Summer camp is a rite of passage for many children. Living, playing and sharing adventures together, camp becomes part of a child's development. It is often where a child learns to paddle a canoe, conquer a high-ropes course and shoot an arrow. This being said, a traditional overnight camp experience may not be ideal for a child with a chronic health condition.

Do you have or know a child with asthma? New Hampshire’s Hospital for Children and the Department of Pediatric Pulmonology are pleased to become a medical partner with a weeklong overnight camp on the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee. Camp Spinnaker is designed for children 8-12 years old with persistent asthma. Camp will go beyond recreation to teach children about their illness in ways they have never experienced – with healthcare providers clowning around and playing hard in shorts instead of scrubs.

Specialized medical camp programs have been around for decades with the mission of teaching children how to live well with a chronic illness and normalizing the experience. Summer camps support friendships and activity with peers, two important aspects of helping kids cope with chronic illness. Aside from a fun-filled experience, a medical specialty camp teaches kids how to become more self-sufficient, enhances their self-esteem and helps them learn about their illness. Encourage your child to join us in August for what promises to be a great week!