

Introduction and Welcome

Getting Started

Welcome to the Consortium on Children's Asthma Camps Tool Kit. This kit offers the information, examples and guidance you need to actively promote your asthma camp program, whether you are launching a new camp or simply looking for creative, effective ideas for updating a well-established program.

In this kit, you will find detailed suggestions for planning, marketing and staffing camps. You also will see extensive information on medical considerations related to the asthma camp experience.

There is a broad range of ideas from which you and your fellow camp staff can choose in order to make your camp the most positive, productive experience possible.

An Ongoing Commitment

Since its establishment in 1988, the Consortium on Children's Asthma Camps has continually evolved to meet the increasing and diverse needs of the asthma camp community. Most camp staffers are busy professionals who volunteer their time, so the Consortium wanted to gather some of the best ideas and practices from camps throughout the world into one, easy-to-use resource guide. This guide, or tool kit, is modular so you can quickly and easily reference the sections that are most useful for your particular camp situation.

The Consortium will regularly update the tool kit and welcomes your ideas and suggestions. Feel free to e-mail your comments to the Consortium's executive director, Penny Gottier Fena, at penny.fena@alamn.org. Also, be sure to visit the Consortium Web site (www.asthmacamps.org) throughout the year to see the latest suggestions for making each camp season fun and fruitful.

About the Consortium

The purpose of the Consortium on Children's Asthma Camps is to promote camps for children with asthma. As part of this effort, the Consortium coordinates the camp activities of national organizations involved in the care of children with asthma. The Consortium includes representatives from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology; the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology; the American Lung Association; the American Thoracic Society; the American Academy of Pediatrics; and the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.

Today, there are more than 130 children's asthma camps nationwide and the number of camps is growing. The Consortium helps ensure quality medical care is delivered at camps and provides parameters for educational goals. The Consortium also supports the development of new asthma camps and promotes initiatives that help children from all backgrounds attend asthma camp.