



SURVIVOR AROOSTOOK

Providing Kids with Once in a Lifetime Healthcare Opportunities

Stitching up a steak, wheelchair racing, and a mock disaster might not sound like the typical summer camp experience, but for teenagers across the County, activities such as these have become a unique introduction to discovering the many exciting careers healthcare has to offer.

“Survivor Aroostook is a week-long camp that we run to promote healthcare careers to students who have just completed the eighth grade,” said Mary Berube, Human Resources manager at The Aroostook Medical Center and camp co-coordinator. Our goal is to really get them thinking about entering the healthcare field after they graduate from high school and go on for their college degrees.”

At Survivor Aroostook, campers who may someday be local healthcare professionals learn about a variety of occupations during a week of teambuilding, exploration, and fun.

Campers are introduced to as many as 15 different healthcare careers by way of hands-on investigation, such as learning how to suture a wound or put on a cast. During the 2007 Survivor camp, participants even navigated through a disability obstacle course to learn what it’s like to be a patient so they understand the importance of compassion in healthcare.

While currently a nationwide shortage of workers in certain healthcare occupations is becoming an increasing problem, and The Aroostook Medical Center has found Survivor camp to be a fun and rewarding way to showcase many great local opportunities in healthcare. “Being in a rural area, we have even more of a challenge than some urban areas may have in attracting people,” added Berube. “What we’ve found is that the most success we have is in training people from Aroostook County.”

Michelle Osgood of Easton, a camper from the first Survivor Aroostook in 2003, is proof that the camp is making a difference. “After coming to Survivor, I just knew that healthcare was for me. I knew that I wanted to be a healthcare professional once I was a team leader for the mock car accident. The adrenaline and everything that was going on, it was just the coolest experience for me.”

Survivor Aroostook camp is one of the many community benefits The Aroostook Medical Center offers to its community. For more information about Survivor Aroostook camp, please contact Mary Berube at (207) 768-4026.



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