

Reaching People with Disabilities through Healthy Communities

July 2019

Kamp Dove Tail – S.A.T.H. Organization Adams County, Ohio	
This project has impacted this organization because:	Kamp Dove Tail is an annual camp that is convened for children and young adults with disabilities, where more than 250 campers have been provided with camping and outdoor activities and received the full “camping experience” for an entire week, day and night. Because of this project, we added power wheelchair charging stations in multiple locations, which yielded more inclusive participation by campers who use a power wheelchair.
The most influential policy, system, or environmental change of this project to me was:	Two power wheelchair charging stations were installed at Rocky Fork State Park outside of Hillsboro, Ohio, which is the location of Kamp Dove Tail. Without these charging stations, campers using power wheelchairs were often limited in activities throughout the camp due to fear of the battery dying. With the installation of the new charging stations, these campers can now enjoy activities in two of the park’s locations without worrying about the charge of the wheelchair batteries. This results in camp participants not missing out on the camp’s fun activities and events anymore.
As a result of this, we: <i>(List how you have been impacted, influenced, affected – e.g. tell us something you can do now that you couldn’t before, or what the change has helped to improve)</i>	<p>Campers who use power wheelchairs can now give their chair a full battery charge in 30 minutes or less while sitting at one of these stations, and then can move right on to the next activity without any down time.</p> <p>Before these stations were installed, camp workers would find battery chargers scattered all over the place. The location and facilities did not have enough electrical outlets for the number of campers who use power wheelchairs to charge their chair battery. The presence of the two charging stations has resulted in less time spent searching for the battery chargers, and now the number of electrical outlets is no longer a burden for the park.</p> <p>Most importantly, campers who use power wheelchairs now have the capabilities in place on site to fully participate in camping activities without worry, while also being included with other campers who do not use power wheelchairs.</p>

What was the emotional connection, self-efficacy, or “ah-ha” moment for this project?

By working with the park to install the power wheelchair charging stations, we not only improved inclusivity for the campers during the Kamp Dove Tail week, we also impacted other park visitors who may be power wheelchair users. This means that we’ve improved park inclusivity for the other 51 weeks of the year for activities such as picnics, fishing, camping, horseback riding, and more – a real win-win!

Please note that testimonials may be edited for clarity by the NACDD Communications Department.