



For immediate release

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Camp Inspire Kids are Out of this World

Wexford, PA – The Woodlands, in partnership with **Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC**, will be hosting Camp Inspire, a camp specifically for ventilator-dependent children, July 16–21, 2017. One of the only camps of its kind nation-wide, the six-day, five-night camp is designed for children and teens with complex medical conditions. Many have tracheostomies, ventilators, and BiPAP machines to assist them.

The 2017 Camp Inspire theme is “Space Odyssey” with a variety of outer-space-inspired activities. In addition to stargazing while camping outdoors in tents, campers will have the chance to explore an inflatable, all-accessible planetarium thanks to a visit from the Carnegie Science Center. Campers will make their own jet pack or rocket booster decorations for wheelchairs, and create a 3D mural of outer space. Pittsburgh Space Command will demonstrate model rockets, and campers will create and launch their own water-pressure-powered water bottle rockets. Campers will also enjoy traditional summer camp activities, such as swimming, archery, zip-line rides, drum circles, and a scavenger hunt.

“We do whatever it takes to make our campers’ biggest wishes come true,” said Jesse Solomon, Director of Programs at The Woodlands. “Our goal is to have them experience as much as possible, encouraging them and enabling them to participate to the highest degree.”

An open house sponsored by **Philips Respironics** will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19. Open to the public, this event will include a cookout and a camper talent show.

The Carnegie Science Center planetarium presentation will take place on The Woodlands’ campus on Tuesday, July 18, at 10:00am and 11:00am. Pittsburgh Space Command’s demonstration will take place on Thursday, July 20, at 10:00am. These events are not open to the public. Media are invited to attend Camp Inspire activities throughout the week. Please submit reservations for attendance to the Marketing Office by July 14.

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About The Woodlands

It is the mission of The Woodlands to enrich the lives of children and adults with disability and chronic illness by providing adapted therapeutic programs that support and strengthen the development of skills in socialization, creative expression, environmental awareness, recreation, and spirituality at its fully accessible Wexford, PA, facility. Further information and a schedule of Woodlands' programming are available at www.mywoodlands.org.



Camp Inspire participant, Joey Mollica takes a ride on The Woodlands' zip-line.