Matthew was diagnosed with a brain tumor in April 2014, and for eight months, he underwent radiation and aggressive chemotherapy. As Matthew’s cancer went into remission he learned about Camp. He decided that it would be a great opportunity for him to enjoy some of the activities he loved before his diagnosis.

Matthew’s favorite activity at camp is fishing because you don’t have to catch anything to have fun. **Matthew loves talking to other campers while fishing and bonding with them. He also helped teach the younger campers fishing skills that they didn’t know before.**

More than fishing and the activities, Roundup River Ranch is a place where Matthew learned to come out of his shell. He became more comfortable being himself at Camp because no one judged him and they understood what he was going through. He formed lasting connections with other campers and he keeps in touch with his camp friends throughout the year because they’re so important to him. **He connected in a different way with kids at camp because they shared similar diagnoses and medical experiences – he formed friendships that are really hard to find outside of Roundup River Ranch.**

While this was Matthew’s final year at Roundup River Ranch he knows that he will return in the future as a volunteer and he strives to stay involved for many years to come. **He wants to make a difference in the lives of campers like his counselors have impacted his.**