



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Camp Programs for Queer and  
Trans Kids

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# Letter from the President

01

As we created another incredible year of adventure and fun for our campers, I have been repeatedly overwhelmed with profound gratitude. QT Camp surmounted obstacles, expanded our horizons, and welcomed a new year with the support of our staff, families, caregivers, and communities. A special thank you to our campers, they are the reason we at QT Camp continue our mission, showing up whenever and wherever we can.

This year was challenging, to say the least, and QT Camp has been a beacon of hope throughout all of the chaos. A camper reminded me of the words of environmentalist Baba Dioum: “In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught.” There was a moment when it was clear that all of us have applied this to our modern lives, beyond outdoor education.

Looking forward, we envision expanded programs, more campers, and greater support for caregivers. We will continue to educate, build community, and give these kiddos a world in which they can become their authentic selves, and I have hope that they will create a better world.



Ready or not, the new year charges ahead and I am so excited to help QT Camp and our campers grow! From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the privilege of serving with QT Camp. I am thrilled for a new year full of promise and success.

Yours with Pride,

**Maximum Storm**

they/them  
Board President

# QT Camp Mission

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QT Camp creates affirming communities for LGBTQIA+ children and families through camp programs focusing on education, empowerment, and self-advocacy.



## Vision

QT Camp envisions a world in which LGBTQIA+ children are able to learn and grow in inclusive spaces, with affirming caregivers, mentors, and friends, to become their authentic selves

## Values

- We believe that **safe, affirming spaces** are necessary for all children's emotional development.
- We believe that **camp programs** like outdoor adventure, games, and activities, help to develop curiosity, confidence, and resilience.
- We support campers with positive role models and age-appropriate **educational opportunities** focused on self-advocacy and health.
- We also support caregivers with education and opportunities to **build community**.

# 2025 Board of Directors

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QT Camp Board of Directors at our first-ever planning retreat. Left to Right, top: Stephanie Masline, Nadia Klincewicz, Jess Cassagrande, Sydney Van Bulck. Bottom: Maximum Storm, Kyndra Luce, Denise Helton, Tupelo Hassman, Cory Stegelin. Not pictured: Michelin Henderson, Amy Hatfield, Alyssa Fuller, Katy Richardson.

We are hard at work building the 501(c)(3) foundation. As our community grows, so does the work behind the scenes. Our dedicated board ensure that we continue to uphold our mission, create amazing camp programs, and implement best practices for working with LGBTQIA+ kids and families. [Meet the 2026 Board of Directors](#)

We set a challenging goal to double the number of campers and families involved... and we are proud to announce that we exceeded our 2025 goals. Thanks to the overwhelming community support, we are excited to continue this momentum into 2026!

	2024	2025	
Campers served	22	48	↗
Event Participants	64	154	↗
Individual Donors	154	213	↗
Cost of Camp	\$0	\$0	

We are so proud that our QT Camp community is growing in the face of such challenging political times. The United States saw unprecedented attacks on LGBTQIA+ rights in 2025. Here's a recap:

## Congress

Although 109 anti-trans bills were introduced in Congress, only two passed a single chamber and none became law.

The budget reconciliation act — the so-called “Big Beautiful Bill” — was signed without directly targeting the LGBTQIA+ community. However, cuts to Medicaid and food assistance are having an outsized impact on our families:

- Medicaid provided coverage for over 1.8 million LGBTQIA+ individuals — including over 20% of all trans people in the US and 40% of people living with HIV
- Increased work requirements and eligibility checks for continued enrollment in Medicaid
- Eliminated funding for Planned Parenthood health centers that provide gender-affirming care as well as queer-competent reproductive healthcare and education

## Executive Actions

The White House released more than a dozen Executive Orders and letters to federal agencies that rolled back protections for our community.

