



Towards Excellence

The 2017-2019 Texas Lions Camp Research Report

Submitted by
Ryan J. Gagnon, Ph.D.
rjgagno@clemson.edu

Barry A. Garst, Ph.D.
bgarst@clemson.edu

Parisa Hadiandehkordi, M.S.
phadian@g.clemson.edu

David White, Ph.D.
whitedl@clemson.edu

Clemson University
Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management
Out-of-School-Time Lab
Clemson, SC 29634

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PARENT REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Texas Lions Camp (TLC) serves children and teens living with disabilities through meaningful summertime experiences. Through camp, TLC provides an atmosphere where campers can “explore, exercise curiosity, and discover new interests and abilities.” TLC not only helps campers develop these skills but empowers its campers and staff to serve others during these experience(s).

This multiyear project (2017-2021) is oriented towards understanding the TLC parent, camper, staff, and stakeholder experience to identify areas of excellence in service of youth and young people with disabilities, potential opportunities for development, and to facilitate ongoing evidence based camp practice. The following report utilizes benchmarks of parental attitudes, observations, and outcomes relating to their child’s TLC experiences, providing an evidence base for TLC as a leader in summertime camp experiences for children and teens with disabilities.

This project was designed to track year-to-year changes in both parent and camper attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions, to establish and monitor trends over time, and to identify areas of strength and where improvement may be necessary. With the unique context of medical specialty camp in mind, the purpose of this project was to shift from the framework of evaluation capacity building, established in 2017 with a youth only study, to an ongoing process improvement model, where year-to-year comparisons are possible.

Data were collected from parents of campers attending one of the camp sessions through the email address parents used to register their child for camp. Specifically, a post-camp questionnaire was distributed to parents one to three weeks after the completion of their child’s camp experience and a follow-up was administered in October of 2019 to examine the durability of impacts associated with the TLC experience. The questionnaires included standardized scales that measured growth in the targeted outcome areas as well as open-ended questions that allowed further exploration of the possible impact of Texas Lions Camp on camper growth and development.

Response rates were exceptional as compared to prior camp studies utilizing a similar format and compared to historic TLC data. Specifically, 621 parents completed the pre-camp questionnaire, 431 completed the post-camp questionnaire, and 196 completed the fall questionnaire. Of total respondents, 275 completed only the pre-camp questionnaire, 102 completed only the post-camp questionnaire, and 39 completed only the fall questionnaire. In total 696 unique parents completed at least one version of the questionnaire. In the summer of 2019, a total of 1,512 campers attended TLC, but only 1,133 parents were sampled, suggesting a 61.42% response rate to the questionnaire, similar to the 2017 rate (66.91%) and exceeding the 2018 (49.91%) rates.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INSIGHTS

Parent survey respondents tended to be mostly female (86.6%), and self-identified as primarily either White (73.7%) or Hispanic or Latino Origin (14.1%). Respondents reported relatively high levels of education (54% with a Bachelor’s degree or greater) and incomes (average reported income = \$92,251; Texas 2018 median income = \$59,206). Most parents reported learning about TLC through a Lions Club member (25%), through a doctor’s office (17%), word of mouth (17%), or a school nurse (10%). Parents preferred TLC communications through e-newsletters (31%), then Facebook (28%), and finally the TLC website (20%).

The most commonly identified reasons parents sent their child to TLC was to give their child independence (25%), the opportunity to increase self-care (16%), to improve the child's mental health (14%). Parents expressed a high level of satisfaction with Texas Lions Camp by rating all camp components as 5 or higher on a 1-6 scale where 1= very unsatisfied and 6= very satisfied. The three highest rated components of camp were camp medical grounds (5.90), camp administration (5.88), and customer service (5.84). As noted in greater detail below, there were no significant changes in parent reported satisfaction from summer to fall reports, but there were meaningful improvements across the majority of measured components, both from 2017 to 2019 and 2018 to 2019.

Parents reported growth in their children in all targeted outcome areas and these impacts were supported by both the quantitative and qualitative findings. Parent reports of positive change were evidenced by gains in camper exploration, communication, and personal responsibility from the summer of 2017, 2018, and 2019 with sustained high scores across the measured dimensions. The qualitative findings provided many examples of these changes in exploration, communication, and personal responsibility, which were associated with increases in a child's feelings of competence, confidence, and a greater acceptance of their abilities. Further, the qualitative findings explained reasons why parents believe TLC is an important experience for their child, such as friendships and social support their child receives from peers and staff, the normalization of their child's experience with a disability, and the opportunity to participate in novel activities not typically available outside of camp. Discrete analyses to determine if/who was more influenced did not indicate camper experience, time since diagnosis, age, gender, or race influenced parent reported scores. ***Put differently, gains across measured outcomes were universally identified by parents.***

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Complete reporting in the fall rather than spring to allow for program staff sufficient time to utilize findings in training.
- Examine the concerns new and returning parents express regarding their child's illness, reasons for selecting TLC, and how TLC could improve parents' experience and evaluate whether operational and programmatic changes are needed.
- Assess the ways in which parents learn about TLC to inform future parent and child recruitment strategies
- Identify potential resource pools and partners to further support program of evaluation and research at TLC
- Develop an incentive strategy to improve fall parental response rates
- Explore how emerging technologies are improving diabetes self-care and parental management
- Investigate methods to sustain camp impact for both parents and children beyond Summer experiences. Why do some campers participate and not others?
- Establish research agenda to facilitate external resource development.
- Evaluate how the identified TLC "impact factors" (independence, social support, normalization) may help children be successful in other life domains (academics, sports, non-camp OST experiences, relationships outside of camp)

THE BOTTOM LINE

The impacts identified and shared by parents across the measured youth outcomes suggests TLC is an environment which facilitates exceptional levels of positive socioemotional and health development for the young people they serve. Campers are better and different because of their time at TLC.

YOUTH REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Data were collected from 463 campers at the commencement of their approximately one-week experience utilizing a paper questionnaire, administered by a trained member of the Texas Lions Camp (TLC) staff.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INSIGHTS

Campers were primarily female (51%), an average of 13.14 years of age, and had attended TLC an average of 3.532 years. Of total campers, approximately 19% indicated this was their first time attending. Similar to the parent sample, campers were primarily white (66.59%), with Hispanic Origin (12.19%), Multiple Race (11.51%), African American (7.90%), and Asian Origin (1.81%) representing the remainder of the sample.

Campers were asked to report on levels of personal development resulting from their camp experience. Specifically, campers reported on their levels of autonomy satisfaction, (i.e., I feel that my decisions reflect what I really want), relatedness satisfaction (i.e., I feel that the people I care about also care about me) and competence satisfaction (i.e., I feel confident that I can do things well). Additionally, campers were asked to report on their frustration of these same attitudes including autonomy frustration (i.e., Most of the things I do feel like “I have to”), relatedness frustration (i.e., I feel excluded from the group I want to belong to), and competence frustration (i.e., I have serious doubts about whether I can do things well).



Higher levels of satisfaction and lower levels of frustration across these three dimensions acts as a catalyst for youth thriving: an exponential uptick positive development, goal orientation, and personal growth. Paralleling prior years campers indicated high levels of satisfaction of autonomy, competence, and relatedness. Similarly, campers reported low scores in the frustration of autonomy, competence, and relatedness. Put differently, **in the six measured dimensions, Texas Lions Camp campers grew where they should have grown and decreased where they should have decreased.**

Paralleling the quantitative results, campers also indicated socioemotional development, where the content analyses of short answer responses to the questionnaire suggested TLC attendance increased campers' friendships and social networks, boosted their self-confidence, enhanced their subject matter and self-care competence, and made them happier and more optimistic. These findings suggest not only short-term benefits of TLC participation as identified by responses to the post-camp questionnaire, but the lasting positive influence TLC likely has in the lives of campers, as gains in their social networks; confidence, and competence, likely translate to success in other areas of life.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Report all youth data in the fall rather than spring
- Examine and identify barriers to reconnection after completion of a camper’s summertime experience (e.g., emerging social media connections; fall, winter, spring “camp”) with both returning and non-returning campers.
- Identify potential consequences and positive outcomes associated with heavily involved parents and family members.
- Locate potential partners to resource research and evaluation of long-term benefits of TLC attendance (e.g., reduced health insurance expenditures; less missed school days; less frequent emergency medical care).
- For children with digital medical devices, explore the benefits and challenges associated with the increasing implementation and monitoring associated with their use.
- Evaluate how the identified TLC “impact factors” (independence, social support, normalization) may help children be successful in other life domains (academics, sports, non-camp OST experiences, relationships outside of camp)

THE BOTTOM LINE

Because of Texas Lions Camp, campers acquired a number of resources (friendships, social support, skill-building opportunities) and social-emotional competencies (autonomy, relatedness, competence, and confidence) to put them on a path toward thriving.



METHOD

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL

This project was reviewed and approved through Clemson University's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for both minors (approval # IRB2018-213; June 12th, 2018) and parents (approval # IRB2019-142; May 15th, 2019).

DATA COLLECTION & PROCESSING

Prior to the implementation of the study, campers and parents were notified about the study by Texas Lions Camp administration staff through the camper registration process. Specifically, they were provided information about the nature of the study and given the opportunity to opt-out. Prior to the arrival of campers, staff/volunteers working with campers 11 years of age and older were given an overview of the study and trained on their role in the administration of the questionnaire by IRB trained camp staff. Emphasis was placed on camper participation in this study as voluntary. As part of the data analyses, both parents and camper responses were checked for extreme responses and patterns to detect "outliers" to ensure the accuracy of responses.

Data were collected from **campers** at the end of their one-week camp experience in the form of a brief survey. Specifically, 463 eligible campers completed the questionnaire. As part of the youth survey, campers were also asked an open-ended question related to how TLC influenced how they "think, feel, or behave when it comes to yourself or others." Out of 463 youth who completed the post-camp questionnaire, 382 youth responded to the open-ended question. From these respondents, a random sample of 95 responses (i.e., 25%) was selected for qualitative analysis using conventional content analysis to identify common themes (i.e., salient findings most representative of youth responses.)

