

# WISH NEWS



## I WISH TO SWIM WITH THE DOLPHINS!!!

Imagine a tropical paradise filled with lush trees, bold vibrant colors, clear water the shade of aquamarine, and rays of bright sunshine beating down and warming your skin. Exotic birds chirp familiar tunes and playful dolphins glide effortlessly through the crystal clear water. They move in their spirit of freedom, with nothing holding them back. They embody the essence of what every person's childhood should be.

But unfortunately this is not the case for every child, particularly in the case of 10-year-old Summer, who was diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition. Instead of enjoying the blissful, carefree joys of childhood, Summer and her family were faced with the reality of her condition and felt the weight of undergoing long term medical treatments. However, Summer has kept a positive outlook at every corner, and when she was given the opportunity to have her one special wish granted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation, she knew just what to wish for. Summer wished to experience freedom in the tropical paradise of Discovery Cove and swim with the dolphins!

While in Discovery Cove, Summer and her family were able to take in the wonder of the bright colors and warm sunshine together. But the true moment that Summer's wish came true was when she dove into the crystal clear waters and swam with the dolphins. Summer was free to relish in the joys of being a kid and use her imagination as she fed the dolphins, signaled them to perform tricks, and even kissed them! The experience of interacting with such a beautiful and exotic animal has been a dream to Summer, and after a long year of hard times, it was a wonderful start to a new chapter.

"We had such a great time! Thank you for bringing us so many positives after a long year of treatments," said Summer's mom. "You've made us feel incredibly special, uplifted our spirits and gave us memories for a lifetime. Thank you so much!"

Making Summer's wish a dream come true gave her a sense of hope, strength and joy when she needed it most. Most importantly, making Summer's wish a dream come true gave her the joy of letting her imagination run wild and just simply be a kid!

The fun did not stop at swimming with the dolphins for Summer and her family!

She was able to explore the depths of the Coral Reef, swim amidst schools of fish, visit a tropical bird sanctuary, and even float down the Lazy River and Roa's Rapids!



Summer holding one of the many birds she was able to see during her time at Discovery Cove

# Don't miss the 8th Annual Sunflowers for Wishes July 23rd through 30th!!!



For the eighth consecutive year, crowds from all over the state of Connecticut will gather at Buttonwood Farms in Griswold to be surrounded by the beauty of literally thousands of sunflowers. More than 450,000 sunflowers are expected to bloom on the fifteen acres of farm land. Sunflower bouquets will be sold for \$5.00 each with one hundred percent of the proceeds going to the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Connecticut, to help grant wishes for local children with life-threatening medical conditions. In addition to sunflower bouquets, sunflower t-shirts, note cards and Buttonwood's own sunflower flavored ice-cream will be available for purchase to support the Foundation. Buttonwood Farm hayrides will also be back by popular demand for all to enjoy. Last year, the Sunflowers for Wishes event raised an astonishing and record-setting \$100,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Connecticut! Be sure to mark your calendars — we'll see you in July!

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Join us at Lime Rock Park  
for the biggest event of the season, the  
American Le Mans Northeast Grand Prix  
on July 8th and 9th!

The Make-A-Wish Foundation has partnered with Lime Rock Park for the 2011 Season. You can be a part of "Team Wish" at Lime Rock Park and help make wishes come true for Connecticut kids!

To find out more on volunteer opportunities at Lime Rock Park, contact Cheryl Bieling at 203.880.6965 or [Cheryl@ct.wish.org](mailto:Cheryl@ct.wish.org)!