

## 2015 YOUTH RALLY IN BOULDER, CO



Check out our NEW WEBSITE at [www.YouthRally.org](http://www.YouthRally.org)  
for more photos and videos from Youth Rally 2015!

**AN IDEAL SETTING** The Youth Rally was back in Boulder this year for a fun-filled week of learning, growing, and the creation of life-long friendships and memories! The Boulder campus at the University of Colorado has long been a favorite site among campers and counselors alike on account of the picturesque setting seen here. Sunny and warm days (with the exception of a sprinkle the first night) followed by cooler nights, set the perfect scene for the experience of a lifetime.

**THEY COME FROM ALL OVER** This year's Rally hosted 140 campers (picture above) – our biggest year yet! - between the ages of 11 and 17 from 37 states, Canada, and Venezuela. Notably, 55 campers were experiencing the Youth Rally for their very first time! The Youth Rally volunteer team of 55 counselors, 10 counselors-in-training, and 17 specialty-trained registered nurses assembled on campus two days prior to camper arrival for their annual orientation and team-building session so that they were well prepared for camper arrival on Monday morning.

During their five days of camp, campers with many different diagnoses had the opportunity to learn more about their own diagnoses as well as those of other campers and counselors. They participated in intimate rap sessions discussing their own diagnoses, management techniques, and self-esteem while sharing their life experiences and innovative ideas for independent living.

**FUN, FUN, FUN** On fitness day each participant had the opportunity to learn the importance of health and exercise while sampling some of the many activities available at the newly-renovated UC Boulder Recreation Center. Of course it wouldn't be a Boulder Rally without a trip to Denver for a day at Elitch Gardens amusement park where the group had access to rides, amusement games, magicians, water slides, a wave pool, and all the junk food their hearts could desire. The Youth Rally welcomed Jennifer Bricker to our team this year as our guest speaker. An amazing and talented young woman - if you don't know her, we recommend googling her story! The week was topped off with our annual Rally's Got Talent (show) and Fashion (show), and a Candy Land-themed dance and graduation ceremony complete with a cotton candy artist and a photo booth. Nobody got much sleep, but who can sleep when there's so much fun to be had and experiences to share?

**SEATTLE-BOUND!** It is expected that all but those 27 campers who graduated will join us again in 2016 at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. Many of those same graduates will be submitting applications for the 2016 Counselor-in-training leadership program. In the meantime they have formed lasting friendships, found lifelong mentors, and thanks to modern technology and social media, they will be able to communicate all year long!

**The Youth Rally Committee greatly appreciates your support in providing sponsorship so that these teens could again attend the Youth Rally without further financial burden on their families. Without your support, the Rally could not continue. Your contributions allow us the privilege of providing an environment for these adolescents to grow, learn, have fun, and realize that they are truly never alone.**