

## CASE STUDY BRIEF

Since 2013, the Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21) has annually designated 21st Century Learning Exemplars based upon exceptional implementation of the [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#).

Each year, P21 has highlighted a cohort of early learning centers, K-12 schools, school districts, and beyond school programs in the U.S. as 21st Century Learning Exemplars. Now that P21 is a network of Battelle for Kids, we are leading together in celebrating the current year of 21st Century Learning Exemplars.

As part of celebrating these awardees, Battelle for Kids and its P21 network provide ways for their stories and impactful practices to be shared with others. This case study brief and those for the other awardees provide powerful insights to guide other school districts, schools, and programs so that every child can experience the best of 21st century learning experiences.



### Camp Champions Marble Falls, TX

Camp Champions provides an inclusive community that fosters 21st century skills and lifelong lessons that help campers in the classroom and beyond through an intentionally designed, character-driven overnight summer camp experience.

**Grades Served:** K-12

**Enrollment:** 400 campers annually

Founded in 1967

[Website](#)

- American Camp Association accredited member
- Partnership with Pat and Emmitt Smith Charities and Explore Austin to provide multi-year camping scholarship experiences

# Camp Champions

## Marble Falls, TX

### Evidence-Based Learning

Camp Champions provides a character-rich environment for camper self-growth and improvement and supports its mission and lifelong learning values with rigor, evidence, and data-driven decision making. With daily camper evaluations, this rapid feedback loop enables nimble modifications to ensure each camper grows in the 4Rs—respect, responsibility, reaching out, and reasonable risks—and the 4Cs—communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

Camp Champions teamed with researchers from the University of Texas and the University of Virginia to launch a longitudinal, randomized study on the transferability of learning mindsets (such as tenacity and self-control) acquired in a non-traditional academic setting to improve student academic performance and outcomes in the classroom. Preliminary results showed promising evidence that replacing five days of traditional academic instruction during the summer school term with a summer camp experience boosts academic performance. The experience also asks students to reflect on the learning mindsets they developed during camp.

Teacher evaluations and ratings of students who attended Camp Champions and participated in the post-camp reflection activity were the highest for all students in the areas of grit and work self-control.

### Leading by Example

Camp Champions is committed to lifelong learning for their campers, summer term counselors, and administrative staff. A positive climate of achievement permeates the ethos of Camp Champion's culture.

Camp Champions encourages and expects administrative staff to contribute as thought leaders in the camp industry. Staff take into account best practices and new findings on youth development and 21st century skills acquisition to iterate and refine counselor training each year.

Summer term counselors receive two weeks of training before campers arrive, a timeframe that often matches or exceeds the duration of campers' overnight session! Of note, Camp Champions developed an 18-page manual for counselors on the facilitation of a Camp Champion institutional favorite—the Nightly Rituals. Occurring shortly after Torchlight and prior to lights out, counselors use the Nightly Rituals time to establish unique “disruptive moments.” Counselors exercise their creativity with the Nightly Rituals to increase cabin cohesion, foster collaborative moments of thoughtful reflection, and build a unifying and inclusive feeling of community and belonging to the larger Camp Champions family.



## Mentorship

As with their administrative staff and summer counselors, Camp Champions is dedicated to building the leaders of tomorrow. The High School Leadership Program provides senior campers in their final three years the opportunity to learn valuable leadership lessons from camp administrative staff. They practice and refine their mentorship skills with younger campers.

Camp Champions asks senior campers to help in numerous aspects of the camp experience, including serving as cabin leaders. Operating on the premise of continuous growth, senior campers debrief with administrative staff to ideate and iterate opportunities for improvement and reflect on their own developmental and leadership growth.

Camp Champions is dedicated to an electronic-free environment. The High School Leadership Program provides participants an environment away from the pressures of high school and social media, to test their leadership skills and engage in self-discovery as valued, experienced members of the Camp Champions community.



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## 2019 21ST CENTURY LEARNING EXEMPLARS

Each of the following earned this year's award for its outstanding practices in equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in college, career, and life:

### Early Learning

The Goddard School Located in Broadview Heights  
(Broadview, OH)  
The Goddard School Located in Simpsonville  
(Simpsonville, SC)

### Districts

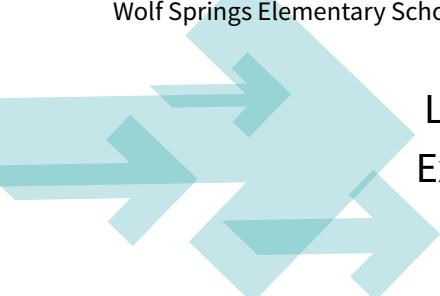
Lennox School District (Lennox, CA)  
Vicksburg Warren School District (Vicksburg, MS)

### Beyond School Programs

Camp Champions (Marble Falls, TX)

### K-12 Schools

Canyon Crest Elementary (Fontana, CA)  
Elon Elementary School (Elon, NC)  
EVSC New Tech Institute (Evansville, IN)  
Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design  
(San Antonio, TX)  
Kairos Public School Vacaville Academy (Vacaville, CA)  
Kensington Elementary School (Waxhaw, NC)  
Moreno Valley High School (Moreno Valley, CA)  
Saint Ambrose School (Brunswick, OH)  
Santiago Charter Middle School (Orange, CA)  
Valley View High School (Moreno Valley, CA)  
Vineyard STEM Magnet (Ontario, CA)  
Vista Heights Middle School (Moreno Valley, CA)  
Wolf Springs Elementary School (Overland Park, KS)



Learn more about the 21st Century Learning Exemplars at: [bfk.me/p21\\_ExemplarProgram](http://bfk.me/p21_ExemplarProgram)