

# Program Characteristics of Medical Specialty Camp Experiences Influencing Positive Changes in Youth

**Barry A. Garst**, PhD; **Ryan J. Gagnon**, PhD; & **Teresa Tucker**, PhD  
Clemson University (contact: bgarst@clemson.edu)



## Questions

**RQ#1**: What behavioral and socio-emotional changes do parents identify in their children as a result of MSC participation?

**RQ#2**: What characteristics of a MSC experience influenced child behavioral and socio-emotional outcomes?

## Findings

**Changes**: Autonomy-37%, relationships-17%, empowerment-12%, self and peer acceptance-10%, happiness-16%, maturation-6%

**Characteristics**: Opportunities for: community-building-64%, personal challenge-11%, skill-building activities-11%, exploration-6%, self-discovery-4%

## Implications

(1) Use themes to map MSC camp activities to impactful program characteristics. (2) Include open-ended questions in parent surveys to inform linkages between MSC program processes and outcomes. (3) Develop MSC program characteristics scale for research w/larger, more representative samples