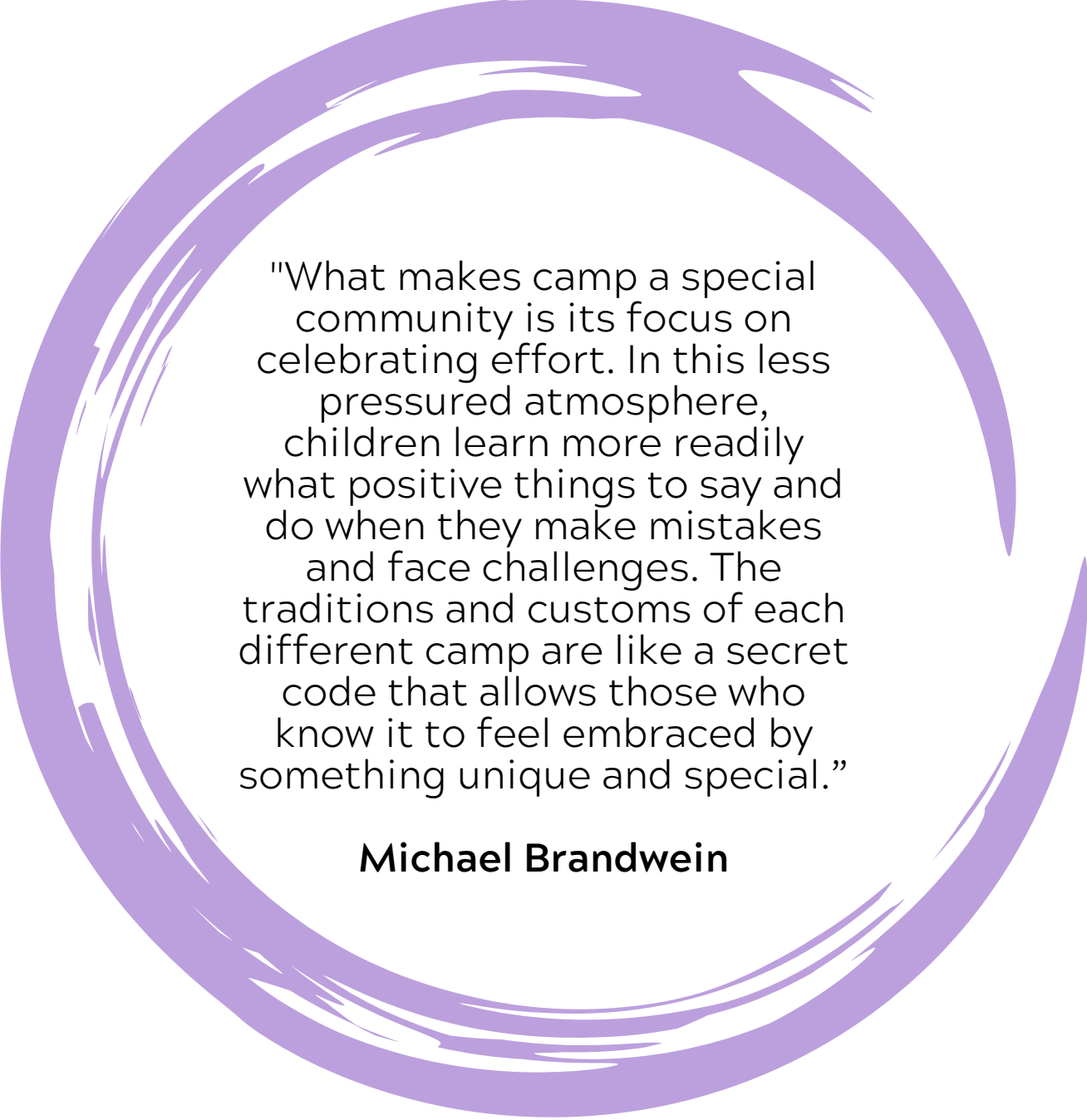


Welcome to Camp Shout Out!



"What makes camp a special community is its focus on celebrating effort. In this less pressured atmosphere, children learn more readily what positive things to say and do when they make mistakes and face challenges. The traditions and customs of each different camp are like a secret code that allows those who know it to feel embraced by something unique and special."

Michael Brandwein

What is Camp Shout Out?

Camp Shout Out is a 501(c)3 organization providing specialized services for youth who stutter ages 8-18, combined with hands-on training for graduate students and speech-language pathologists within an overnight summer camp environment.

What do we do?

Camp Shout Out draws upon evidenced based benefits of camp itself, and immerses campers in positive communication experiences. It supports hands-on learning for trainees, through careful collaboration with fluency specialists & staff.

Why are we doing it?

Research shows growing up with stuttering often includes negative social consequences. Youth who stutter deserve high quality services and a strong, ongoing community of support. Professionals and graduate students seek further training experiences because evidence reports professionals feel uncomfortable treating this population.

What matters to us?

Relationships, community, peer to peer support, motivating activities, positive communication experiences, and professionalism matter most at Camp Shout Out.

What are our hopes?

Youth who stutter, throughout their lives, draw upon community support, advocate for themselves, continue to evolve, and are able to access help if so desired.

What is our philosophy?

Camp Shout Out is a place for **kids who stutter** to build **community** with other campers who stutter. It provides a space for **peer to peer mentoring** and connections. It is an opportunity for stuttering experts, speech therapists, and graduate students to **closely collaborate** in order to gain a deeper understanding of the "individual stuttering experience" of campers and strengthen clinical critical thinking skills.

Camp Shout Out considers **each child's unique experiences** related to communication. Our application and collection of campers' previous records allows us to consider carefully how the **camp experience** may be **tailored to your child**. Further recommendations may be provided to you based upon the observations and interactions of several stuttering experts with your child at the end of the camp experience.

Our therapeutic framework stems from the theory that **stuttering** is a **complex problem, ever changing and defined individually by contributing factors**. Additionally, **society** can play a **negative role** in how a person experiences it. Applying what we know from our field about helping children as they grow and develop, our **approach begins with Relate in the center**, as we **Explore, Model, Guide**, and **Encourage** campers to **challenge themselves and grow**, as individuals and as communicators. We **focus** upon **each camper's assets**, and **seek to understand both internal and external factors** that may potentially contribute to the manner in which the difficulty communicating is **currently impacting them**. We **emphasize external factors** (school, home, other places) as **opportunities for advocacy**, **creating an environment whereby he/she/they feel safe talking and stuttering**.

We empower campers by exposing them to **Five Areas Focus (Attentive, Assertive, Confident, Effective, & Proactive)** of communication skills. Our program strongly advocates a mindset that *all can choose to keep growing as communicators* and that *challenges we face can be seen as learning opportunities*. **Most importantly, campers have the opportunity to be a part of a community where there are others who also stutter.** They realize they are not alone and feel free to “just talk.”

Campers are grouped into smaller teams, where they have opportunities to build positive relationships with the facilitators and trainees supporting them. Each camper and parent-caregiver provide information regarding updates and changes that have occurred since the enrollment process.

Overall, our goal is to create opportunities (both systematically as well as spontaneously) for campers to have **positive communicative experiences**, as well as to learn developmentally appropriate **coping strategies** with a special focus on **self-advocacy**.

On the **last day of camp, caregivers meet with their camper’s small team** as well as **with the camp as a whole**. They have the opportunity to experience the types of activities occurring daily at camp, increase understanding of stuttering in general, and celebrate the hard work of the campers. In addition, they are provided with an **Exit Plan** with recommendations for continuing to support their camper once at home and throughout the school year.