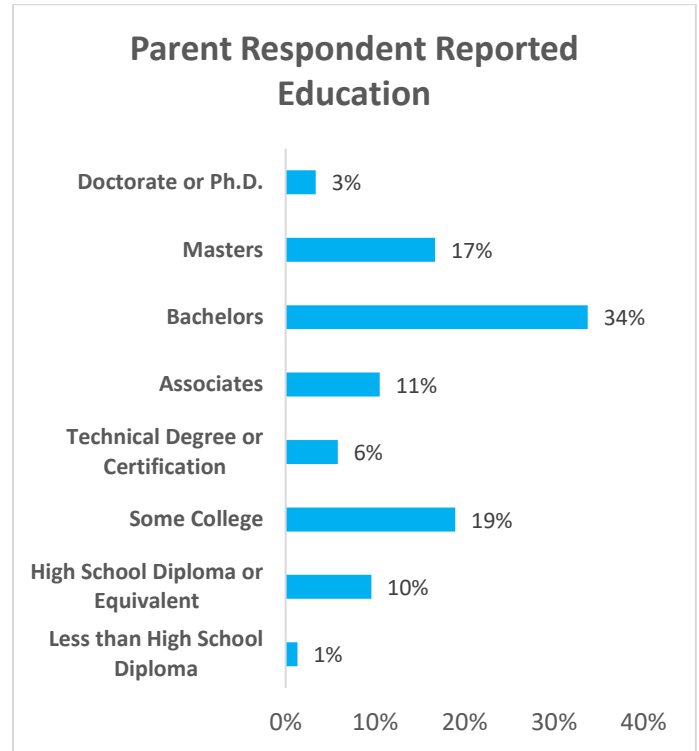
Data were collected from **parents** one week after their child's camp experience via a web-based survey, with a follow up survey one week thereafter if the parent had not already completed the questionnaire. A similar approach was utilized in October. After processing the data for outliers, 621 parents completed the pre-camp questionnaire, 431 completed the post-camp questionnaire, and 196 completed the fall questionnaire. Of total respondents, 275 completed only the pre-camp questionnaire, 102 completed only the post-camp questionnaire, and 39 completed only the fall questionnaire. In total 696 unique parents completed at least one version of the questionnaire. In the summer of 2019, a total of 1,512 campers attended Texas Lions Camp, but only 1,133 parents were sampled, suggesting a 61.42% response rate to the questionnaire, similar to the 2017 rate (66.91%) and exceeding the 2018 (49.91%) rates. The summer response rate is well above average compared to norms at similar organizations (i.e., 27% - 35%), whereas the fall response rate parallels that of other similar organizations (i.e., 12.1% to 17.9%).

The parent questionnaires also included open-ended questions such as, "In what ways are camps like Texas Lions Camp an important experience for your child? In other words, why did you select camp for your child instead of [or in addition to] other summertime experiences?" Random samples of 25% of parent responses to the open-ended questions were analyzed using conventional content analysis to identify common themes (i.e., salient findings most representative of parent responses).

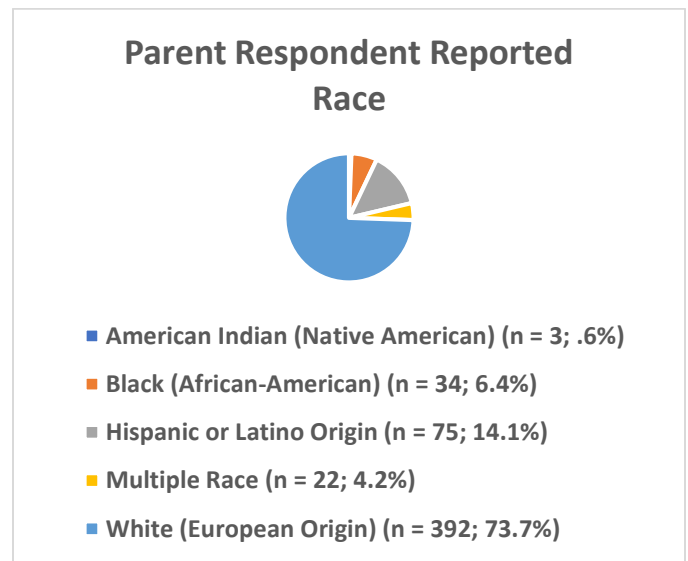
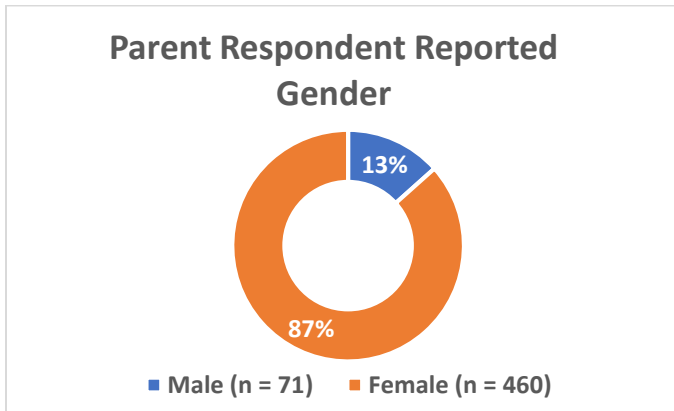
PARENTS

PARENT DEMOGRAPHICS

To avoid redundancy in reporting demographic information, summer data was compared to fall data. There were no meaningful differences between groups, as such only summer demographic data is reported. Parent respondents were primarily female (86.6%) and well educated, with 54% reporting a Bachelor's degree or greater. Within research examining parental perceptions of camp experiences, mothers tend to be represented at a rate of eight or even nine to one, so the over representativeness of female responses is unsurprising. Similar high levels of education are also reported across the camp research literature. It does appear for the present sample, reported education levels are nearly three times the average for Texas (2018 level = 19.6% with a Bachelor's degree or higher).

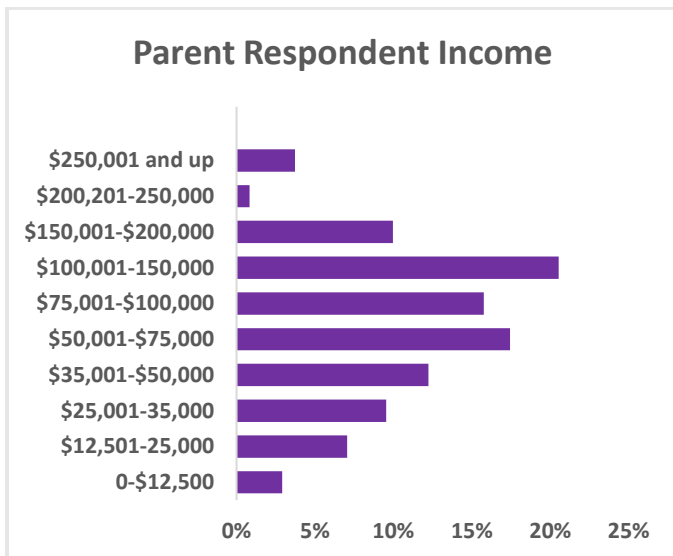


Samples within camp research also tend to be primarily white. Within the present study, only 73.7% of parent respondents were white (Texas 2018 census level = 73.5%), with the next largest group, Hispanic/Latino Origin (14.1%), which reflects a higher percentage of parents identifying as Hispanic/Latino than in most studies of camp-based research and evaluation.

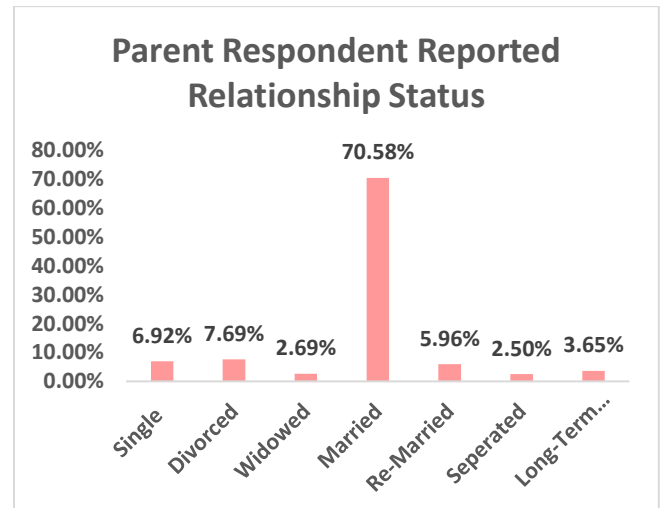


PARENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Parents reported relatively high incomes (Average = \$92,251; SD = \$63,346) compared to the 2018 Texas median income (\$59,206). Furthermore, while incomes are relatively high in comparison to Texas medians, having a child with a chronic illness has been associated with lower rates of “available” income, as family resources are often allocated to a greater degree towards a child’s care, rather than other “discretionary” expenses.



