

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Ed de Zoeten, Volunteer



When not at Camp I am a: Pediatric Gastroenterologist

Volunteer at Roundup River Ranch since: 2010

Favorite Camp Activity: Zip lining

Favorite Meal at Camp: Breakfast

Favorite Camp Dance: I love all the dances, it's fun to just get moving. But I really love "Ice Cream and Cake".

What do you like to do when you're not volunteering? I love spending time with my 4 kids and my wife, going to soccer games, plays, recitals. I love skiing as much as possible and my new thing is playing the ukelele.

How would you describe camp in three words? Joyous, humbling, laughter

In what volunteer role(s) do you serve at Roundup River Ranch? I am a medical volunteer. I provide medical care for anyone at camp, and hopefully provide peace of mind for parents and campers that camp is a safe

and positive place even when you have multiple medical issues. But I will do anything that is needed..clean, play, talk, listen.

Why do you think it's important to provide camp experiences to children with serious illnesses?

Providing a "typical" camp experience to kids that, due to their illness, may not be able to experience this outside of Roundup River Ranch is invaluable. This is often the first time that these campers interact with other kids that have similar issues, they learn they are not alone, they learn independence, they make life long friends. All of these life experiences are priceless.

How do you feel volunteer time has made a difference to Roundup River Ranch campers?

I think my patients that go to camp see me there acting like a kid, not dressed like a doctor, wearing costumes, or dancing and it changes their perspective of me a bit. We have something in common that we can reminisce about. In addition, I think as physicians we provide the safety net for campers to stretch their wings in ways they haven't before.

What motivates you to volunteer at Roundup River Ranch? The joy on the campers' faces and the friends I have made at Roundup River Ranch.

What is your favorite memory as a Roundup River Ranch volunteer? I have so many great memories that it's hard to pick. One was when a camper came up to me after dancing and said to me "Dr. Ed... you are so weird! I'm glad you are here!" Others include night fishing and the first time I was invited to candle chat.

How has your Roundup River Ranch volunteer experience impacted your life? It recharges my batteries every year. It gives me a different perspective on why I do what I do. It also has shown me how you can impact a child's life in so many different ways.

Why would you encourage others to volunteer at camp? This is one of the most rewarding things you will ever do. There is no greater gift, for both the giver and the receiver, than making a child smile.

What would you like to say to those who may be interested in volunteering at Roundup River Ranch? Do it!! You won't be sorry you did it. Be ready to play, laugh, work, participate and come home re-energized.