Some key developments:

- Defined gender as a binary based on sex at conception
- Ended diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility practices at federal agencies and cut federal funding for K-12 schools that teach about gender diversity
- Banned transgender girls from participating in school sports teams from elementary school through college
- Stopped federal funds to medical providers providing gender-affirming care for people under the age of 19 and prohibited coverage of services as an Essential Health Benefit in ACA plans

As a result of these actions:

- Queer and trans people have been increasingly politicized
- LGBTQIA+ contributions to history have been erased from federal websites
- Many healthcare providers have stopped offering gender-affirming care to patients of all ages
- Trans and gender non-conforming individuals are not able to update their passports to align with their gender

# The National Landscape

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## The Supreme Court

In *United States v. Skrmetti*, the Supreme Court ruled to uphold the Tennessee law that prohibits healthcare providers from offering gender-affirming care to minors. While this is a setback for trans and gender non-conforming youth, the Court's ruling was limited to this specific law in the context of age and medical diagnosis. The Court did not address the law as it relates to parental rights, discrimination against trans people in other contexts, or any other laws or executive orders.

In *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, the Court allowed parents in Montgomery County, Maryland, to opt their children out of elementary school lessons using books with LGBTQIA+ themes.

The Supreme Court declined to hear a case that challenged same-sex marriage, keeping federal protections for marriage in place.

## QT Camp in the News

**In October, State Representative Nancy Mace used her social media platform in an attempt to politicize QT Camp's Halloween Party, endangering our families and partners. QT Camp received immediate support from individuals and organizations across the state and South, and together we created a media response and a detailed safety plan for the event. In the end, we hosted over 150 guests and 100 volunteers. The event was a huge success.**

## Across the States

Over 1,000 anti-trans bills were introduced in 49 states (all but Vermont!), a 45% increase from 2024. Of those, 125 passed, largely focused on healthcare, education, and bathroom access.

Delaware became the 14th state to pass a "shield" law that protects access to trans healthcare.

**Here in South Carolina, we are still fighting existing laws and new bills that harm our community. In 2025, there were no new anti-LGBTQIA+ bills that became law in our state.**

**Organizers push back on Mace's claims about weekend Halloween carnival in North Charleston**

by Perrin Moore | Wed, October 22, 2025 at 6:13 PM  
Updated Wed, October 22, 2025 at 6:22 PM



A rainbow LGBTQ+ pride flag and a transgender pride flag (the T-Flag) flying from a pole in front of a building, seen center, which sometimes flies a rainbow flag from its facade, Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, in Wilton Manors, Fla. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)

# Welcome to Camp!

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I founded QT Camp in 2023, in response to the rise in anti-trans bills, and the subsequent decrease in safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ kids. In just two seasons, QT Camp has grown into a thriving community, and the work for kids, and increasingly the need for safety for their families, has become a vital service.



This summer, we hosted 50 campers over four weeks of camp programming. They came from all over South Carolina and beyond. Campers are all ages, spanning the full spectrum of gender expression and identity. Through all of the camp silliness, games, adventures, and education, the overarching feeling this summer was safety. QT Camp is often the only space outside of their home that our kids can show up authentically.

In addition, this was the first summer of caregiver meetups during each week of camp. Tupelo, our parent liaison, created a space for parents, in support of our dual mission to support kids and their household with resources and community.

At the Creepy QT Halloween Party, a new-to-camp parent told me: “I have never felt safe at a large event with my kids, until today.” I realized that I also wasn’t looking over my shoulder either, for the first time in a long time, because of the safety plan in place, and the volunteers who showed up for our kiddos.



As we grapple with the politicization of trans kids, I remain truly grateful for the support of our QT Camp community. Thank you for carving out this incredible opportunity for children to learn and grow, develop friendships, and find support. It is because of your support that we can provide this space for kids and their families.

**Kyndra Luce**  
she/her  
Founding Camp Director

# Summer Camp Summary

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## Adventure Camp x 3

We hosted three weeks of outdoor adventures: surfing, dolphin boat tour, waterpark, and more. Afternoons featured a lesson from Teen Connections' Get Real: Values, Self-advocacy, Relationship Boundaries, and Gender.

## Action Camp

This speciality week for high schoolers included visiting IAAM and Caw Caw Interpretive Center to learn more about the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, and identity. Students also completed the Teen Connections' InClued program.

## From a Caregiver

“I loved seeing my kids joyfully connect with others. At the end of the day, my oldest kid had more energy and was more at ease because she was not choosing to mask as she so often has to do in a school or other peer-group settings. The fact that she was up and ready to go to camp EVERY SINGLE day blew my mind.