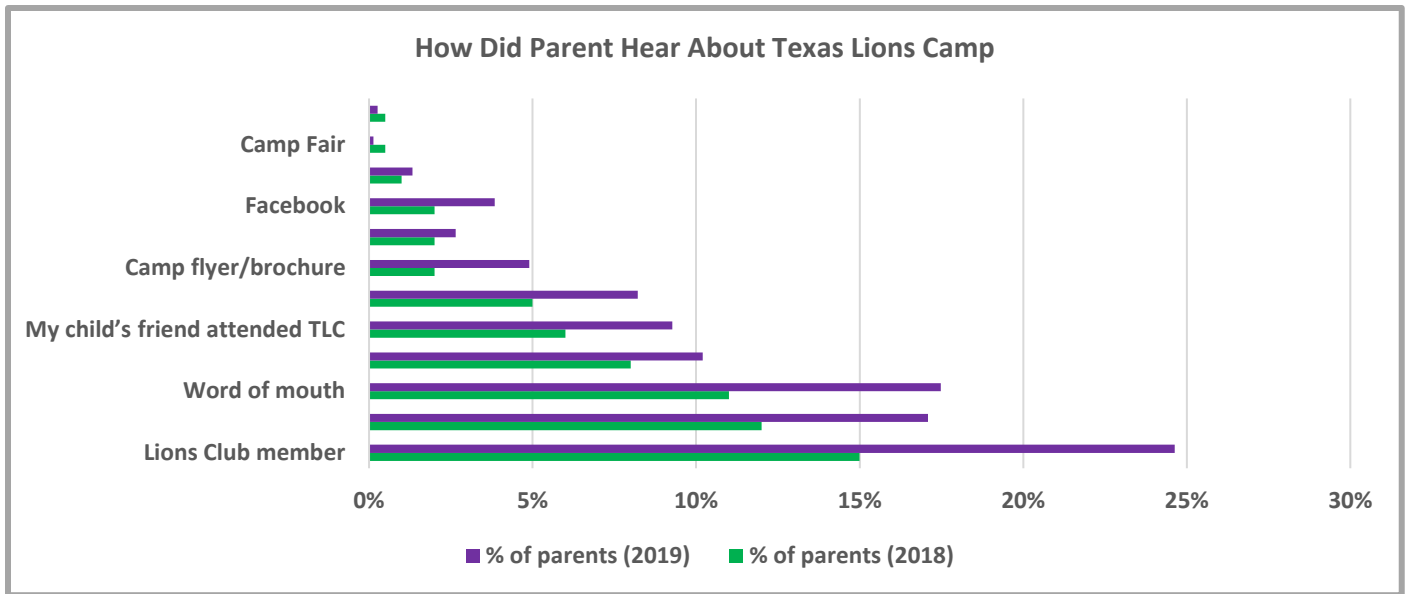
The majority of respondents indicated they were married (70.58%), with the next largest groups indicating being single (unmarried, not cohabitating; 6.92%), or divorced (7.69%).



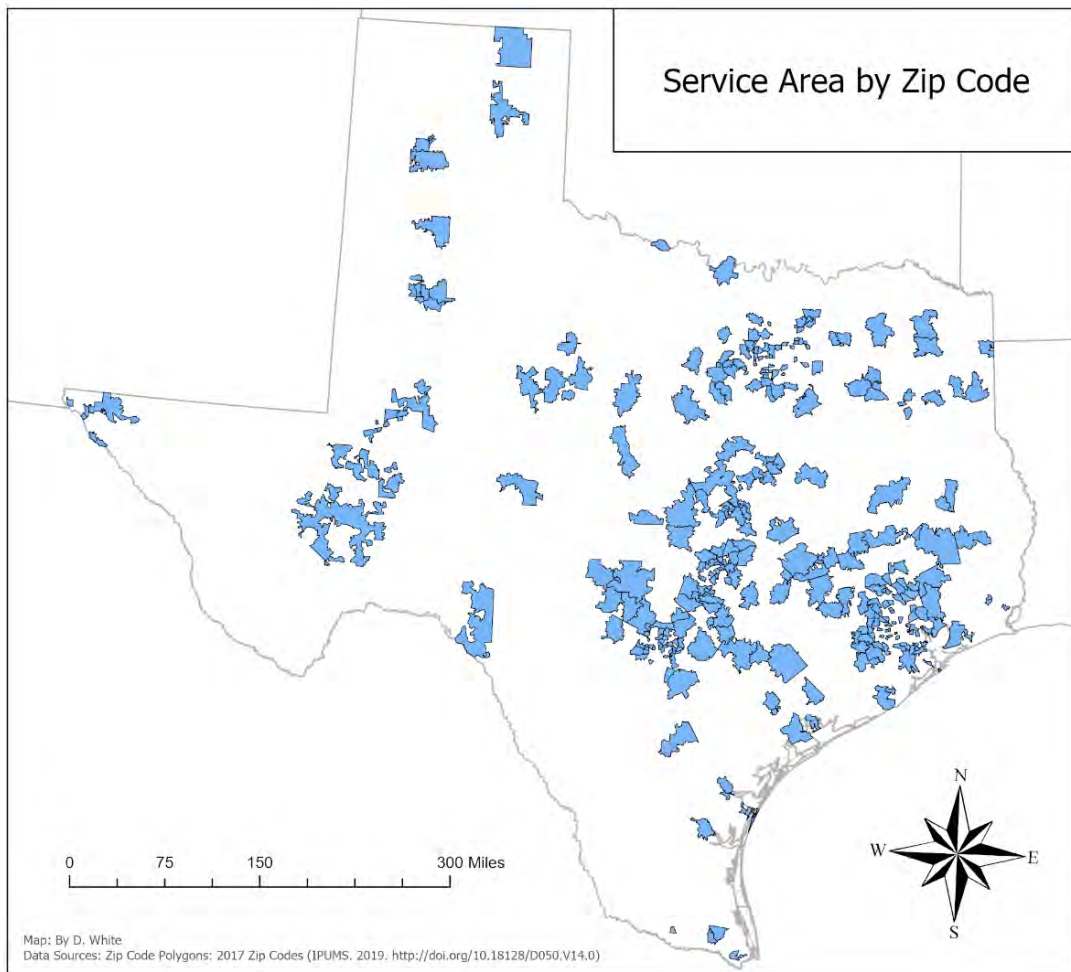
HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT TEXAS LIONS CAMP?

Parents were asked to identify how they learned about Texas Lions Camp. Most parents reported learning about TLC through a Lions Club Member (25%), doctor’s office (17%), word of mouth (17%), or a school nurse (9%). Notably, referrals through a Lion increased 10% from 2018 to 2019, with similar gains in doctor referrals (12% to 17%), and word of mouth (11% to 17%). **These gains suggest increased recruiting efforts through Lions, developing relationships with medical staff, and TLC’s reputation are driving more campers to TLC.**

How Parents Learned About Texas Lions Camp		
Mechanism	% of Parents (2018)	% of Parents (2019)
Lions Club member	15%	25%
Doctor’s office	12%	17%
Word of mouth	11%	17%
School nurse	8%	10%
My child’s friend attended TLC	6%	9%
Parent support group	5%	8%
Camp flyer/brochure	2%	5%
Web search	2%	3%
Facebook	2%	4%
I attended TLC	1%	1%
Camp Fair	1%	0%
American Camp Association	1%	0%



Parents were asked to provide their zip code to determine where campers were coming from and to identify potential areas for future recruitment and resource development. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the majority of campers hailed from urban centers across Texas.

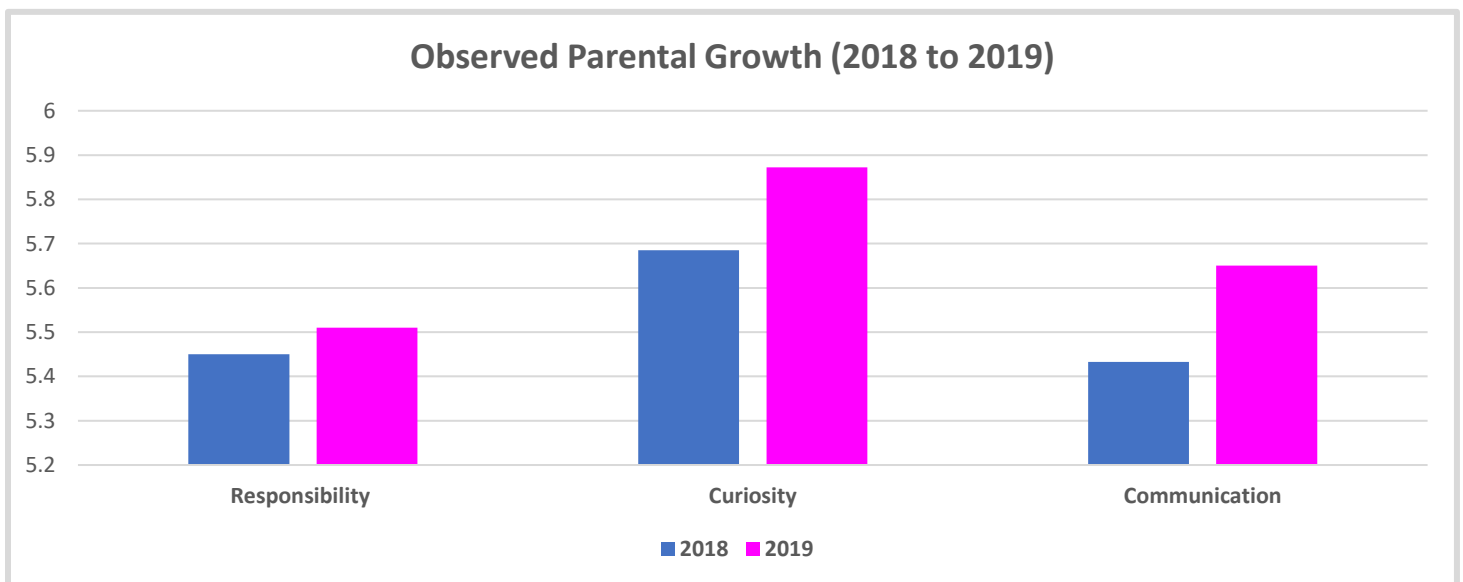


PARENT OBSERVED DEVELOPMENT

Paralleling the process utilized in the summer of 2018, approximately one week after the completion of their child's summer 2019 camp experience and as a follow up in October of 2019, parent respondents were asked to complete two questionnaires regarding perceived and observed changes in their child resulting from TLC participation. No meaningful differences were observed between the summer and fall measures. Parents reported gains in their child's **skill satisfaction**, the degree to which the child showed exploration behaviors (i.e., *seeks challenges beyond their comfort zone*), communication skills (i.e., *shares thoughts and ideas verbally*), and personal responsibility (i.e., *can be trusted to do what needs to be done*) resulting from TLC participation, measured on a 1 (Not at all) to 6 (A great deal) scale.



