

Med camp 101

Presented by
VICTORY JUNCTION

► **FEBRUARY 24, 2026**
9AM - 4:30PM

► **4500 ADAM'S WAY**
RANDLEMAN, NC, 27317

Med Camp 101 is designed for child life professionals, nurses, and social workers, and is open to **anyone** interested in learning more about child care. This **FREE** event includes:

- 3.75 Continuing Education Units
- Lunch & Snacks
- Interactive Sessions
- Intentional Networking



**PRE-REGISTER
HERE!**

victoryjunction.org/medcamp

VICTORY JUNCTION
a seriousfun camp

Founded in honor of Adam Petty 

Learning Objectives

- ▶ Learners will apply new knowledge of Victory Junction Camp to refer colleagues to volunteer at Camp
- ▶ Participants will identify 3-5 diagnosis groups served at Camp to recruit their patient population to camp
- ▶ Learners will gain insight into Victory Junction's leadership in medical camping and learn how their expertise, careers, and connections can help open this life-changing experience to more children and families
- ▶ Learners will learn how to effectively communicate the benefits of camp participation to patients and families across diverse diagnosis groups

VICTORY JUNCTION'S MISSION

Victory Junction enriches the lives of children living with complex medical and physical needs by providing life-changing, fun, and empowering camp experiences at no cost.

event SCHEDULE

TIME	ACTIVITY
9-9:45am	Check-in & Mingle
10 -10:45am	Camp Opening: Principles Behind Safe, Inclusive, and Impactful Camp Experiences with VJ Camp Program Team
10:45am -12:15pm	Keynote: The Journey from Hole in the Wall to Victory Junction with Dr. Mike Kent
12:15 - 1pm	Lunch
1 - 2pm	Camp Tours & Open Program Areas
2 - 3:30pm	Breakout Sessions (Child Life, Medical, Social Work, & Volunteers)
3:45 - 4:30pm	Advancing Excellence in Medical Specialty Camping: A Closing Expert Panel with VJ Operations Team Directors
4:15 - 5pm	Camp Store Open



Please see the next page for detailed descriptions of each session.

VICTORY JUNCTION

sessions

Learn more about Victory Junction and our programs through these interactive sessions and activity opportunities.

► **Camp Opening: Principles Behind Safe, Inclusive, and Impactful Camp Experiences**

Welcome to Camp Opening! Meet our camp program professionals who will offer a clear look at what children living with complex medical and physical needs experience when they attend Victory Junction. This energetic and interactive session will explore what campers do each day, how activities are intentionally designed to be inclusive and developmentally supportive, and why high-quality programming is at the heart of everything we provide. Participants will also gain insight into the principles and decision-making processes that guide program design, ensuring safety, accessibility, and meaningful engagement for every camper. Attendees will leave with practical takeaways that can inform their own work in medical, educational, or youth development settings.

Nathan Unwin & VJ Program Team

► **Partnering for Impact: Staff and Volunteer Opportunities in Camp Programming**

We cannot provide Camp without our incredible staff and volunteers! Come and meet with our program team who will exhibit opportunities for your school, program, or teams to partner with us to aid student development. We will share how current schools and programs are able to provide their students with hands-on, experiential learning opportunities as they positively impact campers and families. Participants will also gain insight into Victory Junction's flexible partnership model and how volunteer engagement can be intentionally aligned with curricular goals, academic requirements, and varying calendar structures across program seasons.

Kaleb Reeves & Lauren Hunter

► Camp Tours, Bowling, and Arts & Crafts

Embedded in the schedule, you will have the opportunity to see a couple of our VJ Program Areas in action! After lunch, optional camp tours will be available to anyone interested in learning more about our facilities. During this time, we will also have our one-of-a-kind bowling alley open. Our alley is always a party with music, an arcade and of course, bowling! We believe in success, not gutter balls, so bumpers and special ramps are available. We can even turn on black lights for extra fun! Another favorite spot at camp is our Arts & Crafts center. We will have this area open for you if you're interested in tapping into your creative side as you create your own camp souvenir with our VJ OUTREACH TEAM. Our OUTREACH Team a few of their favorite crafts that they get to enjoy with children during their programming at clinics and hospitals all throughout NC, SC, and VA. Join the fun!

Victory Junction's OUTREACH Team



continuing education

sessions

You will have the opportunity to earn 3.75 continuing education credits through a combination of the following educational sessions.

