in friend relationships. I have a lot of fun and it makes me feel happy. I feel like I am not alone.

Jordan

For more information visit:
[elunanetwork.org/camps-programs/
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