



## Circle Camps for Grieving Children Fast Facts

Circle Camps provides overnight camping experiences for young girls who have experienced the death of a parent. The Circle experience is unique in that it is week long, and campers return for as many as nine summers. All Circle programs are at no charge to campers.

Circle Camps held its first program at Camp Tapawingo in Sweden, Maine in 2002 with 32 campers supported by 26 volunteer counselors. In August 2018, there will be two Circle camps:

- Circle of Tapawingo, 125 campers supported by 60 volunteer counselors
- Circle of EKC (Morgantown, WV), 120 campers, 60 volunteer counselors

In the past 16 years, over 1,100 grieving young girls have attended a Circle Camp.

Campers are accepted in the program on a need-blind basis. All have experienced the death of a parent. The only criterion for campers is that they are emotionally stable enough to be away from home for a week.

Counselors come from across the U.S., range in age from 19-74, and have a return rate over 90%.

Over the years, the Circle program has grown from the Camper Program for girls ages 9-12 to include a Teen Program, ages 13-14, and a five-year Leaders In Training Program (LIT) for campers who 'graduate' from our Teen Program.

The Circle program is unique in its integration of grief activities throughout the campers' week. Regular camp activities include swimming, canoeing, tubing, and all land sports. Circle's exceptional, empowering activities include: Circle Time, when campers are invited to share stories of their deceased parents; *Voices of Circle: A Circle of Voices*, a profoundly moving collection of camper writings compiled and 'published' in six days; the Rock Ceremony when campers place an inscribed rock in the Memory Garden; Circle of The Stars Talent Show in which campers perform before a large audience, and Camper Campfire when campers say goodbye to their Circle family. To be able to speak and cry about their losses surrounded by the Circle community is the greatest gift Circle gives to its campers.

Circle Camps for Grieving Children  
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