

Thank you to the following presenters and organizations/businesses that made this week's field trips and presentations possible. Without them, our campers would not have had the experiences and opportunities available to them. Thank you to...

SMASHING WALNUTS FOUNDATION—ELLYN MILLER

P.O. Box 342, Leesburg, VA 20178 | info@smashingwalnuts.org | <https://smashingwalnuts.org>

Gabriella Miller was diagnosed with DIPG, an inoperable brain tumor the size of a walnut, which is terminal upon diagnosis. Gabriella quickly became a global advocate for children with cancer. She and her family raised nearly \$300,000 for children's cancer charities and spread awareness that the need was great, but the funding was low. She founded the Smashing Walnuts Foundation to change that. Less than a year after her diagnosis, Gabriella passed away surrounded by family and friends who promised to continue her work. An interview, filmed two weeks before her death, led to her name being added to a Federal Bill allocating \$126 million for childhood disease research and kick started our mission to focus on research. Today the organization provides funding, lobbying and directed resources to develop better treatment protocols and a cure. They partner with government organizations, lawmakers, businesses, nonprofits, communities and children who share their goal.



You can help the Smashing Walnuts Foundation raise much-needed funds by donating money or hosting a fundraiser to fund research and cures for childhood brain cancers. For more information on how you can help, visit:

<https://smashingwalnuts.org/get-involved>.

HOPE FASTER

www.hopefaster.org

HOPE FASTER's mission is to raise awareness and funds for pediatric cancer research by providing a fundraising platform for children to directly assist their peers fighting pediatric cancer. HOPE FASTER is an all-volunteer sports and fitness focused pediatric cancer fundraising and awareness platform. Created in 2013 by the sibling of a young cancer patient, HOPE FASTER encourages activity to help young cancer patients stay active and to help all children learn the lessons that sports and competition provide.



HOPE FASTER grew from an idea Joy had to help her little sister Hope when she was diagnosed with Leukemia. Joy designed a fitness and fundraising event around a speed & agility workout that is professionally coached but run by children and young adults. This Kids-Helping-Kids event exposes children to a cause and provides a fundraising platform supporting their peers facing cancer. They learn to advocate for others leading up to the event then focus on the lessons of hard work and competition, all of which will help them in life and any athletic endeavors. Childhood cancer patients are treated with the same harsh drugs as adults. The disease causes balance, coordination and strength issues but more often those are caused by the treatments themselves. Because their bodies are still growing, many children suffer immediate and lifelong physical complications from those treatments. Activity and exercise helps every child, especially those facing a challenge like cancer. The HOPE FASTER event is our way of encouraging exercise for all children and raising awareness and funds to help current and future pediatric cancer patients. The HOPE FASTER organization works with teams, athletes and events that can help us in our mission.

COMFORT CASES—ROB SCHEER

15825 Shady Grove Rd, Suite 60, Rockville, MD 20850 | (301) 605-7813 | www.comfortcases.org

Inspiring Communities to Bring Dignity and Hope to Youth in Foster Care. Did you know there are nearly 437,500 youth in the U.S. foster care system on any given day? Of the thousands that enter the system each year, most have little more than the clothes on their backs. For those with personal belongings, they are given a trash bag to carry their personal items as they move from home to home. Comfort Cases believes that every child deserves to feel a sense of dignity and deserves to back their belongings in a special bag they call their own. Their mission is to provide a proper bag filled with essential and comfort items to the brave youth in the foster system to use on their journey to find their forever home.



How can you help? You can volunteer and/or donate much needed items. For more information on volunteering or to purchase items on the Amazon wish list to be sent directly to Comfort Cases, see their [website](#). — *Every child deserves to know that they matter.*

STORYBOOK TREASURES

www.storybooktreasures.org

Less than 2 years ago, Denise Corbo, Founder & President, launched StoryBook Treasures, which is a non-profit organization with the goal of providing books and reading materials to promote literacy and education to ALL children. Her organization has raised over \$130,000 and has provided 15,000 books to children in Alaska, Florida, Maryland, Nevada and Virginia.



The StoryBook Treasures organization educates, inspires and empowers ALL children to experience the best children's literature in an educational setting. Her program helps children make vital comprehensive reading connections to literature while building a classroom and personal home library collection of books. Denise's company has a vested interest in reaching in our country's most economically disadvantaged communities; children who she believes need books the most and otherwise would not have the opportunity or means.

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

3312 Gallows Rd, Falls Church, VA 22042 | (703) 698-7080 | <https://rmhcdc.org>

The Ronald McDonald House program was built on the idea of it being a home-away-from-home for families that travel to access medical treatment for their child at minimal cost. Their belief is that family should focus on the healing of their child, not on where they can afford to stay or where to get their next meal. They believe that the strongest medicine for a child to get well, is from the love and support from their family. Medical priorities are taken into consideration for a family looking for a private bedroom and bathroom with full access to a kitchen, living room, laundry room, playroom and outside play area, and they ask for a \$15 donation per night, but families will not be turned away for financial reasons.

How can you help? You can volunteer and/or donate items on their wish list found on their website.

INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL

44045 Riverside Pkwy, Leesburg, VA 20176 | (703) 858-6000 | <http://www.inova.org/ilh>

Inova Loudoun Hospital is a 183-bed hospital that's been serving our community for more than 100 years. It's ranked among the top hospitals in the country for nursing excellence, emergency care services and patient safety, and is one of only 72 hospitals nationwide to earn straight "A's" in hospital safety since 2012.



Our field trip to the hospital will allow campers the opportunity to donate homemade blankets they make at Fitwize to the Inova Children's Hospital at Loudoun. This is the county's only pediatric ER and the first sensory-friendly ER in the Washington, DC region. For more info on the Children's hospital, visit: <http://www.inovachildrens.org/locations/loudoun>, and for the Children's Emergency Room, visit: <https://www.inova.org/healthcare-services/emergency-services/locations/inova-loudoun-hospital/childrens-ed>.

AV SYMINGTON

80 Ida Lee Dr NW, Leesburg, VA 20176 | (703) 779-5390 | www.leesburgva.gov/government/departments/parks-recreation/av-symington-aquatic-center

The AV Symington Water Park features a 600-foot lazy river, large slide with two body flumes, a drop slide and gang slides, lap pool, water pipe fall and water dumping buckets. Water fountains and bubblers surround a beach area and they offer a concession stand and picnic area for eating.

