

Camp Endres: Our History

Nearly 40 years ago, Robert Endres, M.D. began the first diabetes camp in Oklahoma. Recognizing the need, another camp in the state was established to serve children with diabetes. In 1982 these two camps, Camp O'Leary and Camp Kno-Keto combined, becoming Camp O'Leary/Kno-Keto. At this time, the camp relocated to the YMCA Camp Classen campground near Davis, Oklahoma.

Camp O'Leary/Kno-Keto operated for several years under the direction of the American Diabetes Association. In 1999 the program was reorganized with the sponsorship of INTEGRIS Health, St. Francis Children's Hospital and the *ediba* Diabetes Center of Oklahoma; the camp was renamed Camp Endres to honor Dr. Endres. With the goal of including all children with diabetes in Oklahoma, Diabetes Solutions, an independent, non-profit organization, was formed in 2000 to continue the success of Camp Endres.

Management of diabetes has improved drastically in the past few years as seen in the lifestyle and quality of life now available to children with diabetes. In 1994, seven children and staff wore insulin pumps to camp; in 2004, 127 campers and staff wore insulin pumps at camp. As diabetes therapy rapidly improves, the education programs of Camp Endres have evolved, incorporating these positive changes into our camping program. Consistently for the past several years, approximately 80% of the population with diabetes at Camp Endres wears an insulin pump. The Camp Endres staff is very pump savvy and able to meet the needs of each camper's individual insulin therapy.

In 2008, Camp Endres split into two separate age groups improving our ability to focus on age appropriate developmental stages and adjust each program according to those needs. The younger group (8-12 years) was held in the Main Camp portion of the YMCA facility while the older group (13-17 years) was held in the more rustic location within the YMCA campground known as 89er Village.

In October of 2009, the YMCA Camp Classen closed the back portion of their facility known as 89er Village. Because of the facility changes, it was necessary for the older group of Camp Endres to either recombine with the younger group or find another facility to host our teen group.

In 2010, Camp Endres formed two distinct groups; Camp Endres Junior and Camp Endres Senior. It was at this time that Camp Endres Senior moved to the Central Christian Camp in Guthrie, Oklahoma. And as the needs of children with diabetes change over time, Diabetes Solutions and Camp Endres remains flexible yet focused on our goals.



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