



Camp Kesem at MIT  
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August 9, 2017

Camp Kesem Chapters  
Arizona State University  
Augustana College  
Ball State University  
Berkeley  
Brown University  
BYU  
BYU-Idaho  
California State University, Northridge  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Central PA  
Chestnut Hill  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Emory University  
Florida State University  
Fresno State  
George Washington University  
Indiana University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Marquette University  
Miami  
Michigan State University  
MIT  
Mizzou  
New Mexico State University  
North Carolina (Duke/UNC)  
North Carolina State University  
Northern Arizona University  
Northwestern University  
Notre Dame  
Princeton  
Rice  
Rowan University  
Saint Louis University  
Santa Clara University  
Southern Utah University  
Stanford  
Stony Brook University  
Syracuse University  
Texas A&M University  
The Claremont Colleges  
The Ohio State University  
The University of Florida  
The University of Georgia  
The University of Michigan  
The University of South Alabama  
The University of Virginia  
UC Davis  
UC Irvine  
UC San Diego  
UC Santa Barbara  
UC Santa Cruz  
UCLA  
University of Arkansas  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Illinois  
University of Kansas  
University of Minnesota  
University of Nebraska  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Oregon  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Richmond  
University of Southern California  
University of Texas - Austin  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Vanderbilt University  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
West Virginia University  
William & Mary  
Yale University

Dear Norfolk Hardware,

On behalf of our CK chapter at MIT, I want to thank Norfolk Hardware for considering supporting us with an in-kind donation. With your paint donation, we will be able to provide two weeks of artistic, messy, and exciting fun to all of our campers!

Camp Kesem is the only nationwide community for children touched by a parent's cancer - a unique population estimated to be over 3 million in the United States. Founded at Stanford University in 2000, Camp Kesem has now expanded to 73 chapters in colleges across the country. Kesem means magic in Hebrew, and we really believe in the magic of camp to provide each camper with the opportunity to be with peers who understand the myriad of emotions that come from a parent's cancer.

Camp Kesem at MIT was founded in 2007 and was the only campus to serve families in New England until 2013, when two new chapters were created. We have grown from 31 total campers and counselors during our first year, to two one-week sessions: 180 campers and 90 counselors in the summer of 2015. In the summer of 2017 we will continue to offer two different sessions and will serve 200 campers with the support of 100 counselors. The desire to grow as a chapter mirrors the mission of the organization: to provide the Kesem experience to as many families as possible.

Children who have been affected by a parent's cancer often mature quickly and find difficulty relating to kids around them. Returning families mention campers who, before camp, refused to talk about cancer with their peers.

*"My daughter always struggled with confidence and independence. These issues intensified during my battle with cancer. Camp Kesem has helped her immeasurably in these areas. I wish all children could have this opportunity."* -2014 Camper Parent

Our mission at Camp Kesem at MIT is to create a safe, loving environment in which our campers can have fun and feel comfortable sharing their feelings to people who can relate or empathize with them. This helps them develop the skills and values necessary for building self-esteem, leadership training, as well as development of interpersonal and communication skills. Although a counselor's focus during camp is entirely on the experience of our campers, we are proud to say that the community and family formed extend beyond the week of camp.

We truly strive to serve each and every child and are proud to accommodate all campers - which include a deaf camper, campers with diverse dietary restrictions, and campers with special medical needs. We serve a diverse group of individuals, ages six to eighteen, who come from different economic backgrounds, schools, interests and exposure to the effects of a parent's cancer.



camp kesem™

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Cornell University  
Emory University  
Florida State University  
Fresno State  
George Washington University  
Indiana University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Marquette University  
Miami  
Michigan State University  
MIT  
Mizzou  
New Mexico State University  
North Carolina (Duke/UNC)  
North Carolina State University  
Northern Arizona University  
Northwestern University  
Notre Dame  
Princeton  
Rice  
Rowan University  
Saint Louis University  
Santa Clara University  
Southern Utah University  
Stanford  
Stony Brook University  
Syracuse University  
Texas A&M University  
The Claremont Colleges  
The Ohio State University  
The University of Florida  
The University of Georgia  
The University of Michigan  
The University of South Alabama  
The University of Virginia  
UC Davis  
UC Irvine  
UC San Diego  
UC Santa Barbara  
UC Santa Cruz  
UCLA  
University of Arkansas  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Illinois  
University of Kansas  
University of Minnesota  
University of Nebraska  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Oregon  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Richmond  
University of Southern California  
University of Texas - Austin  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Vanderbilt University  
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In fact, a returning camper who shared his college admission essay about Camp Kesem described this community as a group of highly unlikely friends. According to the National Survey sent out to all Camp Kesem Chapter families, 98% of parents believe that Camp Kesem had a positive impact on their family, and 99% of families would recommend Camp Kesem to other families touched by cancer.

*“My four children lost their father in 2010 to cancer. We have worked hard to live well since our loss and rebuild a sense of normalcy. We have done counseling, support groups, kept lines of communication open, and have a wonderful support network of fabulous family and friends; however, out of all the consistent work we have done to grieve appropriately, the children made more progress and seem more well adjusted after five days at Camp Kesem than all the other work combined in two years! They came away with hope and were so encouraged. Your staff and program are top notch - beyond our wildest expectations! Thank you!” - 2013 Camper Parent*

Camp Kesem is a one-week, sleep-away camp. It is completely free of charge for our families. Attached you will find the breakdown of the camp cost from last summer and the projected costs for this year’s camp.

We would love to obtain the support of Norfolk Hardware with a paint donation. Specifically, we would like 2 gallons each of red, yellow, blue, orange, green, purple, pink, and black—16 total gallons. Thank you so much, and we look forward to working with you in the future!

Best regards,

Nick Schwartz

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Development Coordinator  
Camp Kesem at MIT