



Dear Prospective Camp Erin Families and Volunteers,

My name is Eva Cowen, I am the Camp Director for Camp Erin Montgomery County. Camp Erin is the largest national bereavement program for children and teens ages 6-17 who have experienced the death of someone close to them and is offered in 37 locations across the US and Canada. Camp Erin Montgomery County will be held at Bar-T Mountainside in Frederick, Maryland from May 13-15, 2022 and is free of charge. Campers will participate in group sessions with trained grief facilitators and well as outdoor games, a drumming circle, art projects, a ropes course and other activities designed for fun while helping children process their grief. Campers will be grouped according to age for small group activities and will be together as an entire camp for others including meals. Sleeping arrangements will be in cabins supervised by adult counselors. Camp Erin is a partner of the Eluna Network. Eluna is a public, 501(c)(3) non-profit with a mission to support children and families impacted by grief or addiction. Founded in 2000 in Seattle by former MLB pitcher Jamie Moyer and child advocate Karen Phelps Moyer, Eluna was originally called The Moyer Foundation and launched a series of programs supporting thousands of children and families annually.

Bar-T Mountainside is 115 acres of agricultural land, woodland, and recreational fun. It is home to summer camp, before and after school care, and outdoor and environmental education. Bar-T has been running in Montgomery County for the last 60 years and Frederick County for the last 20.

As of now, we are planning for camp to be in-person from May 13-15, 2022. CaringMatters and Camp Erin hold the safety of our staff, volunteers and participants as the highest priority. We will continue to monitor all guidance from the CDC and local health advisory agencies as we plan for camp and make a determination closer to May as to whether we need to hold camp virtually again this year. In keeping with guidance from Camp Erin's sponsoring agency, Eluna Network, we are strongly recommending that all campers be vaccinated prior to camp.

Here is a little bit about Camp Erin's leadership Team:

Eva Cowen, Camp Director, has been working with CaringMatters for the past 18 months. She has overseen inclusion of children, teens and young adults with disabilities at Camp JCC in Rockville for 37 summers and has spoken internationally on best practices in inclusive camping.

Aditi Menon-Broker, Camp Erin Clinical Director, has a background in family and parent-child counseling, children and women's rights, ESOL education and children's media.

Cecilia Thonet, Camp Erin Clinical Resource Specialist, has a BS in Nursing and a Masters in Human Development with a specialty in Group Therapy. Since 2011, Cecilia has been with CaringMatter as a volunteer in the Good Grief Program, Family Nights and Camp Erin. This will be Cecilia's 10th time volunteering at camp!

Shannon Richardson ran the outdoor and environmental education at Mountainside before moving over to the Director position of MAC, Mountainside's before and after school program. She has been volunteering with Camp Erin for the last 5 years and assists with any facility needs during camp.

Patrick Richardson has years of experience running summer camp and has been volunteering with Camp Erin for the last 10 years in various roles. More recently he has been an on-site coordinator.

Nancy Richardson is the owner of Bar-T. She is a registered nurse and has been working with Caring Matters and Camp Erin for over 10 years.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Eva Cowen, Camp Director at evac@caringmatters.org or 301-869-4673, extension 111. After you fill out an application, someone on our team will contact you to set up an intake meeting to get to know your child or teen and to share more about Camp Erin.

Thank you,

Eva Cowen

Director, Camp Erin Montgomery County