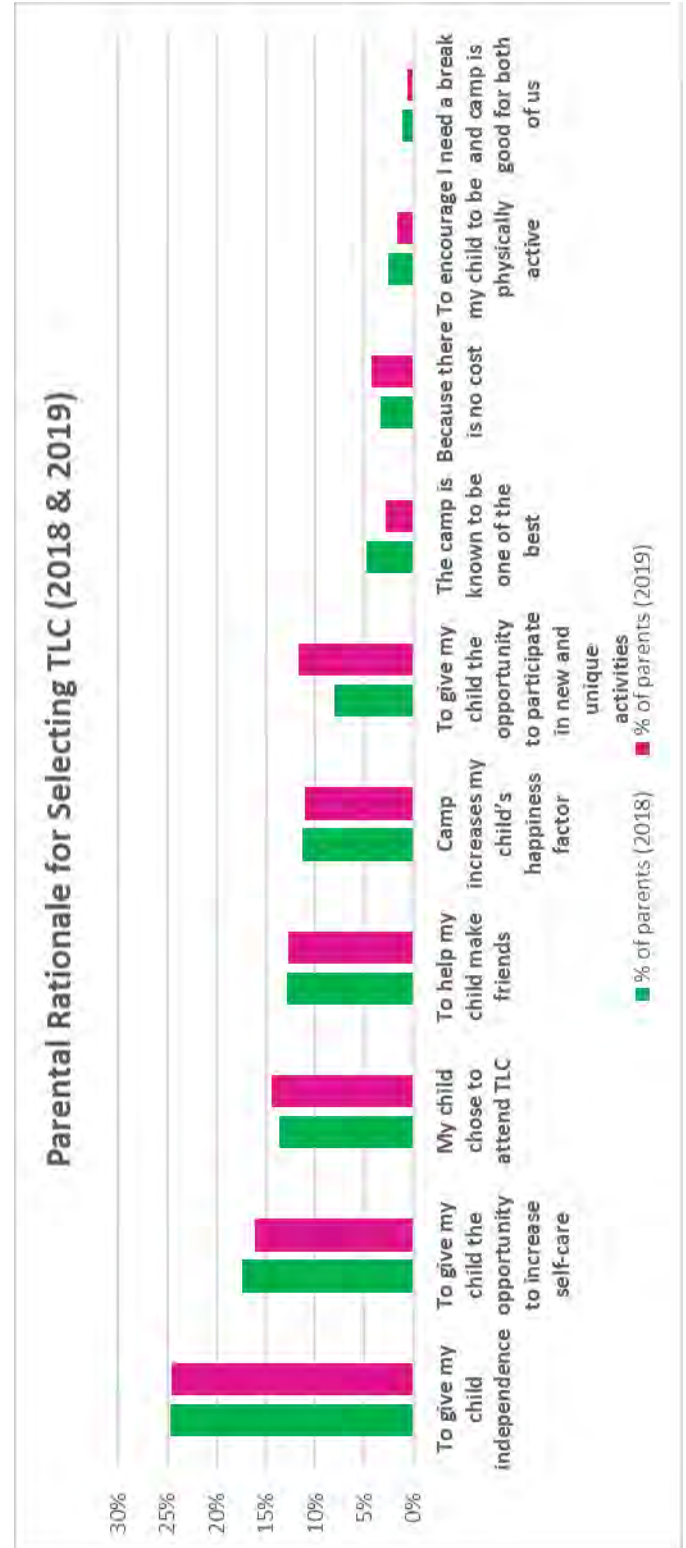
In both 2018 and 2019, parents reported relatively high levels of growth in responsibility (2018, $M = 5.450$; 2019, $M = 5.510$), curiosity (2018, $M = 5.684$; 2019, $M = 5.872$), and communication skills (2018, $M = 5.432$; 2019, $M = 5.650$). **In spite of the already high levels demonstrated in 2018, parents reported significantly higher levels of observed communication and exploration behaviors.** There was no significant difference in personal responsibility score from 2018 to 2019.



REASONS PARENTS SENT THEIR CHILD TO TEXAS LIONS CAMP

Parents were asked to identify the primary reason they sent their child to TLC. As indicated in the proceeding table and figure, the most commonly selected reasons parents sent their child to TLC was to give their child the opportunity to develop independence (i.e., autonomy) (25%) and the opportunity to increase their child’s skills associated with self-care of their disability (16%). While parents responded consistently across most reasons identified in 2018 and 2019, it was notable that in 2019 (12%) parents identified “*Novelty – Opportunity for my child to participate in new and unique activities*” at a significantly greater level than in 2018 (8%), illustrating the unique role TLC plays in the lives of the campers they serve.

Primary Reason Parents Sent their Child to Texas Lions Camp	2018	2019
Autonomy – To give my child an independent experience away from home.	25%	25%
Learn Self-Care - To give my child an opportunity to increase self-care.	17%	16%
Mental Health – Camp increases my child’s happiness factor.	14%	14%
Child’s Choice – My child wanted to attend TLC.	13%	13%
Socialization – To help my child make friends.	11%	11%
Novelty – Opportunity for my child to participate in new and unique activities.	8%	12%
Reputation- The camp is known to be one of the best.	5%	3%
Cost - I chose TLC because of the scholarship availability.	3%	4%
Health – To encourage my child to be physically active.	3%	2%
Respite - I wanted a break from childcare	1%	1%



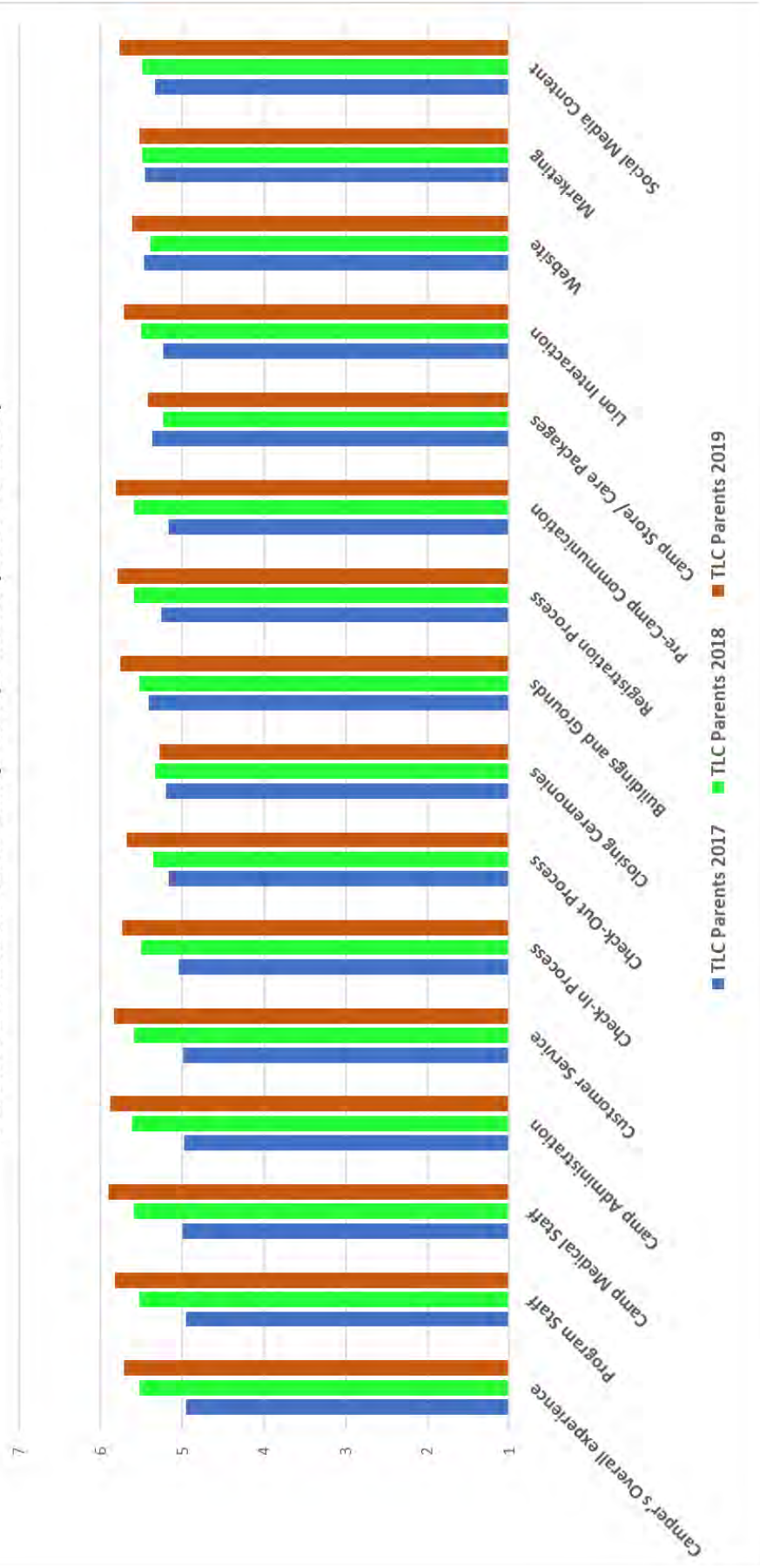
PARENT SATISFACTION WITH TLC

Parents were asked to report on their satisfaction with Texas Lions Camp services following their child’s camp experience in the summers of 2017, 2018, and 2019, rating service components on a 1 to 6 scale, where 1 = poor and 6 = excellent. As indicated in the proceeding table and figure there were statistically significant improvements in satisfaction score from 2017 to 2018 in 9 of the 16 measured components, in 12 of the 16 measured components from 2017 to 2019, and in 6 of 16 measured components from 2018 to 2019. Further, there were no statistical declines in the 16 measured scores across the three-year time period. As a reminder, the maximum possible score is 6, and in 2019 the lowest average score was 5.28. Given the organizational transitions at the director level at TLC over the past three years, this suggests a sustainable and durable service-oriented culture at both the administrative and front-line staff levels during times of organizational change.

