
About Camp Erin

Created and supported by Eluna, Camp Erin® is the largest national free grief camp network for kids, teens, and families grieving the death of a significant person in their lives. A variety of day, overnight, and online camp programs empower youth and their adult caregivers to explore their grief, build coping skills, and have fun in a supportive community through a mix of grief support and camp activities.

Camp Erin programs are held throughout the year by a network of expert community partners across the US and Canada and through Eluna's Camp Erin Online. Through the generosity of our supporters, Camp Erin has brought connection and joy to over 40,500 children and teens, with the support of 36,000 community volunteers.

Get to know Camp Erin by visiting the Eluna website (elunanetwork.org) and through video:

- Youth camp session video: <https://youtu.be/FAV5xqlaF0o>
- Family camp session video: <https://youtu.be/oz2P0tscAEI>

About Eluna

Eluna's mission is to support children, teens and families impacted by grief or addiction. Founded in 2000, we offer community-building camps, interpersonal connections and a continuum of support for youth and families. Eluna's three signature programs are provided at no cost: Camp Erin, the largest grief camp network for school aged youth and their families; Camp Mariposa, an addiction prevention and mentoring program for youth ages 9-17; and the Eluna Resource Center, which provides research-based education and personalized support. Eluna has supported over 50,000 youth campers and their families through our network of partnerships with over 50 non-profit community organizations across the US and Canada. For more information, please visit elunanetwork.org.

Eluna's Camp Erin Network

Eluna partners with non-profit organizations to provide Camp Erin in local communities, including grief centers, hospices, hospitals, and other organizations with childhood bereavement expertise. Eluna cultivates a network of support through individual organization engagement and networking opportunities, as well as ongoing development of best practices, resources, and program schedule and curriculum ideas. Together we ensure safe, effective, and fun Camp Erin programs for all campers and families who are grieving and in need of supportive peer relationships.

Applications are currently being received for new Camp Erin partnerships. New partners selected in this RFP cycle will offer their first Camp Erin program in 2027. Selected partners will receive a program launch grant of \$14,000 in 2027. Eluna collaborates with Camp Erin partners for ongoing renewal of annual funding. The anticipated annual grant in year two (2028) and following is \$7,000 per year.

- Application deadline: August 31, 2026
- Application materials: Available at <https://elunanetwork.org/bring-camp-erin-to-your-community/>

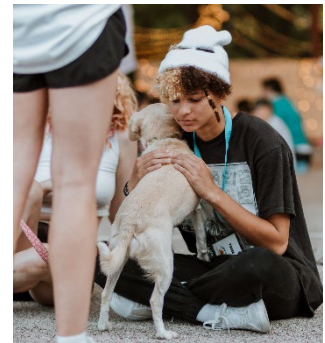
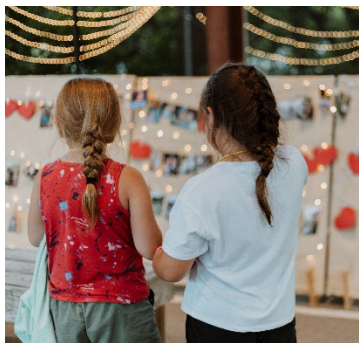
For information on applying to join the Camp Erin network and to schedule an introductory meeting, contact Bethany Gardner, Director of Bereavement Programs, at bethanygardner@elunanetwork.org.

In memory of Erin Metcalf

Camp Erin is named in memory of Erin Metcalf, a remarkable young woman who developed liver cancer at age 15. Eluna founders Karen Phelps Moyer and Jamie Moyer met Erin through Make-A-Wish. Erin had a compassionate heart and when hospitalized often expressed concern for other children and their siblings. In 2000, when Erin died at the age 17, Jamie and Karen wished to honor Erin's memory and her caring spirit. Acknowledging her love of children and her desire to help others, they felt that a grief camp for children would be an appropriate tribute. The first Camp Erin was established in Everett, WA, in 2002.

Desired outcomes for Camp Erin

- Normalize the grief process through bereavement education and support.
- Decrease the camper's sense of isolation felt while grieving.
- Provide a framework for campers to process their grief in healthy ways.
- Build a toolbox of coping skills and resources that campers can use during and after camp.
- Allow campers the opportunity to remember, honor and memorialize those who have died.
- Have fun!



Program Elements

Camp Erin is offered through overnight and day camp sessions that support either youth only or the whole family. Partner organizations collaborate with Eluna to determine the best program model for their community and organization, and to ensure Camp Erin Best Practices and objectives are met in any program setting.

- Program type and length:
 - Overnight camp sessions: typically weekend, 3 days and 2 nights
 - Day camp sessions: 10 hours minimum
- Program participants:
 - Youth only (ages 6 to 17)
 - Family (a blend of family activities and peer support)
- A minimum of 50 NEW campers annually. For family camps, this includes adult and youth campers.
- The Camp Erin model emphasizes peer connection and support between participants with similar life experiences.
- Each camper and their guardian are interviewed prior to acceptance ensuring readiness for the camp program and allowing the Camp Erin team to provide the best support possible to the camper family.
- The Camp Erin partner recruits, screens, and trains all volunteers in the areas of childhood bereavement and providing support in the camp settings (typically 8-16 hours).
- The Camp Erin partner selects and contracts with a camp facility (accredited when possible) and must have the sole use of the facility for the program. Campers sleep in cabins rather than tents.

