Camp HOPE in Utah

Camp HOPE America–Utah was the vision of District Attorney Sim Gill who long felt that crime victims were not receiving adequate support to recover from their victimization, particularly children.

After leading efforts to start the first Family Justice Center in Salt Lake City in 2010, and upon being elected District Attorney, Sim Gill began plans to bring Camp HOPE to the Salt Lake County District Attorney's office.

In 2020 Camp HOPE America–Utah was officially launched thanks to generous grants from Verizon, the Utah Office for Victims of Crime, and the Friends of the Children's Justice Center–Salt Lake County Nonprofit.

The first camp was located in the beautiful Uintah National Forest. Many children had never been near a forest and were in awe of such majesty. All of the children thrived in trying new challenges of the camp activities. It was heart-warming that children felt like a regular kid, believing in tomorrow.

OUR VISION

A future where:

- All are seen
- Voices are heard
- Choices will matter
- Collaboration is a must
- New paths are explored
- Wrong things are made right
- A generational cycle is broken
- HOPE is given

GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER or DONATE to empower crime victims and build a path of hope! 100% of donations are used to support Camp HOPE America–Utah.

CONTACT US:
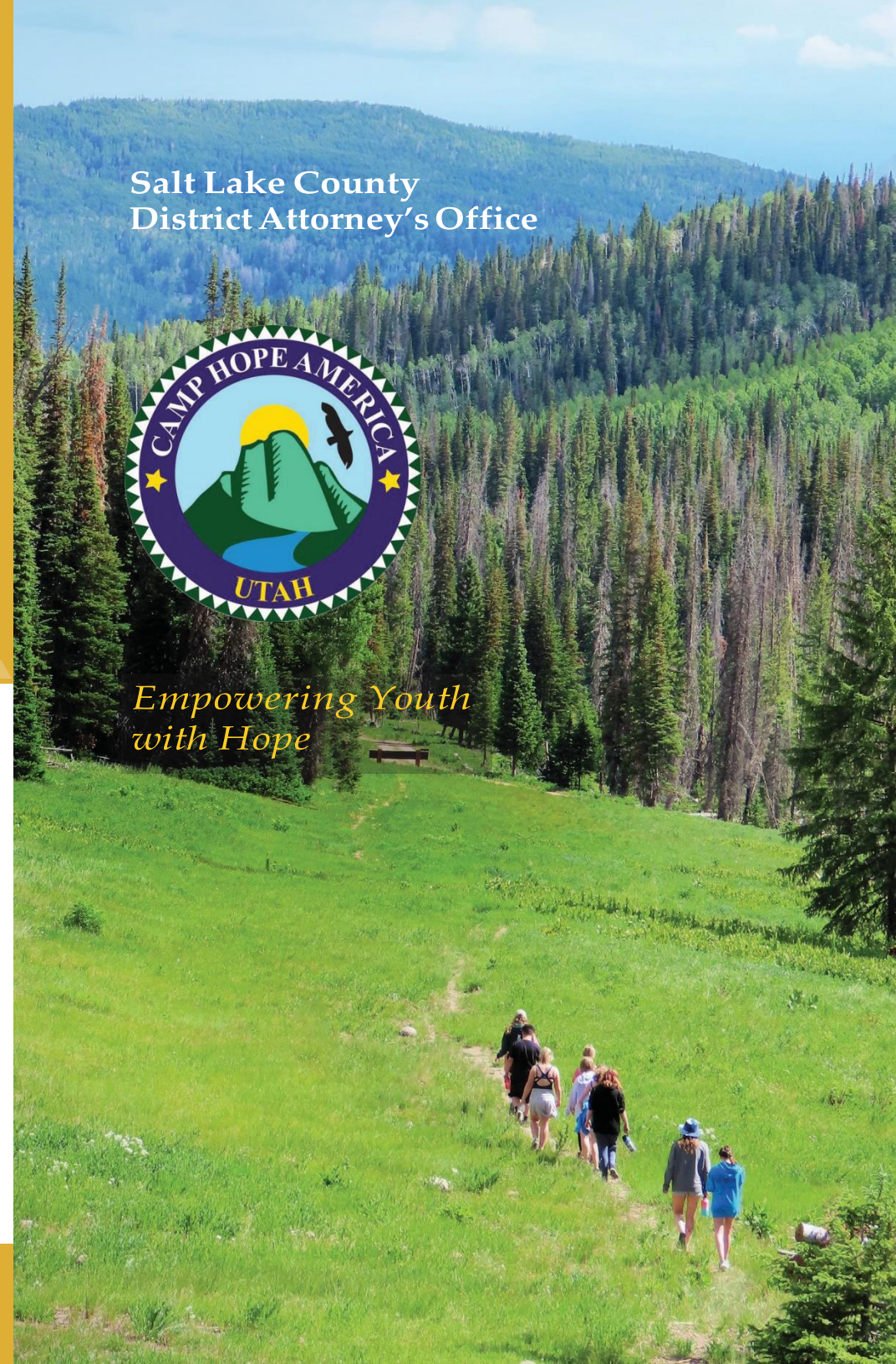Email: CampHopeUtah@slco.org
Call: 385-468-7802
Donate: https://tinyurl.com/camphopeut
Instagram: @camphopeutah

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CENTER
SALT LAKE COUNTY

SALT LAKE COUNTY

Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office

CAMP HOPE AMERICA
UTAH

Empowering Youth with Hope

Pathway to Healing

Camp HOPE America–Utah is operated by the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office. There are 43 Camp Hope America affiliates across the country that provide the leading camping and mentoring program for children and teens impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and other violent crimes.

The 5-day camp along with year-round activities are at no cost to the families. Programming focuses on creating hope and healing-centered pathways so that trauma-exposed youth can believe in themselves, in others, and in their dreams. Guided by trauma informed practices, the camping experience includes many enriching outdoor adventures such as hiking in the forest, archery, canoeing, swimming, paddle-boarding, horseback riding, and campfire talks. After five days at camp the children are overjoyed at successfully facing their fears, discovering their strengths, making new friends, and cultivating new possibilities for the future.

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"I didn't realize how strongly this would impact each one of my kids. It's been a great resource and experience for each of them and I'm blown away by how much it seemed to improve all of their emotional well-being. Thank you."

—PARENT

The Science of Hope

Annually, the Alliance for Hope studies data after camp to measure success and develop future programming.

Working with the University of Oklahoma and their research team, led by Dr. Chan Hellman, the Alliance uses the Science of Hope to gauge program success. Hope reflects an individual's capacity to develop pathways and dedicate agency toward desirable goals. Using the Children's Hope Scale, they examined the extent to which children believed that they could achieve their goals and persevere in their efforts. Each year the data reflects that campers do in fact experience a significant increase of hope; affirming the vision of Camp HOPE America.

H – Healing
O – Opportunities
P – Perseverance
E – Empowerment

"Most of all, it brings hope. Hope that we can achieve our goals. Hope that we can trust and thrive, and hope that we are not alone. I absolutely loved camp."

—YOUTH CAMPER

CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

Studies show children exposed to trauma are at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system as adults. By directly supporting and promoting their recovery in a calm, supportive and reaffirming natural environment, we strive to empower children and break cycles of abuse and violence.