

# Grief Camp Project

## for victims of The Tohoku Region Pacific Coast Earthquake

National Camping Association of Japan  
National Council of YMCAs of Japan  
Asahi Shinbun Social Welfare Organization

### “Tsunami Tendenko” and acceptance of the loss

The Tohoku Region Pacific Coast Earthquake of March 11, 2011, wreaked enormous damage in Tohoku district (northeast area of the mainland of Japan). This disaster is unique in that it occurred during the daytime, and many family members were affected separately. And many people will need to acknowledge the death of their loved one without their remains because of the tsunami.

The affected area had been struck by the tsunami, and there is a local wisdom, “Tsunami Tendenko”. It means "go uphill independently at the time of tsunami caring only for your own safety, not thinking of anyone else, even your family." This wisdom saved many lives, but they have to accept life without the loved one and to not blame themselves that they could not save the others.

There are many children who lost their family and their place to live as if it never existed. The grief of acceptance without evidence is unimaginably deep. It is necessary to “understand” the loss in order to overcome the sadness and to live with hope. However, it is very difficult to comprehend without confirming the evidence. To help victims to transform their grief into sadness with which they can live, grief care will be required.

### Gift for the Next 100 Years

The victims need various supports to recover, but there is not much we can do. What we can do is something concerned with camp. In the 150 years history, organized camp has been active in addressing social concerns. Grief care is one of the challenges. We will learn from ancestors of Grief Camp and adjust for the victims. That’s what we can do.

Our main goal is to provide Grief Camp to the victims of the earthquake and support their psychological recovery. And the Grief Camp will provide to the people who are involved in it the communication ability to provide comfort for people who are grieving. This will be a gift for the next 100 years to make the world a better place.

*2011 is the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Camping Association of Japan (NCAJ). NCAJ had established the future mission of the organization with the key phrase, “Gift for the Next 100 Years”. Our hope is that the camps which will be inherited by our children and grandchildren for the next 100 years will be fun and optimistic, if it is possible. Faced with our current situation, camps will need to acquire the capacity to live with the sadness everyone has to face in their lives.*



## Mission

To provide Grief Camp to the victims of the earthquake and support their psychological recovery.

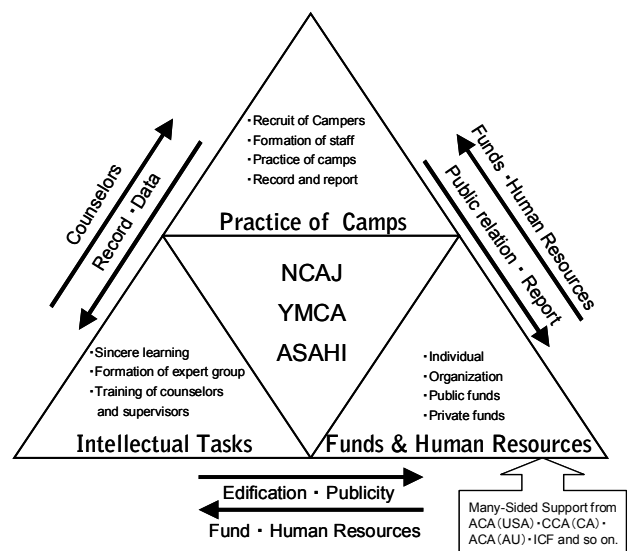
- In accordance with the camp tradition, seek a means of relating to the Japanese society, through the theme of camp as a “Gift for the Next 100 Years”.
- Increase the interest among the diverse domestic and international practices of camp to enhance the quality of camp and to offer a new challenge. This will strengthen the relationships between domestic and international organizations.

## Target group

Victims of the earthquake of March 11, 2011, particularly children who lost members of their families.

## Steps and Implementation structure

- Case study and adjustment for the victims of the earthquake
- Counselor training for Grief camp
- Planning of Grief Camp
- Practice of camps
- Public relations and Funding
- Continue camps for several years, ideally more than 10 years
- *All steps will be done in collaboration with other camp organizations and professionals in psychological care.*



### Donate to support the project

Visit website of International Camping Fellowship. You can make a donation with major credit cards. <http://www.campingfellowship.org>

Or, please contact to National Camping Association of Japan.  
Thank you for your support!!

**ARIGATOU means "incredibly rare", thus it's MIRACLE.**

***It's a miracle that we have you in the camping community. ARIGATOU !***

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