Parent Satisfaction with Camp Components, 2017, 2018, 2019 (Scale = 1-6, where 1= Very Unsatisfied and 6= Very Satisfied)			
Camp Components	TLC Parents Summer 2017	TLC Parents Summer 2018	TLC Parents Summer 2019
Camper’s Overall experience	4.95	5.52*	5.72#
Program Staff	4.96	5.52*	5.83** #
Camp Medical Staff	5.00	5.59*	5.9** #
Camp Administration	4.98	5.61*	5.88** #
Customer Service	4.99	5.59*	5.84#
Check-In Process	5.04	5.5*	5.74** #
Check-Out Process	5.17	5.36*	5.68** #
Closing Ceremonies	5.20	5.34	5.28
Buildings and Grounds	5.41	5.52	5.76#
Registration Process	5.26	5.59*	5.79#
Pre-Camp Communication	5.17	5.59*	5.81#
Camp Store/ Care Packages	5.37	5.23	5.42
Lion Interaction	5.23	5.5	5.71#
Website	5.47	5.39	5.61
Marketing	5.46	5.49	5.52
Social Media Content	5.33	5.49	5.77** #
*Indicates statistical gain from 2017 to 2018 ** Indicates statistical gain from 2018 to 2019 # Indicates statistical gain from 2017 to 2019			

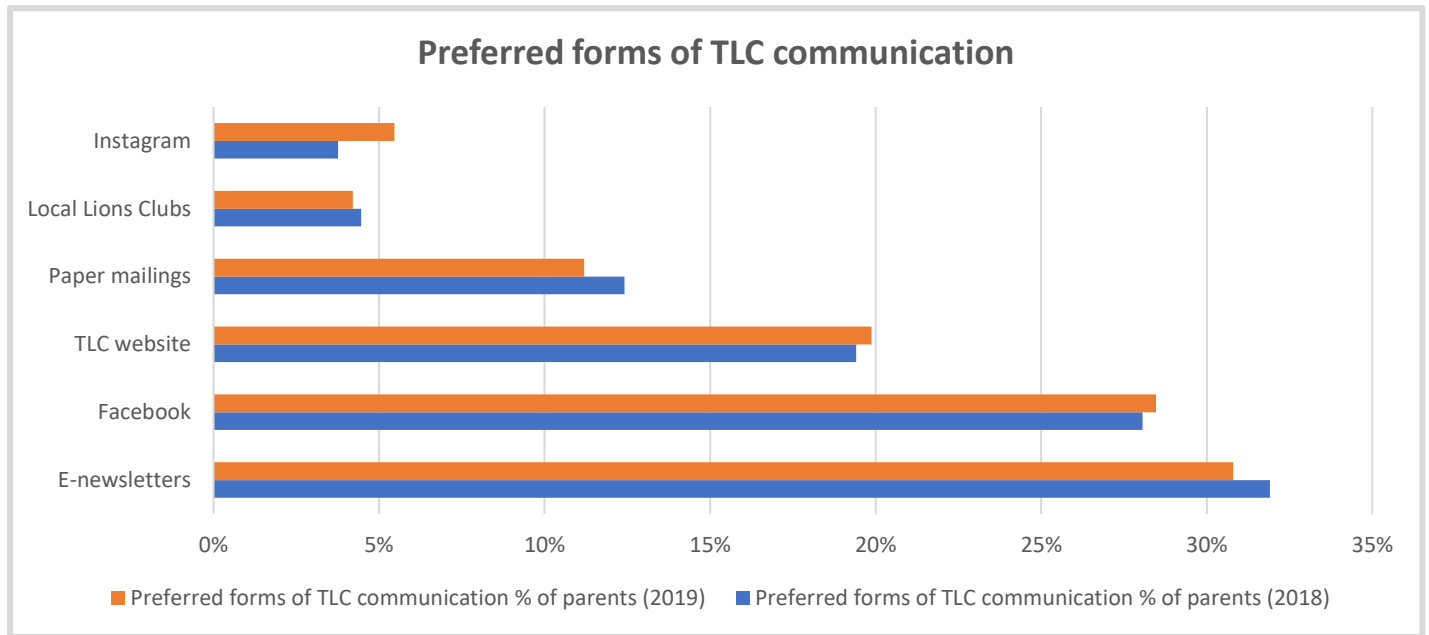


Parent Satisfaction with Camp Components (2017 to 2019)

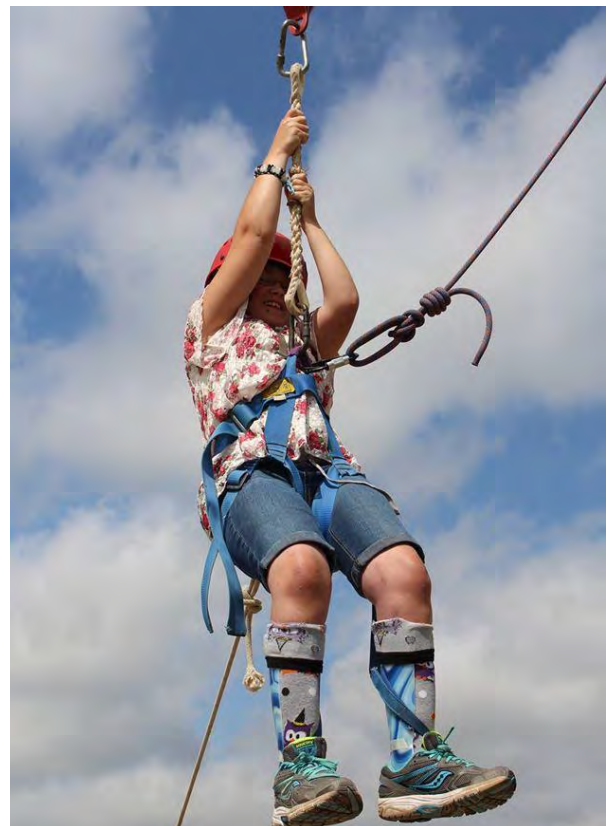


PREFERRED METHODS OF PARENTAL COMMUNICATION

Parents were asked to identify how they preferred to receive information about Texas Lions Camp. There were no meaningful differences between 2018 and 2019, with e-newsletters remaining the most popular choice (31%), followed by Facebook (28%), and the Texas Lions Camp website (20%).



Parents Most Preferred Mechanism of Receiving Texas Lions Camp Communications		
Mechanism	2018	2019
E-newsletters	32%	31%
Facebook	28%	28%
TLC Website	19%	20%
Paper Mailings	12%	11%
Local Lions Club	4%	4%
Instagram	4%	5%



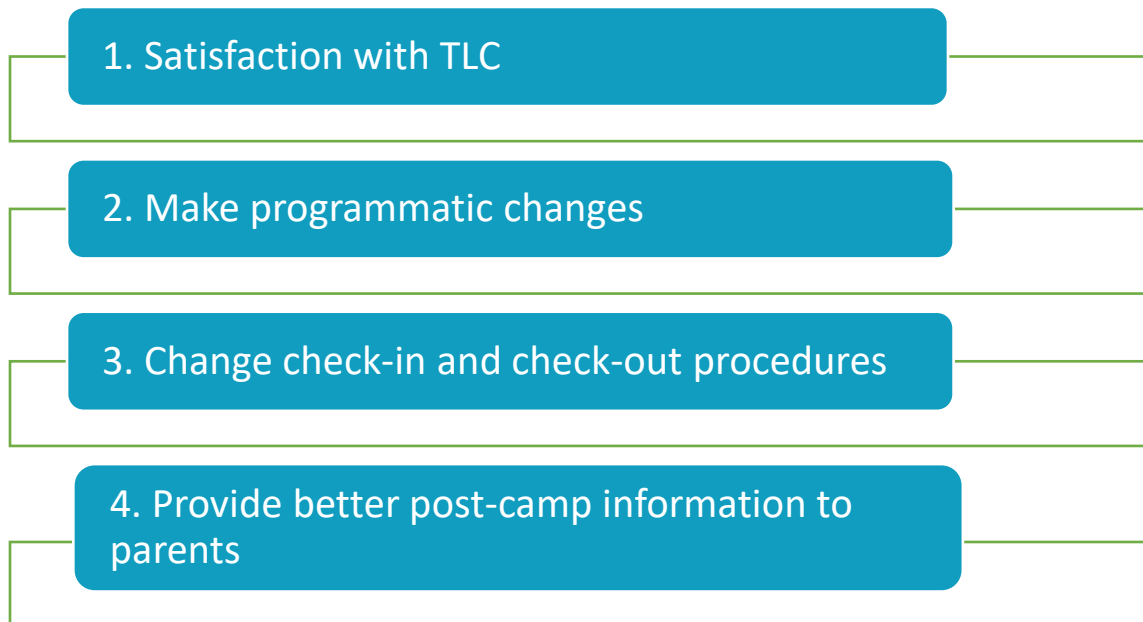
PARENT SHORT ANSWER

Changes TLC Could Make to Improve Parents' Experience

When prompted with the question, "How can TLC improve your experience?", parents were most likely to **describe their satisfaction with TLC** (16 of parents), with responses such as, "I don't know how TLC could improve because every aspect was out of this world!" Parents who identified a dimension of camp that could be improved described **programmatic changes** (3 parents), such as adding reducing the length of the awards program and making arts and crafts more challenging, **changes associated with camp check-in check-out procedures** (2 parents), such as improving the staffing of check in and check out and giving parents more information about what to expect during those processes, and **changes to the quality of information parents receive about their child after camp** (6.8% of parents), such as information about their health status as well as their camp activities. See the figure and table below.

