

Like



Dear Friends,

We come to you with a grateful heart and an important request. Will you send a year-end gift to help us provide an additional week of outdoor camp next summer and to continue to provide a community for children with food allergies?

Connie DeMerrell, a long-time supporter and camper parent, is providing a generous and amazing opportunity for you in the form of a matching gift. In honor of her late husband, Dr. Dan DeMerrell, Connie has offered a \$15,000 donation as a challenge to the rest of us. Your donation could be doubled! Together with Connie, your impact will allow twice as many kids to feel connection, community and hope in a world that can sometimes be isolating.

[Please click here to have your donation matched!](#)

We are honored to share Connie's touching journey and connection with Camp Blue Spruce:



Connie DeMerrell & the boys drop by Dr. Doolittle's Health House, Camp Blue Spruce.

A Decade of Support

Connie DeMerrell on why
she is a champion of
Camp Blue Spruce

What is your connection to Camp Blue Spruce and it's mission?

My late husband, Dr. Daniel G. DeMerrell, introduced our family to Camp Blue Spruce in 2012. As a pediatric allergist, Dan firmly believed in the purpose and mission of the camp. He contributed to the camp as a medical advisor and medical volunteer. He was a relentless advocate for Camp Blue Spruce. He promoted the camp to his colleagues and his eligible patients. He believed every child should have the gift of living life without boundaries; ranging from feeling safe to attend another child's birthday party, attending an overnight camp, to leaving home for college. These are some of the many events that may feel unsafe, anxiety provoking, or unavailable to a child with food allergies. Dan believed Camp Blue Spruce would run safely and by sharing that belief with his colleagues and patients, children may take the steps to live with one less boundary. Eventually, a life without boundaries may lead to a confident young adult who feels safe navigating the world and trying new experiences. He recognized that Camp Blue Spruce provided a valuable opportunity to connect children living with food allergies to one another so that they may be a support to one another.

Peer support could help with potential isolation, anxiety, and depression that children with food allergies may experience.

Camp Blue Spruce creates a safe camp experience for children with food allergies. Sadly, there are only a few other camps in the United States that host an allergy friendly camp experience. Every donation helps another child attend camp and experience its benefits.

How would you describe your personal mission?

Dan died of suicide in 2014. I want to help create a world where people do not feel they need to suffer in silence. We all struggle, no one has the perfect life, and it is ok to ask for help.

Your son, Finnegan, attended Camp Blue Spruce this past summer. How was that experience?

Finnegan was diagnosed with Celiac disease in March 2019. It was something he has had to grieve as he processes the implications of living with Celiac. Meeting other children with food allergies has made a positive impact in his journey of living with Celiac.

Finnegan was only four years old when Dan died. For Finn personally, camp serves as a connection to his father. I can tell him why his father chose to be a pediatric allergist and tell him how brave, smart, compassionate, and empathetic Dan was, but Camp Blue Spruce gives him an opportunity to see what he valued and work towards in action.



*All of us connected to
Camp Blue Spruce would
like to say "thank you"
and share our endless
gratitude with the
DeMerrell Family. They are*



Finnegan DeMerell was always ready with a smile at camp last summer.

DeMerell family. They are helping to create such a wonderful place for connection, confidence, and community.

Please help us raise another \$15,000 and honor Connie's generous gift and enduring commitment to Camp Blue Spruce.



- **Donate directly at www.campbluespruce.org/ways-to-give or click anywhere on this newsletter**
- **Donate through our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CampBlueSpruce**
- **Mail donation to: 3519 NE 15th Ave., #225, Portland, OR 97212**
- **Ask your employer about matching donation options, our Tax ID is 45-4619990**
- **Contact us to volunteer, info@campbluespruce.org**

- Follow us on Facebook & Instagram, share and like our posts

Our programs are life-changing. You can help change a life.

**Thank you to all of our supporters through the years.
Here is some of the magic that you provided in 2021:**

- We continued to focus on being one of the only nonprofits whose programs are focused on the child first - not the food allergy family, not the medical research- just the child.
- We added new virtual programs that are allowing kids from all over the world to benefit, such as Allergy Pals, Cooking Classes, Teen Book Club, & Camp Blue Spruce on the Loose- a virtual camp.
- We have updated and improved our website, our registration and accounting software, and gave our logos and branding a "refresh".
- We held our flagship overnight camp in Oregon, at limited capacity, bringing much-needed connection to many delighted campers.

Once again, many young lives were touched by the incredible talents and hearts of Camp Blue Spruce volunteers. They are our backbone. In 2021, our family of volunteers went beyond what we thought was possible. They were creative and tireless and carefully safeguarded all of our participants during a challenging pandemic.

Thank you to all the volunteers who provided

Thank you to all the volunteers who provided opportunities for youth and teens living with food allergies and other related conditions to come together as a community.



We are beyond thrilled and hopeful about 2022 and the amazing experiences our campers will have. Because we are adding another week of camp next summer, we really need your financial support. Any amount will help!

Thank you for standing alongside us during these uncertain times. We hope you and your family are well and that you experience joy and peace in this wonderful season of giving and gratitude.

All the best,

*Louise Tippens, Founding Director,
and the Camp Blue Spruce Board*

CAMP BLUE SPRUCE • 3519 NE 15th Ave., #225, Portland, OR 97212

www.campbluespruce.org

Camp Blue Spruce is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization.
Donations may be tax deductible.





Camp Blue Spruce's vision is that all children and families living with food allergies have a sense of belonging, trust, and community.

Camp Blue Spruce provides children with food allergies experiences where they can be independent, confident, and worry-free

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