Upon reflection, I see what an incredible difference in energy and bandwidth affirming spaces and experiences like QT Camp can offer. I only wish my children had similar experiences in school. The care and attention given to meeting campers where they are and making the space exclusively for kids who identify as LGBTQIA+ is sooooo very important from a caregiver perspective.”

# Exceeding Expectations & Room to Grow

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From a camper's perspective:  
"It was so amazing that it's  
impossible to describe!"

2025 Caregiver Survey response rate was 50%. Compared to 2024, there were slight increases in each category.

**78%**

LGBTQIA+ identity was confirmed

**56%**

Camper learned more about their own identity

**83%**

Camper learned about intersectionality

**78%**

Camper gained confidence at camp

**67%**

Camper learned about self-advocacy

"Outside of home, my kiddo isn't in many spaces where their identity is embraced and celebrated. QT Camp was an incredible opportunity for them to be seen as who they are." -QT Camper Caregiver

# Financial Statement

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## 2025 Summary

Individual Donations: \$26,500	Office Expenses: \$3,500
Grants: \$4,500	Travel Scholarships: \$1,000
Corporate Match: \$1,500	Camp Activities: \$4,000
Summer Camp Fees: \$2,000	Camp Supplies: \$2,000
	Van Rental: \$4,000
	Camp Staff Wages: \$4,000

**\$35K**

Revenue

**(\$18K)**

2025 Expenses

## 2026 Summer Goals

Individual Donations: \$7,000	Grow programs by 25% and add full-time staff salary
Grants: \$4,500	Office Expenses: \$3,700
Corporate Match: \$1,500	Travel Scholarships: \$1,250
Summer Camp Fees: \$3,000	Camp Activities: \$5,000
	Camp Supplies: \$2,500
	Van Rental: \$4,500
	Camp Staff Wages: \$23,000

**\$29K**

Balance

**\$7K**

Donation Goal by June

**(\$45K)**

2026 Estimate

## Needs Assessment 2026-2031

- Establish independence from Famous Adventures Camp (currently maintains vehicles/auto insurance, office expenses, part time year-round staff wages).
- Grow camps to full summer schedule and grow year-round programs to monthly family activities.
- Secure sustained grants and boost donor retention.

# 3 Easy Ways to Help

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None of this is possible without the generous support of our donors and sponsors. Your belief in our mission and your commitment to supporting the QT Camp experience have been truly humbling. Thank you once again for being part of QT Camp. We look forward to continuing this journey with all of you in the seasons to come.

## Volunteer



As we work to build the foundation of our 501(c)(3) there is plenty of support work, from event volunteers to office tasks to fundraising support. Email [kyndra@qtcamp.org](mailto:kyndra@qtcamp.org) to get involved behind the scenes.

## Follow us



Help to amplify our reach  
@qtsummercamp on FB and Instagram



## Stretch your donation



- Become a **monthly donor**. Even \$5 monthly helps us set our budget and plan for the future
- **Social Media fundraisers** make up about 1% of our total annual fundraising
- Corporate Matches: If your employer partners with **Benify**, check their matching program! We receive local matching donations from Google, Voya Financial and Total Quality Logistics.

### Creative Fundraising!

Shout out, and a huge thank you, to our camper J, who hosted a “10<sup>th</sup> birthday party Gorilla Tag fundraiser.” (Yes, I had to ask what what was.) J asked for donations for every gorilla tagged during online game play on their birthday. They raised over \$5K – a full week of camp for 12 campers. Thank you, J and family, for a creative, thoughtful, amazing effort for QT Camp and fellow campers.