Other parent comments (1 response for each theme) were associated with how TLC could reduce the spread of illness in camp, address a child's personal needs, allow siblings to communicate during camp, accommodate gender variant campers in a different way, change how camp photos are shared with parents, and camp store-related changes.

Most Common Ways TLC Could Improve Parents' Experience



<i>Theme</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Representative Quotes</i>
Satisfaction with TLC	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"I don't know how TLC could improve because every aspect was out of this world!"</i> • <i>"[My child] was there the week of the stomach bug. Luckily, he did not get sick, but obviously many of their days & experiences were highly affected. We are extremely impressed by what we read & heard on how you all handled that horrible situation & those kids that were affected."</i> • <i>"I don't believe anything needs to be changed. My son had the best week ever. Thank you all so much."</i>
Make programmatic changes	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Although I enjoy seeing my son get camp awards...I feel the award ceremony is very long"</i> • <i>"[My child's] only complaint was that the arts and crafts stuff seemed 'babyish.'"</i>
Modify check-in and check-out procedures	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"I feel like the experience could have been improved by having more people available to check us in especially at the medicine table. The line was extremely long and arduous."</i> • <i>"Give parents (first time) more insight into the check-in, check-out."</i>
Provide better post-camp information to parents	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"[My child] came home a little sick. He told us that the nurse gave him some cough medicine, but could not provide details about what day he started feeling bad, how many days or how often he was treated, etc. It would have been nice to receive a little report when we picked up meds. at pick up to let us know about those details."</i> • <i>"A summary of activities in which he participated would have been great so we would know what he actually did at camp."</i>
Prevent the spread of illness	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Although the timing was unfortunate, allowing a sick child into camp with an illness that spread so quickly and dramatically negatively impacted this years' experience not only for my child but for many others. As tough as it might have been to turn that family away at check-in, the interests of the larger group should have taken priority over the individual. More thorough questioning may be needed to prevent similar occurrences moving forward."</i>
Address child's personal needs	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"During Campout my child was not allowed to go get his nighttime PJs & pull up. Therefore, he had an accident at night. I was very specific about this and I'm very upset this was not made a priority. He was so embarrassed the next morning and told it was no big deal. It was to him and to us. This is the major reason I will not push him to go back."</i>
Allow siblings to communicate	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"My youngest (9) said he was homesick the first couple of days, and maybe if his brother had been able to go speak to him it might've helped."</i>
Accommodate gender variant campers in a different way	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Do not subject my daughter to someone in her cabin who identifies as a different gender. That shouldn't even be allowed. They should have to be with their birth gender or not allowed."</i>
Change how camp photos are shared with parents	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"Document all groups and post all groups on social media daily."</i>
Camp Store	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"More items at the store."</i>

Reasons TLC is an Important Experience for My Child

Parents were also asked, “In what ways are camps like TLC an important experience for your child? In other words, why did you select camp for your child instead of [or in addition to] other summertime experiences?” Responses to this question centered on positive changes parents had observed in their child because of TLC participation. The most common changes included the **development of friendships and social support from peers and staff** (19 parents) (e.g., “relationships she has made,” “to be able to socialize”), the **normalization of their child’s experience with diabetes** (9 parents) (e.g., “being with other kids and adults with T1D meant everything...”), and the **opportunity to participate in activities not typically available outside of camp** (8 parents). See the figure and table below.

Other less common parent responses (1 or 2 parents for each theme) were related to their child becoming more confident, gaining access to information about self-care, becoming more independent, learning to accept others, enjoying themselves, growing and developing (in unspecified ways), and experiences a respite from their parents.

Most Common Reasons TLC is an Important Experience for My Child

1. My child developed friendships and received social support from peers and staff.

2. My child's experience with diabetes was normalized.

3. My child had the opportunity to participate in activities not typically available outside of camp.



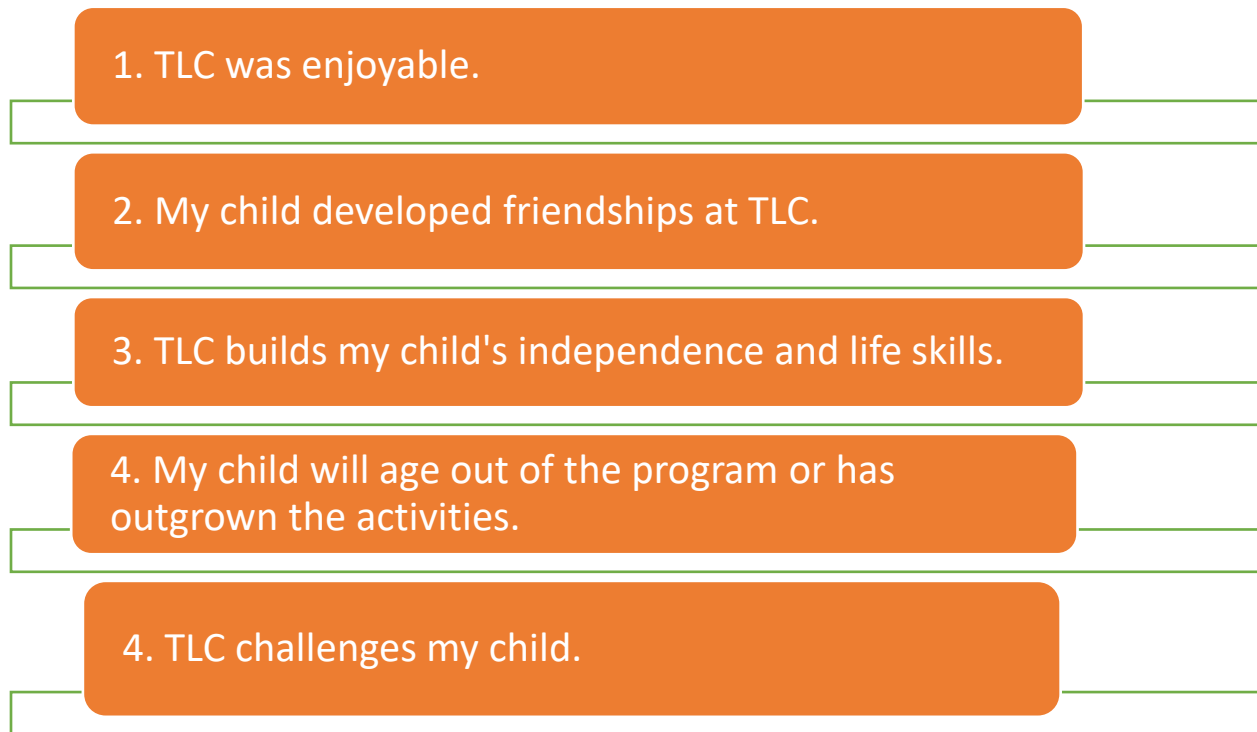
Theme	Count	Representative Quotes
My child developed friendships and received social support from peers and staff.	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Having time with other T1D kids helps her to know that she is not alone and to not let it limit her life. The relationships she has made here are priceless.”</i> • <i>“A way to experience camp and be around others with different abilities. To be able to socialize and have fun at the same time...The experience of camp counselors as well from different parts of the world.”</i>
My child’s experience with diabetes was normalized.	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Because my daughter was recently diagnosed, she felt very isolated (there are no other kids with T1D in her school). Being with other kids and adults dealing with T1D meant everything to her.”</i> • <i>“Camp is an opportunity for [my son] to one be around others that are just like him.”</i>
My child had the opportunity to participate in activities not typically available outside of camp.	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Camp provides my child with new experiences and activities she would otherwise not have.”</i> • <i>“Camp was an amazing experience for my daughter she came home glowing and couldn't stop talking about all the exciting things she did.”</i>
My child became more confident.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Camp has changed my son. Between Lions Camp and another diabetes camp, it has made him more confident in his diabetes self-management.”</i>
My child has access to information about self-care.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“To help [my child] learn more about his condition and how to better manage it.”</i> • <i>“To give my child “more info on diabetes and dealing with it.”</i>
My child can be independent.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“[My child] loves the chance to get some independence and make new friends. It's important for him to have these experiences and challenge himself!</i>
My child can learn to accept others.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“For [my child] to learn how to relate to and consider everyone and their feelings as individuals. How to make it her duty and passion to ensure everyone is accepted.”</i>
My child had fun and enjoyed themselves.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“[My child] enjoys camp, he looks forward going to camp every year.”</i>
My child grew and developed.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“[Camp] helps my child grow in many ways.”</i>
My child experienced respite from parents.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“She gets freedom from us for a week to learn from others in different ways”.</i>

Reasons Parents Would or Would Not Send their Child to TLC in 2020

As part of the fall parent questionnaire, parents were asked, “Please share why (or why not) your child will be attending TLC in 2020.” The most common responses included ***expressions of their child’s enjoyment of the camp experience as well as their affinity for camp*** (13 parents) (e.g., “[my child] absolutely loved Texas Lions Camp”), the ***friendships that their child developed at camp*** (13 parents) (particularly with others going through a similar experience with diabetes), ***how their child developed independence as well as life skills*** (8 parents), ***expressions of how their child would be ageing out of the program or had outgrown the activities*** (7 parents), and ***how their child is challenged by participating in camp*** (4 parents). See the figure and table below.

Other less common parent responses (1 or 2 parents for each theme) were a perception that camp is a safe setting for their child, that camp is a leadership opportunity, that their child likes the counselors, that sickness impacted some dimension of their camp experience (so they want to return in 2020 to have a complete experience), and that TLC is unique in accepting their child’s health conditions.

