

Young Vent User Is a Happy Camper

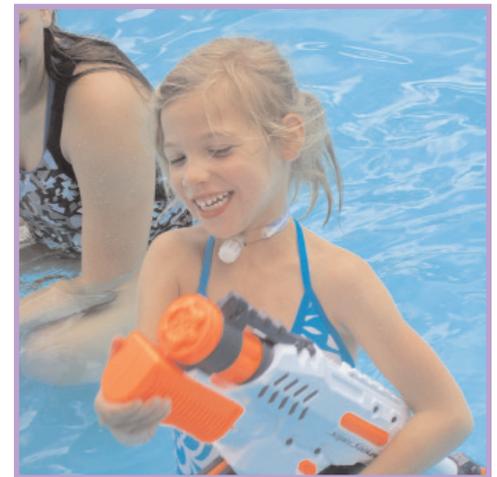
Elise Glore is the only child out of 400 in her school in southeastern Louisiana with a trach. So she's really looking forward to returning to Camp Pelican again this year, where trachs are not that unusual.

Camp Pelican is a week-long overnight resident camp for children ages 5 to 15 with pulmonary disorders and serves more than 100 children each year with cystic fibrosis, with severe and chronic asthma, and those who have had tracheotomies and are ventilator-assisted. The camp is a joint venture between the Louisiana Lions Camp and the Louisiana Pulmonary Disease Camp, a nonprofit organization founded in 1976 by a group of health care professionals to provide children with chronic and debilitating lung diseases with recreational and educational opportunities.

Eight-year-old Elise was born with congenital central hypoventilation syndrome (CCHS), a multisystem disorder of the central nervous system where the automatic control of breathing is absent or impaired. Elise breathes on her own during the day, and a nurse accompanies her to her second grade class to assist with suctioning. At night, she uses a Trilogy 100 ventilator, having just transferred from an LTV®950 ventilator.

"Elise absolutely loves camp," says her mother Samantha Glore. "She talks about it all the time and can't wait to get back. It was hard for us to let her go, but Camp Pelican is very thorough in its evaluations and leaves no stone unturned. It gives her a chance to feel 'normal,' and to be away from us constantly asking her if she's OK."

A wide variety of activities including swimming, sports, arts and crafts and special events entertain and educate campers. Staffed by a volunteer force of professionals including physicians,



Elise enjoying swimming pool.

nurses, respiratory therapists and educators, they also provide extensive medical and pulmonary care.

"Camp Pelican is a special place for campers and staff. Many of us return year after year because we know how much it means to our campers and also what it means to each of us," says assistant director Cathy Allain.

continued, page 6



Elise Glore

Young Vent User Is a Happy Camper

continued from page 1

“As staff members, I think we benefit as much or more as the campers because we learn so much from them each day.”

The oldest of four daughters, Elise is very polite and well-mannered and handles her trach well, says her mother. “She’s a Girl Scout, she dances and does gymnastics. She doesn’t think she has any limitations and wants to do it all.

“She gives us a lot of laughs and joy.” ▲



Elise Glore

2012 Camps for Ventilator-Assisted Kids

MARCH 10-16. Ventilator-Assisted Children’s Center (VACC) Camp, Miami, Florida. Contact Bela Florentin, VACC, Miami Children’s Hospital, 305-662-8222, bela.florentin@mch.com, www.vaccamp.com.

MAY 30-JUNE 3. Light the Way Camp, Children’s Harbor Lodge, Alexander City, Alabama. Contact Kara Bishop, 205-370-9605, karabishop@ventkidsofalabama.com, www.ventkidsofalabama.com.

JUNE 3-9. Camp Pelican, Lion’s Camp, Leesville, Louisiana. Contact Cathy Allain, 504-495-6346, cathyallain@cox.net, www.camppelican.org.

JUNE 3-8. Trail’s Edge Camp, Camp Fowler, Mayville, Michigan. Contact Mary Buschell, RRT, Camp Director, 231-645-0453, mkbuschell@yahoo.com, www.med.umich.edu/mott/trailsedge/index.html.

JUNE 6-10. Camp Inspiration, Double H Hole in the Woods Ranch, Lake Luzerne, New York. Contact Tara Bogucki, Admissions Coordinator, 518-696-5676, ext. 222, tbogucki@doublehtranch.org, www.doublehtranch.org. *Admissions deadline: April 15* (later admissions accepted if there are vacancies).

JUNE 10-15. Fresh Air Camp, Camp Cheerful, Strongsville, Ohio. Contact Kathy Whitford, MSN, PNP, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 216-448-6257, whitfok@ccf.org, www.freshaircamp.org.

JUNE 24-28. CHAMP Camp, Bradford Woods, Martinsville, Indiana. Contact Jennifer Kobylarz, 317-679-1860, jenniferk@champcamp.org, www.champcamp.org.

JUNE 24-28. PA Vent Camp, Camp Victory, Millville, Pennsylvania. Contact Robin Kingston, MSN, CRNP, 717-531-5337, rkingston@hmc.psu.edu.