We used the ACA outcomes tools again this past summer to help us measure the success of our programs. The following text and charts illustrate the results for our “older” campers (9 – 18 years of age) during the summer of 2013. We looked at Independence and Responsibility skills this summer, as well as the usual overall evaluation of the camp experience. There were a total of 477 campers who filled out the questionnaires designed for “older” campers. The sample included 198 oncology campers (89 girls and 109 boys) and 279 sibling campers (149 girls and 130 boys). On the Responsibility measure, 76.3% of the campers felt that their abilities in Responsibility increased at least a little during their camp experience. On the Independence measure, 78% of the campers felt that their abilities in Independence increased at least a little during the camp week. There were no statistically significant differences based on age, gender, years of prior camp attendance, week of attendance, or program (sibs vs. onc). The last question was “On a scale of 1 to 10 (where 1 = absolutely the worst and where 10 = the best time ever), how much did you enjoy camp?” and as usual the campers reported that they had a truly wonderful camp experience. There were a whole lot of “10” responses, and very few less than 8. Among all 477 respondents, the mean response to this question was 9.12. For the oncology campers the mean response was 8.99, and for the sibling campers 9.25. The chart below shows the result of this question by week of camp. For reference, weeks 1, 6, and 7 were oncology weeks, and the rest were sibling weeks.

Following is a closer examination of the Independence results compared to variables tested:
Independence by Week

Independence by Gender

F M
The “Years at Camp” responses: 1 = first, 2 = second, 3 = third, etc except that 8 = 6 or more.
The “Years at Camp” responses: 1 = first, 2 = second, 3 = third, 4 = fourth, 5 = fifth, and 8 = 6th or more.

As you can see, there is very little variation in the result by any of these variables, and the same is true for the Responsibility results.
Outcomes for Younger Campers

We used the ACA Camper Learning Survey in 2013 for the “younger” campers (6 to 10 years of age). 186 campers returned questionnaires. There were 62 oncology campers and 124 siblings. 99 were boys and 87 girls. The “Camper Learning Survey” has 14 questions which measure all 7 of the ACA outcomes domains, but the results are reported as an overall score and not separated by the individual domains (responsibility, independence, teamwork, perceived competence, interest in exploration, friendship, and family citizenship). This survey is scored on a 1 to 4 scale, and the overall mean score for our campers was 3.37, with 84% reporting that they learned a little or a lot about the topics included in the survey. Mean scores for onc and sib campers were almost identical at 3.36 and 3.38 respectively. Again, there were no significant differences in the scores based on the variables we measured (age, week, program, years at camp, gender). Overall evaluation of the camp experience on a 1 (worst thing ever) to 10 (best thing ever) scale showed extremely high satisfaction with the camp program, with the overall mean score 9.33. Again, there were lots of 10’s and very few responses below 8. Selected charts below illustrate these results.
Younger Camper Outcomes by Gender

Younger Camper Outcomes by Week