# Thank you, Donors!

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Heartfelt thank you to folks whose donation provided one or more full camp scholarships

Anna Louise Ogden Padgett	Frank and Suzanne Hardie	Nona & Cap'n Turner
Benjamin Street	John Barnard	Price House
Boudolf Family	Justine Owen	The Unitarian Church of
Bradford & Tupelo	Kathryn Bottonari and	Charleston
Cathy, Sam & Tucker	Heather Brister	The Yurfest Family
The Chalmers Fund	Kevin Earle & Rob Peterson	
The Coakley Fam	Laura Locklair	<i>Halloween Party Donations</i>
Eloise and Charles	Lisa McCormick	<i>"from" Nancy Mace totaled</i>
Elyse, Keith & Maren	Mary & Mark Diehl	<i>almost \$6K!</i>

## Monthly donors help us grow

Alyssa Fuller	Brandon Grom	The Sallee Family
Andrea Faust	John T.	William Taylor
Anne and Mike	Polly Ballantyne	
Amy	The Creech Family	

## Grants sustain QT Camp

AFFA (Alliance for Full Acceptance) provided a grant for the entire cost of Action Camp. See Camp Summary for details.

Coastal Community Foundation's David Bundy and Katherine Richardson Family Fund

## Local and SC partners and supporting organizations

ACLU SC	Harriet Hancock Center	Palmetto State Abortion Fund
AFFA	Itinerant Literate Books	South Carolina Equality
AFFA Action	Lowcountry Period Pixies	SC Pride
Campaign for Southern Equality	Lowcountry in Transition	Secular Humanists of the
Charleston Fairy Coalition	PFLAG Charleston, Aiken, Anderson, Greenville,	Lowcountry
Charleston Pride	Pawley's Island, Rock Hill, and Spartanburg	T-Time
Free Mom Hugs of SC		Teen Connections
		We Are Family

# Thank you, Donors!

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Adam James Rollins	Christopher Zuver	Karen Byko	Matt Pihlblad
Adrienne Lett	Claudia G	Karen Higgins	Meagan Labriola
Alexia Niketas	Courtney N	Karen Rix	Megan DeCamilla
Alice Schulte	Dana Sweeny	Karin Denison	mel
Allan Morris	Daniel Soltis	Karsun Elaine	Michael
Allison Lanford	Devon Wade	Kat	Mike Kelly, Columbia SC
Allison	Denise	Katelin Weinburg	Natalie Bechtol
Amanda H	Elena Rodriguez	Kathryn Martin	Nicolaus Newton
Amanda Jay	Elisa Martinot	Kathryn Platt	Nicole Dacuyan-Faucher
Amanda Dowd	Elizabeth Dlugi	Kat Williams	Paul Bowers
Amy Ball	Eric Thomas Baker	Kean Pérez	Paula Parnello-Copley
Amy Wischusen	Fred and Dianne Luce	Kelli M	Philip and Yoori
Amythyst Rose	G	Kelly DeJong	Rachel Fore
Andrew Moore	Gert & Glenn Masline	Kelly Hatch	Regina Ruopoli
Anomalous	Haley Sab	Kim Corbett	Rired02905
Anonymous	Hannah	Kim	Ron Hanna
Anonymous Friend	Heather	Kory Stockman	Ron Vereen
Ashley Newton	Heather Wallace	Kristen French	Rose Whitt
Ava Clear	Ivey Foster	Kristin Wilson Cotton	Savannah Walker
Barbara Young	Chandler Reigart	Laura Arpin	Shade Simmons
Bell Family	Jane Shelby Porter	Laura Joy Hagerty	shan
Beckett	Janet Maragioglio	Langston	Chanel Stevens
Beth Phillips	Jenna Arsenault	Lauren Morgan	Shofner Fam
Bilal Smith	Jenna St. Pierre	lin kuhl jay	The Simpson Family
Blair Grass	Jennifer Bodiford	Lisa Killinger	Stephanie Pratt
Brandi	Jenny Bush	Lisa Metheney	StevenGeorge Lakeman
Brandi Aycock	Jenny Lee	Lucy Brenner	Sydney
Brandi Monckton	Jessicka Spearman	Madeline Niederman	Summerville Guy
Brandy S.	Childs	Madelyne	Tim Nelson
Caitlin Haffert	Jim and Windy	Mardell	TQAMP
Cali Jess	Joanna	Meg Brennan	Tracy Wales
Carole	Julia	Marisa Sissel	Vue Lee
chelseriffic	Kara Chisolm	Mark Prasch	Wesley Arneecher
Christopher Wilson		Mary Mattice	

# Contact Us



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Address



Register for Camp

Donate

Get Involved