Most Common Reasons Parents Would or Would Not Send their Child to TLC in 2020

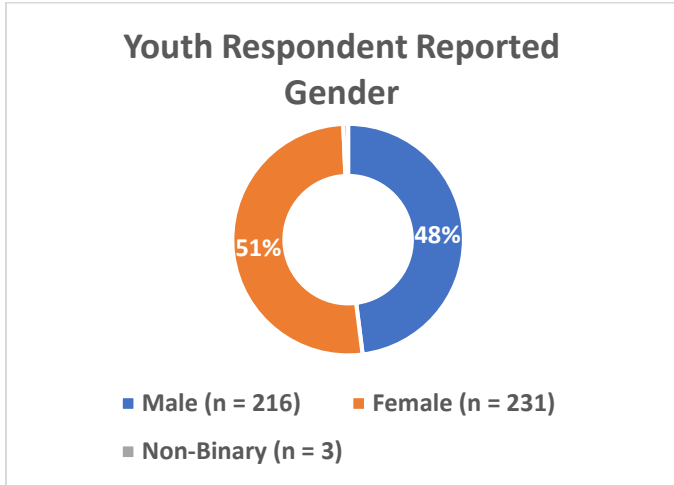


Theme	Count	Representative Quotes
My child enjoys TLC.	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “[My son] enjoyed the summer camp this year and said he wants to go again in 2020 summer camp.” • “[My child] absolutely loved Texas Lions Camp!! She's ready to go back but she doesn't understand that she has to wait until summer before she gets to go back!!”
My child developed friendships at TLC.	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “[My kiddo had an amazing time. He got in the car and told me he cannot wait until next year's Lions Camp. It was his first year and he made new friends and it was huge for him...” • “Camp is helping her to make good friends. To learn to fit in...”
TLC build's my child's independence and life skills.	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “[My child] will be attending camp again because it was a wonderful opportunity for him to be more independent.” • “[My son] drank water all by himself, can't wait to see what other self-care actions he develops at camp next year!”
My child will age out of the program or has outgrown the activities.	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “[My child] will not attend in 2020 because she was 15 this past summer. As far as I know 15 is the age limit.” • “[My child] stated that she feels like she is higher functioning than most of the kids at Camp. She would like more freedom at Camp. She seems to have outgrown most of the activities.”
TLC challenges my child.	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Being in an environment...and learning not to accept limitations because of his diabetes.” • “[My son] was accepted, befriended and challenged.”
TLC is a safe setting.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I'm happy [my child] attempted the zipline. Looking forward to new adventures he will attempt in 2020. I feel safe that Joshua is encouraged to try these in the safe setting within TLC.”
TLC is a leadership opportunity.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “[My daughter] will be attending TLC again...she wants to become a counselor when she is old enough.” • “[My child] has applied for a job as a camp counselor for the year of 2020.”
My child likes the counselors.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “[My child] loves attending Lions Camp every year. He feels welcomed and the counselors truly care about him.” • “[My son] is planning to attend Lions Camp again in summer 2020. He looks forward to his time with the staff and the friends he makes.”
Sickness impacted my child's participation in camp.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “2019 was [my child's] first year at Texas Lions Camp. Unfortunately, she got sick at the end of the week and it seems wasn't quite herself in the middle days of the week leading up to getting sick. I am hopeful and excited for her to be able to come back...repeat experiences always go really well for her compared to first-time experiences...” • “Camp was cut short and no closing ceremonies due to the virus that swept through camp this past summer, he really hopes to be able to attend again [next] summer...”
Health conditions limits my child's participation in camps other than TLC.	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Thanks Texas Lions Camp for the experience of a lifetime for my baby who is not allowed at other summer camps because of her conditions!!”

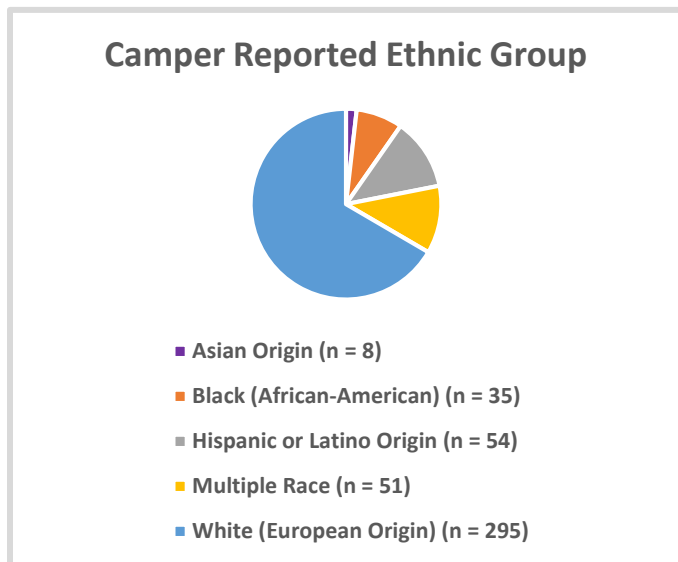
YOUTH

YOUTH DESCRIPTIVES

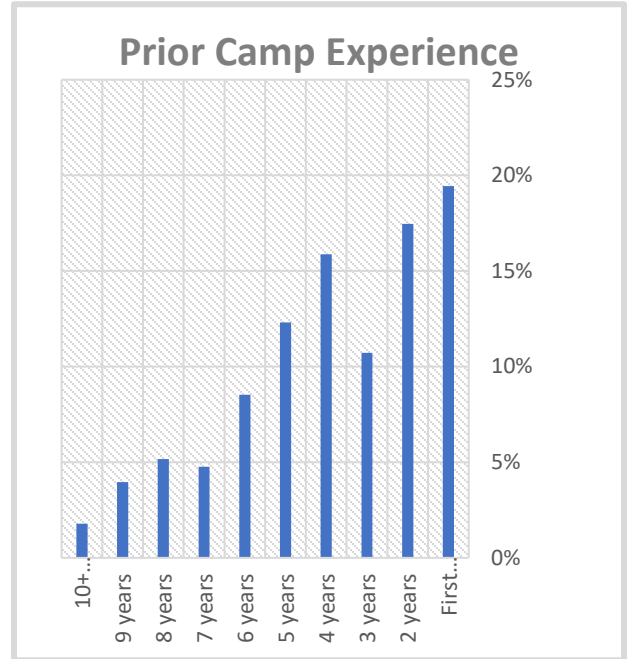
Campers identified as primarily female (51%) and were an average of 13.14 years of age (range = 9 to 16, SD = 1.691 years).



Campers were primarily white (66.59%), with African American (7.90%), Multiple Race (11.51%), Hispanic Origin (12.19%) and Asian Origin (7.9%) representing the remainder of the sample. **As compared to data collected from youth in 2017, TLC is serving an increasing population of non-white campers, reflecting broader trends in the State of Texas.**



The majority of campers were returning to Texas Lions Camp (81%), with 19% of the sample indicating this was their first time attending TLC. Specifically, campers reported an average of 3.532 years attending TLC (SD = 2.143 years).

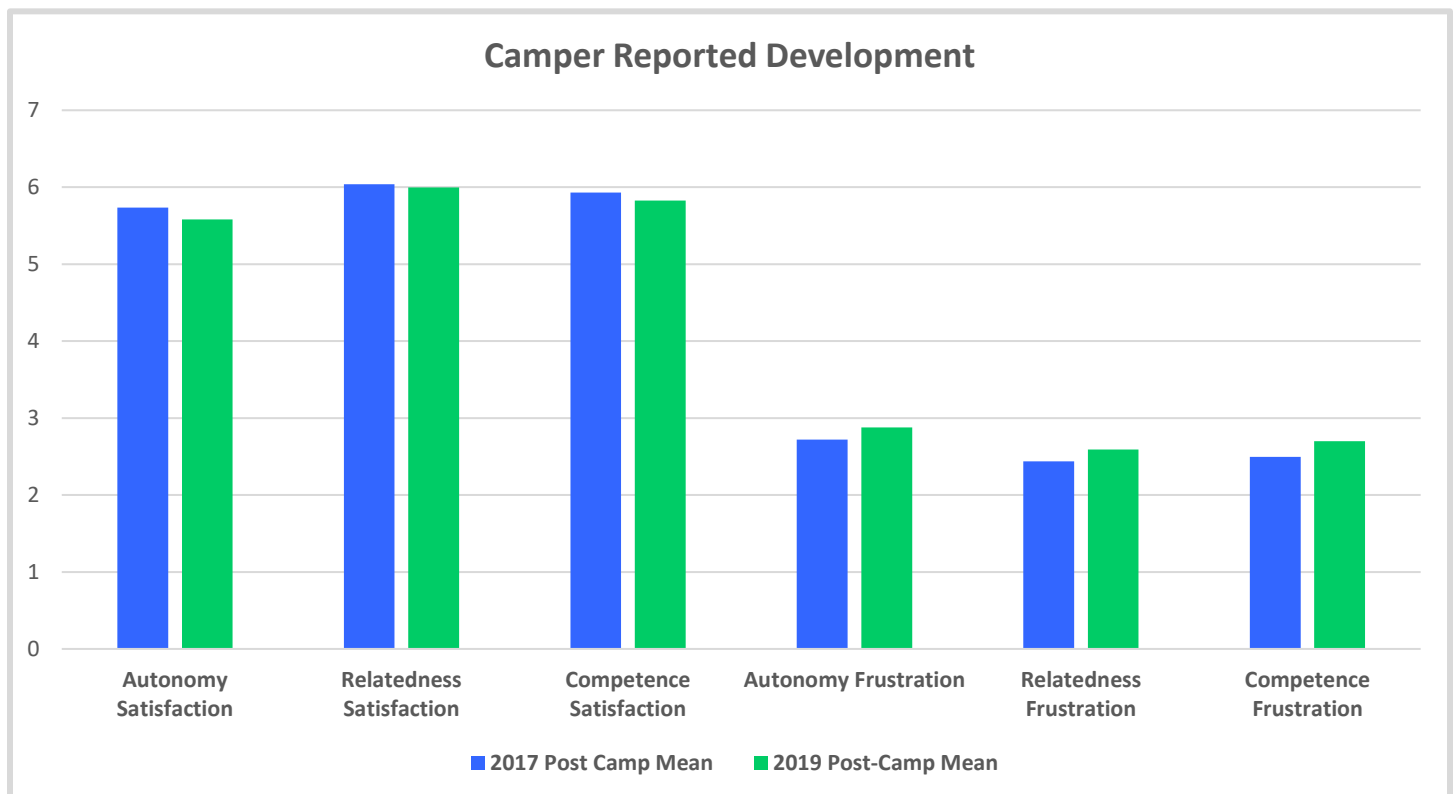


YOUTH OUTCOMES

Campers were asked to report on levels of personal development resulting from their camp experience. Specifically, campers reported on their levels of autonomy satisfaction, (i.e., *I feel that my decisions reflect what I really want*), relatedness satisfaction (i.e., *I feel that the people I care about also care about me*) and competence satisfaction (i.e., *I feel confident that I can do things well*). Additionally, campers were asked to report on their frustration of these same attitudes including autonomy frustration (i.e., *Most of the things I do feel like “I have to”*), relatedness frustration (i.e., *I feel excluded from the group I want to belong to*), and competence frustration (i.e., *I have serious doubts about whether I can do things well*). A strong body of evidence suggests higher levels of satisfaction and lower levels of frustration across these three dimensions acts as a catalyst for **youth thriving: an exponential uptick in positive development, goal orientation, and growth.**