► **The Journey from Hole in the Wall to Victory Junction**

This session, led by Dr. Mike Kent, draws on his extensive experience working in medical camp environments, including Victory Junction. Participants will explore the value of the camp experience through both the patient and healthcare professional perspectives, examining how medically specialized camps contribute to holistic care, psychosocial development, and long-term wellbeing. Through real-world examples and reflective discussion, the session will highlight how camp environments support patient autonomy, peer connection, and

resilience, while also offering providers unique insights into patient needs beyond traditional clinical settings. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how interdisciplinary collaboration, adaptive programming, and supportive camp culture enhance outcomes for children and families managing complex medical conditions.

Dr. Mike Kent | 1.5 credits

► **Benefits of Summer camps for Children with Chronic Illness and Complex Medical Needs**

In this breakout session, attendees will learn about why medical camps are beneficial to children living with chronic illnesses and complex medical needs. The psychosocial needs of this group of children will be discussed, demonstrating the need for positive childhood experiences such as Victory Junction. Topics such as normalization, quality of life, perception of illness and self, socialization, goal achievement, and regimen adherence will be explored.

Carrie Alice Mahoney | 1.5 credits

► **Beyond the Diagnosis: Fostering Independence, Dignity, and Wellness in Children with Spina Bifida**

This presentation examines how thoughtful, developmentally appropriate support for bladder and bowel management can empower children with spina bifida to develop independence and confidence. Participants will gain practical tools to promote autonomy and wellness across camp, home, school, and community settings.

Dr. Nick Comeau | 1.5 credits

► **Caring for the Whole Child & Family: Medical Camp as a Complement to Clinical Care**

Social workers supporting children with medical complexity often partner with a wide range of community-based programs yet may have limited insight into how these programs are intentionally designed to support psychosocial well-being. This session offers a practice-adjacent exploration of Victory Junction's camp model. Participants will learn how intentional camp design supports autonomy, peer connection, identity development, and emotional safety for children with complex medical needs, while also providing meaningful benefits for caregivers and family systems. Through family feedback, case examples, and facilitated discussion, attendees will examine how medical camps can effectively complement clinical care and consider practical considerations for referral.

Allie Hylton | 1.5 credits



► **Advancing Excellence in Medical Specialty Camping: A Closing Expert Panel**

As a leader in medical specialty camping, Victory Junction presents a closing expert panel featuring Allie Hylton (Camper Admissions), Amy McDowell (Medical Operations), Nathan Unwin (Program Management), and Jonathan Lemmon (Camp Operations). Drawing on more than 50 years of collective experience, the panelists will examine research-driven and evidence-informed strategies that support high-quality outcomes in specialized camp environments, illustrated through practical, real-world applications. This discussion will explore how interdisciplinary collaboration, operational alignment, and intentional program design contribute to safe, effective, and meaningful experiences for campers and families. The session will conclude with a live Q&A, offering participants the opportunity to engage directly with the panelists and address specific professional challenges, best practices, and emerging questions in the field of medical specialty camping.

Victory Junction Expert Panel | .75 credits



Guest Presenter Bios

Carrie Alice Mahoney

Carrie Alice is a Certified Child Life Specialist currently working at Carilion Children's Hospital in Roanoke, VA. She has been working in the outpatient specialty center for five years, providing child life services to children with chronic illnesses and complex medical needs. She recently began working as a facility dog handler. Carrie Alice completed her undergraduate degree in Psychology at The University of North Carolina before going on to complete a child life practicum at Children's National and child life internship at East Tennessee Children's hospital. While in college, Carrie Alice had the privilege of working at Victory Junction Camp for 3 summers as well as seasonally for family weekends. When not working or day-dreaming about her days at camp, Carrie Alice enjoys spending time with her dog, Georgie, and cheering on the Tar Heels.

Dr. Mike Kent

Dr. Mike Kent received his Medical degree from Albany Medical College, Albany NY. He did his pediatric residency at the Floating hospital for Children in Boston, MA, and completed a fellowship in Pediatric hematology/oncology at Children's Colorado, in Aurora, Colorado. He did his BMT training at the University of Minnesota with a focus on non-malignant transplant. His career focus has been on transplantation and transformative therapies for sickle cell anemia.



Dr. Nick Comeau

Dr. Nick Comeau is a dual board-certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner with specialization in Pediatric Nephrology and Pediatric Hospital Medicine. He currently serves full-time as an inpatient pediatric nephrology provider at Atrium Health Levine Children's – Brenner Children's Hospital in Winston Salem NC, where he oversees care of both primary and consultative inpatient services for the Pediatric Nephrology service including renal transplant and manages patients requiring acute dialysis in the hospital and infusion-based treatments in the pediatric infusion center. In addition, Dr. Comeau holds a faculty appointment at the Conway School of Nursing at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. His academic responsibilities include instructing both primary and acute care didactic courses, overseeing practicum experiences in primary and acute care, and facilitating on-campus intensive sessions. Dedicated to optimizing health outcomes for all children, Dr. Comeau actively volunteers as a medical provider at Victory Junction in Randleman, NC. His patient care philosophy, shaped by his work at Victory Junction, emphasizes empowering hospitalized children to achieve the highest levels of safety and fulfillment during every stage of care, ultimately treating the kids as kids and still seeking for them to embrace their childhood while admitted or undergoing care. Dr. Comeau's scholarly interests focus on enhancing medical therapies for nephrological and urological conditions, promoting antibiotic stewardship, and applying implementation science methodologies to advance quality and safety in pediatric healthcare. Residing in Kernersville, North Carolina with his wife Carrie and their two children, Riley and Callie, Dr. Comeau enjoys traveling and spending time with his family when not engaged in his professional pursuits.



