

Summer camp recap and college scholarships

Thanks goes to all of you who have contributed to MDA. Each dollar you raised gave many children and young adults hope and weeks of fun at an MDA Summer Camp. “Thanks to your fundraising efforts, brothers and sisters, MDA provides a safe, inclusive summer camp experience at no cost to families,” Assistant to the President for Community Services Christina Vela Davidson said.

MDA Summer Camp is the highlight of the year for many kids, who often say it is the best week of the year.

“I have looked into similar options, and nothing compares to MDA camp,” one camper’s parent explained. “I can clearly see the expertise, the high standards, and the concern for the kids. MDA camp is the standard by which I judge other camps.”

Another said: “I would want every family that has an opportunity to participate to experience this.”

MDA recently released its stats for the 2025 camp season, so it’s a good opportunity to see how the money NALC branches raise for MDA affects campers across the country.

In 2025, there were 23 weeklong, overnight sessions and one weeklong virtual session, adding up to 146 days. There were a total of 836 campers, with 749 of those being in person. The campers came from 48 states and Puerto Rico.

While 175 were first-time campers, 61 percent attended for more than their third time, while 34 percent attended for more than their fifth time.

To assist those campers, there were 804 volunteers and 80 health professionals. Those helpers were needed because 273 of the campers used some kind of respiratory equipment, such as a CPAP device, a nebulizer or a trach vent. More than half of the campers (488) used durable medical equipment, such as mobility equipment, a Hoyer lift, or a shower chair. There were 1,804 medications checked in on arrival day!

Here is what a day at camp looks like:

- 7 a.m.—Rise and shine
- 8 a.m.—Breakfast
- 9 a.m.—Morning programs, such as boating, archery, fishing, and arts and crafts
- 12 p.m.—Lunch
- 1 p.m.—Rest period
- 3 p.m.—Afternoon programs
- 6 p.m.—Dinner
- 7 p.m.—Evening programs, such as talent shows, pool parties and dances
- 11 p.m.—Winding down with bedtime stories, jokes and daily recaps before lights out

“It was truly incredible on every level,” another parent said. “I’m honestly at a loss for the right words to de-



scribe it. It supported [my son] in such a holistic way and, most importantly, brought him so much joy.”

This is what you make possible with every dollar you raise.

College scholarships

In 2025, MDA administered the second year of the MDA College Scholarship Program to make higher education more accessible for young adults living with neuromuscular disease. MDA awarded 16 merit-based scholarships: 10 to new scholars and renewing support for six recipients from last year.

“As a person with neuromuscular disease, living away at college comes with many additional expenses,” a 2024 recipient said. “The MDA Scholarship helps make it possible for me to experience living independently on campus.”

The scholarship is essay-based and asks about the applicant’s leadership and engagement within the neuromuscular community. An external, blinded review committee scored the applicants.

MDA received 162 applications, a 14.9 percent increase from 2024, received from residents of 39 states plus Puerto Rico.

The recipients had an average 3.71 grade point average (GPA), with 26.1 percent surpassing a 4.0 GPA. They were 52 percent male and 67 percent between the ages of 18 and 22 years old.

Turn in your funds

Remember, NALC’s commitment to MDA is here until a cure is delivered (#DelivertheCure), no matter how long it may take. If your branch has not participated in years, please contact Vela Davidson at 202-662-2489 or mda@nalc.org so that a plan can be made for your branch to begin participating.

Please mail copies of any receipts or checks, along with copies of the NALC/MDA allocation, so your branch can be properly recognized. Also, remember that NALC/MDA allocations must be turned in the same calendar year of the event (postmarked no later than Dec. 31) to qualify for that year’s NALC Honor Roll.

Locally raised funds must be sent to the national MDA office in Chicago: Muscular Dystrophy Association Inc., Attn: NALC; P.O. Box 7410354; Chicago, IL 60674-0354.