

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## Drew Thompson, Volunteer



**When not at Camp I am a:** senior student at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. I am majoring in Biology with a Spanish minor. I will be attending the University of Nebraska Medical Center next year in Omaha, NE to study medicine.

**Volunteer at Roundup River Ranch since:** 2016

**Favorite Camp Activity:** No-Hands Spaghetti

**How would you describe camp in three words?** Camp is hope.

**In what volunteer role(s) do you serve at Roundup River Ranch?**  
Cabin Counselor

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

Camp is a place where kiddos can forget about their illnesses for a few days and be themselves. Roundup River Ranch campers get to experience what we call a "normal life" for a little bit, while many people take this for granted every day. Even though many of them are going through these unimaginable

circumstances, they always have a smile on their face. Camp serves as a reminder of all the happiness and joy these kids have, even with all that is going on in their lives. Camp shows kids with serious illnesses how much others truly care about them when they may feel as though the world does not care. Camp is hope for all who venture here. It provides hope for the campers and hope for the volunteers.

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

I hope that my time at camp has shown campers that happiness is not circumstantial, but that you can find happiness in all you do if you just look for it. I have connected with many campers and am grateful for the opportunity I've had to serve at camp. As a counselor at camp, many campers look up to you, so it is my job to show the campers how to act. If I could show one child anything, it would be how to be kind to all regardless of all circumstances.

**What motivates you to volunteer at Roundup River Ranch?** The number one motivator for me would definitely be the campers. They are the reason I volunteer at Roundup River Ranch.

**What is your favorite memory as a Roundup River Ranch volunteer?** My favorite memory would have to be Candle Chat in the cabins where the campers have the chance to share about themselves. Some kiddos feel comfortable enough to share their story, but most all say just how thankful they are to be able to attend camp.

**How has your Roundup River Ranch volunteer experience impacted your life?** Roundup River Ranch has rejuvenated my passion for going into the medical field. Each and every time I go to camp, I understand the reason why doctors dedicate themselves to such rigorous training. They do it because they care so deeply about helping their patients lead healthier lives.

**Why would you encourage others to volunteer at camp?** Camp truly is a life changing experience, not just for the campers but even more so for volunteers.

**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.