

# Camp Quest UK

## PRESS PACK

### Our Purpose

Camp Quest's overall purpose is to provide interested children, regardless of their personal beliefs, with a residential summer camp free of religious dogma. The camp is dedicated to the advancement of tolerance, empathy, self-respect, self-expression, rationality, critical and creative thinking, cooperation, and ethics.

*From our mission statement: "dedicated to improving the human condition through rational inquiry, critical and creative thinking, scientific method, self-respect, ethics, competency, democracy, free speech, and the separation of religion and government".*

### About Us

Camp Quest is a summer camp for 8-17 year olds. In addition to fun camp activities such as swimming, canoeing, fishing, archery, campfires, stargazing and outdoor sports. Camp Quest's knowledgeable counsellors and guest volunteers lead learning activities that teach them about science, free thought and humanist principals. Activities cover critical thinking, science, history, human rights and ethics.

*Campers develop and improve their rational thinking skills in fun, hands-on learning activities and programs.*



### History

Camp Quest was first held in 1996 and until 2002 was operated by the Free Inquiry Group, Inc. (FIG) of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. The idea for the project originated with Edwin Kagin and he and his wife Helen served as Camp Directors for the first ten years of the original Camp Quest, retiring at the end of the 2005 camp session. Six Camp Quest summer camps currently offer programs across North America in Ohio, Smoky Mountains, Minnesota, Ontario, Michigan and California.

This is Camp Quest UK's first year and it now has a waiting list 4 times greater than the number of places available. There is also the possibility of a Camp Quest Germany in the future.

### Frequently Asked Questions



*Do you teach children to be atheists?*

No. Campers at Camp Quest are actively encouraged to think for themselves and are not required to hold any particular view. We do emphasize critical and scientific thinking over faith though.



*Can children of religious families attend CQ?*

Yes. We subscribe to and seek to promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which recognises the equal rights of us all regardless of gender, colour, race, ethnicity, or any other category.



## Continues...

# Frequently Asked Questions Continued



## *What has Richard Dawkins got to do with Camp Quest?*

Apart from giving Camp Quest a one-off donation, nothing. This is Camp Quest UK's response to a particularly erroneous article on the subject:  
<http://www.camp-quest.org.uk/media/press-releases/corrections-to-sunday-times-series-of-articles-printed-2862009/>



## *What is the Invisible Unicorn Challenge?*

The centrepiece of the camp's approach is encouragement of critical thinking and an introduction to logical fallacies by retelling the story of two invisible unicorns that inhabit Camp Quest.

Campers are told that two invisible unicorns inhabit the camp, that cannot be seen, heard, touched, smelled, tasted, that they cannot hurt you, that they do not eat and leave no mark. An ancient book handed down for countless generations offers proof that the unicorns exist, though no one is allowed to see this book. Any camper who can prove that the unicorns do not exist will win a godless one-hundred dollar bill (printed before 1957, when the U.S. Congress mandated that "In God We Trust" be printed on American fiat currency) or a £10 note with a picture of Charles Darwin and signed by Richard Dawkins. Since offering this challenge in August of 1996, the prize remains unclaimed.

## People Profile

### Samantha Stein – Camp Director

Samantha is the founder and Camp Director of Camp Quest UK, having been inspired to start up over here after her experiences at Camp Quest Michigan in 2007. She is currently studying for a Masters in Religion in Contemporary Society at Kings College London, having done her undergraduate studies in Psychology. An atheist her whole life, she became interested in getting involved with the freethinking community after reading "The God Delusion".

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### Richard Craig - Co Director

Is currently studying at the University of Bristol for a PhD in Rehabilitation Robotics. A participant during university of the National Mentoring Pilot Project that assisted failing GCSE students in schools to achieve at least a grade higher than their predicted marks, Richard has also set up and been a Treasurer for number of student organisations, and has since moved on to helped set up and organise new businesses.

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## Contact

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## Images

*High quality images available on request of children enjoying Camp Quest activities, Samantha, Richard and the 'Camp Quest UK' and 'CQ' logos.*

