

Hi! It's so nice to meet you. My name is **VANCE.**



**S**ixteen-year-old Vance has a cardiac condition. **He wishes that his friends understood that a cardiac condition is not something you just "fix";** it's something that will always be a part of his life. Having a heart condition is Vance's reality, and it has shaped the way he lives his life. Because of his condition, Vance doesn't know what will happen next so he is challenged to live in the here and now.

Vance had heart surgery in 2011, and as he recovered, his nurse told him something that would change his life forever. There was a camp, Roundup River Ranch, opening in a few months and they were holding a session for children with heart conditions; Vance applied, and **he was welcomed to Roundup River Ranch during the second session ever held at our facility.**

Vance's first year at camp came at the perfect time. Vance was uncertain about what he could do after surgery, and Camp helped challenge him. **Camp taught Vance to think about what he can do rather than what he cannot.** He gained confidence both physically and mentally, and he has carried this confidence back home with him. Vance has returned to Roundup River Ranch every year since 2011, gaining something new each session, and he has emerged as a leader among his peers.

While he has one year of camp remaining, Vance can't wait to return to Roundup River Ranch in the future to serve as a counselor. He wants to help provide other kids with serious illnesses the same formidable experiences that he has had.