- Grief activities are essential to the Camp Erin experience and are key in accomplishing the desired outcomes of camp. Each Camp Erin partner is trained to facilitate two required signature activities: the Memory Board Ceremony and the Luminary Ceremony. The partner identifies 3-5 additional grief support activities to facilitate per camp session.
- Camper evaluations and reflection cards are conducted at the end of camp. This data is compiled and analyzed by Eluna's Camp Erin staff.
- Partner organizations provide a pre-camp event and a post-camp reunion.
- Parent/Guardians are supported throughout the process, either as campers or through the pre-camp event, reunion, and at parent information sessions at the start and/or conclusion of camp.
- Continued bereavement care services are offered to campers and their families by the partner organization and by Eluna through the Eluna Resource Center and Camp Erin Online.
- Pre- and post-camp conference calls are scheduled with the Eluna Camp Erin team to provide ongoing support to partner organizations.
- Pre- and post-camp reporting requirements are submitted by the partner organization for each camp session.

Roles & Responsibilities

The partner organization secures individuals to assume critical camp positions. The Camp and Clinical Directors are paid positions (existing or new staff members); the others are both paid and volunteer positions. Partner organizations strategize with Eluna when structuring their Camp Erin team to make the best use of their organization resources (i.e., clinical and administrative team members, volunteer department, etc.).

- Primary camp leadership:
 - Camp Director (logistics and administrative support)
 - Clinical Director (master's level clinician with grief support expertise)
 - Note: these two positions are sometimes fulfilled by one team member that meets the clinical director requirements.
- Additional qualified clinical support (master's level) – Additional clinicians help lead grief support activities and support campers and volunteers. They can be organization team members but are also often qualified community volunteers.
- Camp Nurse – Two RNs required for overnight youth only sessions; one RN is required for family and day camp sessions. The position is often filled in a volunteer capacity.
- Community volunteers – Volunteers are vital; the Camp Erin community includes almost as many volunteers as campers! Volunteers serve as Cabin Big Buddies, logistics support, and on committees.

Eluna's Commitment

Getting Started

All locations are called "Camp Erin" followed by their location (i.e., Camp Erin Philadelphia). Each new partner is provided with start-up and best practices materials, orientation training, marketing guidance, and ongoing training and support. New Camp Directors are encouraged to visit a camp program at an experienced Camp Erin location.

Marketing & Public Relations

Eluna empowers and supports partner organizations to implement communications, outreach, and intake efforts. Camp Erin partners are provided with a Camp Erin Communications and Marketing Toolkit that includes Camp Erin brand elements and messaging. Additional resources provided include a program logo, camp photos, and sample applications, flyers, and brochures.

The Camp Erin Network

The Camp Erin network is a collaborative community. Camp Erin Camp and Clinical Directors share ideas, address challenges, and support one another through informal networking and hosted events. Camp Erin partners are invited to participate in special projects that elevate their program and the field.

Additional Support from Eluna

- **Camp Erin Best Practices Guide** – an A-Z resource guide on how to effectively run Camp Erin.
- **On-going program development** facilitated by Eluna's Camp Erin team and outside expertise.
- **Health & Safety planning support** – Best practices and resources to maintain a healthy camp community and ensure preparedness for natural and man-made disasters.
- **The Camp Erin Portal** – An online community and resource hub for Camp Erin providers.
- **Networking and education opportunities** – Resources for idea sharing and support provided through individual consultation, webinars, networking calls, personal introductions, and on the Camp Erin Portal.
- **Strategic Partnerships and in-kind support** – Eluna develops corporate and in-kind support that benefits local Camp Erin partners. This includes Eluna's partnership with the New York Life Foundation and local New York Life offices. Eluna also provides partners with camp supplies such as camper backpacks, reflections cards, Eluna's Caregiver Guidebooks, Art with Heart creative expression books, and Costco merchandise cards to purchase camp supplies.
- **Outreach support** – referrals from Eluna's national reach to connect volunteers and campers to a local Camp Erin program.
- **Camp Erin Online** – (<https://elunanetwork.org/camp-erin-online/>) – Camp Erin Online provides free, online support for families to come together, learn ways to navigate grief, and connect with others who have shared experiences. Through ongoing family grief support groups and creative grief expression events, families can be intentional about setting aside time and space to reconnect and remember together.
- **The Eluna Resource Center** (<https://elunanetwork.org/eluna-resource-center/>) – The Eluna Resource Center provides a comprehensive Resource Library and National Program Guide for youth and their caregivers impacted by grief or addiction, as well as confidential, Personalized Support in English and Spanish. On a mission to educate and equip, the Eluna Resource Center also offers tailored trainings and tools for support professionals, with the unique ability to save and share customized resource lists with the families they serve.
- **Camp Erin Instagram** (follow us [@ElunaNetwork](#)) – Camp Erin alumni, their families, camp staff, and advocates across the Camp Erin network stay connected to Camp Erin and each other in this interactive, supportive venue.

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