As indicated in the figure and table below, both in 2017 and 2019 **campers indicated exceptionally high scores across the six measured dimensions significant growth in satisfaction of autonomy, competence, and relatedness.** Further, campers reported decreases in frustration of autonomy, competence, and relatedness. **Put differently, in the six measured dimensions, TLC campers grew where they should have grown and decreased where they should have decreased, there was no statistical difference between 2017 and 2019 data.**

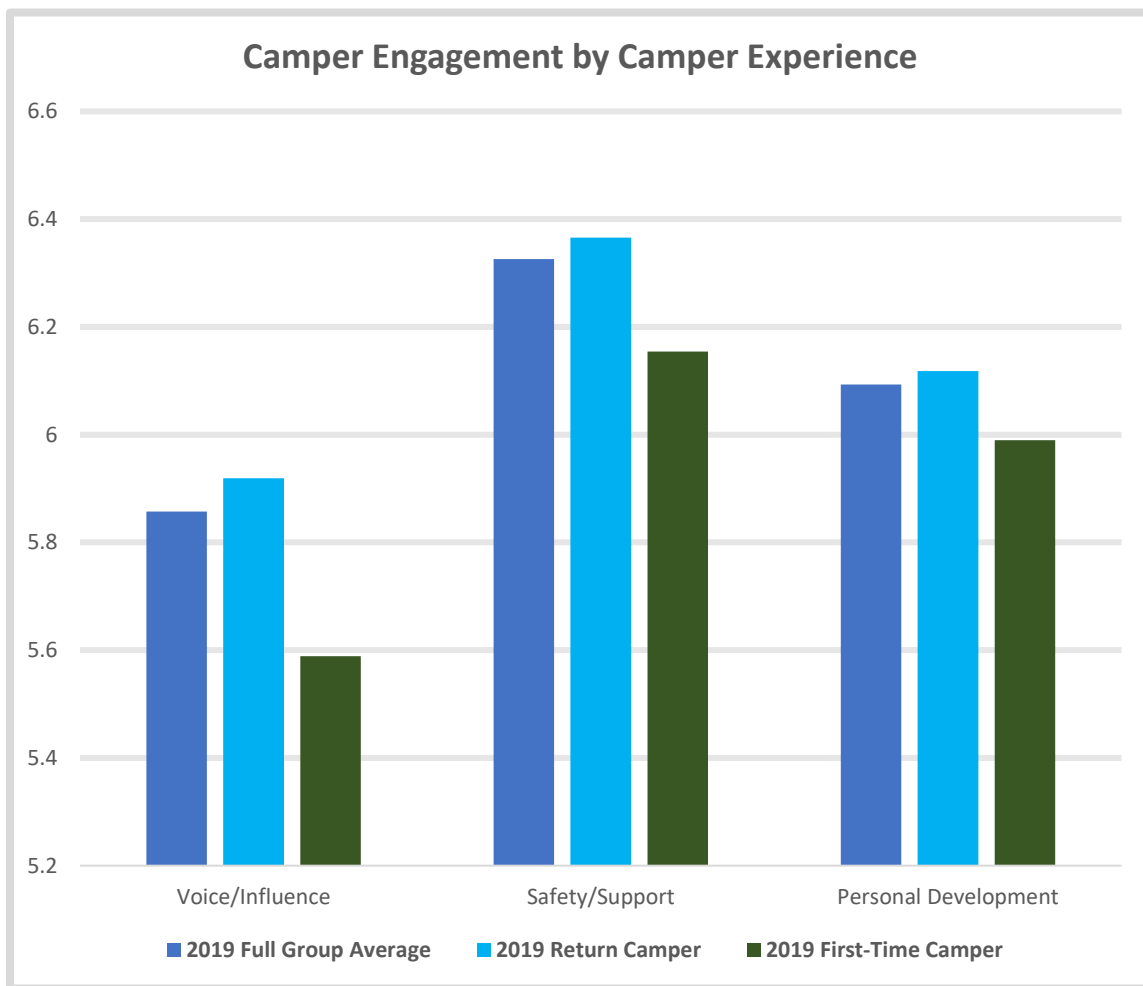
	2017 Post Camp Mean	2019 Post-Camp Mean	Significance
Autonomy Satisfaction	5.734	5.580	0.436
Relatedness Satisfaction	6.037	5.997	0.371
Competence Satisfaction	5.931	5.826	0.910
Autonomy Frustration	2.721	2.879	0.095
Relatedness Frustration	2.436	2.592	0.103
Competence Frustration	2.496	2.699	0.090



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

At the completion of their camp experience, campers were asked to report on their level of engagement with Texas Lions Camps across three dimensions, Voice/Influence (i.e., It was easy for me to get involved in TLC), Safety/Support (i.e., There’s at least one staff member that I can go to for support or help with a problem), and Personal Development (i.e., TLC activities are challenging and interesting). To assess potential differentiation across these outcomes, responses were grouped into first-timers or return campers. As indicated in the table and figure below, there was ***no meaningful difference in camper engagement level in the personal development between return and first-time campers. However, there was a statistically meaningful difference between return and first-time campers, with return campers indicating higher levels of reported safety support and voice/influence.***

	2019 Full Group Average	2019 Return Camper	2019 First-Time Camper
Voice/Influence	5.512	5.574	5.254
Safety/Support	6.079	6.121	5.911
Personal Development	5.743	5.777	5.606



YOUTH SHORT ANSWER

Because of TLC...

At the end of camp youth were asked, “We’d like to know how TLC influenced how you think, feel, or behave when it comes to yourself or others. Because of camp...” Youth were most likely to describe TLC as: **strengthening their friendships and social networks** (23campers), **enhancing their self-confidence in** (21 campers), **increasing their competence particularly related to elements of self-care and diabetes management** (18 campers), **making them happier and more optimistic** (11 campers), **increasing their social and contribution skills** (8 campers), **allowing them to explore new and different experiences** (8 campers), and **providing an opportunity to have fun** (7 campers). See the figure and table below

Other less common responses (1 or 2 campers for each theme) were related to helping them become more independent, teaching them to be more accepting of others, and helping them appreciate their family.

Two campers expressed feeling no different because of TLC.

Most Common Ways TLC Participation Influenced How You Think, Feel, or Behave When It Comes to Yourself or Others



<i>Theme</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Exemplary Quotes</i>
Strengthening their friendships and social networks (with similar others)	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Because of TLC I have built friendship with staff and fellow campers that can never be broken.”</i> • <i>“Because of TLC, I am able to meet people from other countries.”</i> • <i>“Because of TLC I know that other people have disabilities like me.”</i>
Boosting their confidence	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Because of TLC, [I feel like] I can do everything.”</i> • <i>“Because of Texas Lions Camp I feel like I have more confidenceand I feel like I can do anything I put my mind and heart to...”</i>
Increasing their competence	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Because of TLC I can do things like, to take close ups with animals, or learn how to make my very first Bozi...”</i> • <i>“Because of TLC, feel like I have more control over my diabetes.”</i>
Making them happy and more optimistic	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Because of TLC I...I have become a happier person when I go back home.”</i> • <i>“Because of TLC, I feel like nothing is impossible. I feel like a part of something larger than myself.”</i>
Increasing their social and contribution skills	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Because of TLC I feel I can talk to people and make good friends.”</i> • <i>“Because of TLC, I learn to be nice to others and not turn them down. I also learn to treat everyone like you want to be treated.”</i> • <i>[Because of TLC], I can “be nice to others, help others.”</i>
Allowing them to explore new and different experiences	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Because of TLC, many kids get to do the things that many people believe they cannot do. They are given opportunities to have fun and to do many exciting and challenging activities...”</i> • <i>“Because of TLC, I am able to do and see things that I'm not usually able to do and I'm very thankful for that.”</i>
Providing a fun experience	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Because of TLC, I actually have something fun to do over summer instead of just sit in my room watching YouTube or playing video game.”</i>
Helping them become more independent	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Because of TLC “I got a pump which gave me more freedom.”</i> • <i>“Because of TLC...I get to get away from my family for a week which helps me get used to being away for when I live on my own.”</i>
Not feeling any different because of TLC	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Because of TLC nothing really changed or has influenced me.”</i> • <i>“Because of TLC, I feel the same, Lions camp did not really change anything...”</i>
Teaching them to be more accepting of others	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Because of TLC, I have learned to not judge anyone by their looks.”</i>
Helping them appreciate their family	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Because of TLC, I appreciate my family because I'm away from them.”</i>



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