VJ STAFF PRESENTER BIOS

Allie Hylton

Allie is the Camper Admissions & OUTREACH Director at Victory Junction. She holds a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and spent five years as a high school teacher before transitioning into the nonprofit and camp world. Drawn to a role centered on expanding access and breaking down barriers, she joined Victory Junction over six years ago, beginning as a Camper Admissions Coordinator. Throughout her time at Victory Junction, her work has remained rooted in directly connecting with families - sharing camp opportunities, supporting the admissions process, and helping ensure campers make it to camp. In her current role, she also gets to witness firsthand the impact of her OUTREACH Team as they take Victory Junction programming directly into pediatric hospitals and clinics across North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia, bringing the fun and spirit of camp to children beyond the on-site camp experience. She finds deep fulfillment in building trusted relationships with families and hearing directly how camp has positively impacted both campers and their families.

Amy McDowell

Amy McDowell, DNP, MSN, RN, NE-BC is the Director of Medical Operations at Victory Junction, where she works alongside the Medical Director to lead the Medical Staff and oversee the delivery of safe, high-quality care for children with complex medical needs. She holds a BSN from Liberty University and both her MSN and DNP from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and brings more than 30 years of experience as a pediatric nurse. After transitioning from the hospital setting, Amy found purpose in creating opportunities for children to safely experience camp, empowering them to thrive beyond their diagnoses while prioritizing safety, inclusion, and joy.

Jonathan Lemmon

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) began his career at Victory Junction in 2009. Jonathan graduated with his bachelor's degree in Recreation Management & Psychology from Murray State University in December of 2008 and went on to obtain a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in 2014. His passion for Camp and serving children with special needs has been the catalyst for his seasoned career here at Victory Junction. He began at Victory Junction as a program manager for the on-site team and slowly transitioned into developing the hospital outreach program (REACH). He continued as the Outreach Director for over six years, leading the team serving children in the hospitals of North & South Carolina. Jonathan now holds the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Victory Junction where he provides leadership to all of the operations team, ensuring VJ's deliverables are anchored to safety and high standards all while providing the most fun for the campers as possible.

Kaleb Reeves

Kaleb Reeves is the Camp Program Manager at Victory Junction. He is a graduate of UNC Greensboro, where he earned a degree in Parks and Recreation Management with a focus on Therapeutic Recreation. Kaleb has been a full-time staff member for three and a half years and has played a key role in recruiting a diverse and inclusive pool of staff and volunteers to support campers. As a former seasonal staff member, he has seen firsthand how camp experiences help individuals grow into confident professionals. Kaleb is passionate about helping people from all fields of study and recognize that camp offers meaningful opportunities for personal and professional development.

Lauren Hunter

Lauren Hunter is the Volunteer Program Manager at Victory Junction with 10 years of seasonal and full-time work in camps. Lauren holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education (2018) and a Master's degree in School Counseling (2021), both from Ball State University in Indiana. Before transitioning to a full-time camp role, Lauren worked for four years as an Elementary School Counselor. Inspired by the mission of SeriousFun, Lauren set a goal to one day join one of its camps—and is thrilled to be part of that camp magic. She loves welcoming both new and returning volunteers and is passionate about supporting them throughout their camp experience.

Nathan Unwin

Nathan Unwin, VJ Executive Camp Program Director, joined Victory Junction in January 2022 after spending 13 years at a summer camp for children with physical disabilities and a day camp for children with autism in Long Island, New York. Originally from Sheffield, England, he first came to the US to work at camp while completing his bachelor's degree in Special Education back in the UK. Nathan's main passion is to create and foster meaningful and unique experiences for children and staff through safe, fun, and innovative programming. Each individual camp experience means a lot to Nathan, and he loves to see people try new things, build friendships, and feel a part of the camp family. He has a Masters degree in Public Administration and featured as a guest speaker at the American Camp Association Southeastern conference. He met his wife as camp counselors in New York, and they are raising their 3 children to love camp also!