

Going the Distance for Camp Discovery

A First-Time Marathoner and an Aspiring Dermatologist Raise Funds with Family, Friends, and Patients



Cyndi J. Yag-Howard, MD, FAAD, crosses the finish line.

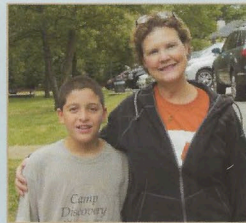
After seeing how happy her children were after their summer camp experience, Cyndi J. Yag-Howard, MD, FAAD, found the inspiration she needed to train for the New York City Marathon and raise funds for a cause that resonated with her not only as a dermatologist but also as a mother.

“Just knowing that I was running so more children can attend Camp Discovery made it easier to push through the hard times. And as I experienced the challenges of the hills and tough moments along the route, I was reminded of the challenges that the children of Camp Discovery live with every day. I felt a bond with these children, which kept me going until the end,” she said.

With support from her family, friends, and patients, Dr. Yag-Howard raised more than \$5,000 for AAD Camp Discovery. “It’s a life-changing opportunity for these children, and I encourage others to learn more about the camp, volunteer their time, and fundraise so we always have a place for our campers at Camp Discovery.”

Diagnosed with eczema at an early age, 13-year-old Ryan Deutsch of St. Louis is fully aware of how a chronic skin condition can affect kids both physically and emotionally. Having participated in AAD Camp Discovery for two years, Ryan decided to use his camp experience as a project for his Bar Mitzvah, which required him to raise money for a cause. Ryan organized a highly successful walk-a-thon in his community and raised nearly \$3,700 for Camp Discovery. He even talked about how much Camp Discovery inspired him during his Bar Mitzvah speech, and many of his friends and family in attendance were so moved by it that they made additional donations.

“Camp Discovery really changed my outlook on life and gave me a chance to be ‘normal’ with kids who are in the same boat as me. This was the first time that I organized anything to support a cause, and it felt really good to be able to give something back to the AAD. I hope to keep donating to Camp Discovery, and I’d even like to become a dermatologist one day.”



Ryan Deutsch with his dermatologist and walk-a-thon participant, Susan J. Bayliss, MD, FAAD.

Take the Initiative

Special events coordinated by passionate volunteers are meaningful opportunities to raise additional funding while introducing more people to AAD programs, like Camp Discovery. Fundraising events hosted in 2011 included a Halloween bash, walk-a-thon, cookbook, bike ride, and a dunk tank. The Academy appreciates the extra effort involved in making these special events so successful. If you are interested in hosting an event to benefit an AAD program, contact Development@aad.org.