



THE KNOLL NEWS

William Lawrence Camp
110th Season 1913-2023

Volume —2023/1

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Spring 2023



Director's Message from Nat Crane:

Finding camp staff has become ever more challenging and was exacerbated by the pandemic. This was particularly true for foreign staff. In spite of the lifting of travel restrictions, the pool of international staff remains well below pre-pandemic levels. A balance of homegrown and older international staff has been our winning formula for years.

Building a homegrown element of staff begins with healthy Leader in Training groups. I am happy to report that we will have over 20 LITs this summer. This will provide significant benefit for future staffing. Unfortunately, often the Junior Counselor age guys feel the need to jump into a job back home. The same goes for counselors as they get older. Once in college, the dreaded 'internship' seems to be the roadblock. This comes at the expense of camp, and I would argue it comes at the expense of the amazing skill sets one develops as camp staff.

From a resume standpoint, the value and growth one gets from a summer camp job is immeasurable. Colleges and employers know this. Employers in all fields recognize that successful completion of a summer camp job requires many skill sets, from organizational skills to problem-solving. Many potential employers have experienced this type of role before and thus value the wide array of experiences you will gain by working at a summer camp, possibly even more so than a summer internship.

(Director's Message continued on page 3)



Enrollment for summer 2023 is open, with spaces still available in the 3, 4, & 7 week sessions! Don't miss out! Get your application in today! Staff positions are still available.

Our **calendar** as of publishing time appears on page 4. But visit the calendar on our website to see frequent schedule updates!

Join us for the **110th Reunion** on Saturday, August 26th! Watch the website and your mailboxes for more information!

Have a friend who will be new to Camp? Tell them about our **New Camper Tours** on June 3rd! See page 4 for details.

WORK WEEKEND IS MAY 6th
Bring your gardening gloves, rakes, chainsaws, and your Bill Larry Camp Spirit to Camp on May 6 to get Camp ready for the summer!



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Looking for Lost Larrys!

Please let us know your current postal address, preferred phone number, and preferred email address.

Use this QR code to fill out the online form or visit wlcamp.org and click the link on the homepage under Lost Larrys.



(Continuation of Director's Message)

Studies have shown that teenagers who work at summer camps have better social skills and are more likely to graduate from college than their peers who don't have camp jobs. I'm pretty sure that working at Dunkin' Donuts is not nearly as inspiring or impactful a job as working as a camp counselor. Camp jobs also give more responsibility at a younger age than most any other forms of employment. Our salaries are not unreasonable, and there is very little opportunity for frivolous spending while at Camp. There are just so many reasons to spend your summer at Camp rather than at home.

As of the arrival of this publication, I am confident we will still be looking to round out our staff for the summer. Many people reading this probably understand my message and appreciate the value of a camp job. If you know anyone who may be interested, please send them our way. And if your teenage or twentysomething son has not made up his mind about this summer, I'd like to hear from him.

With the employment climate so challenging, we are also thinking outside the box. Are there some alums who may already be into their career job but have some spare time over the summer and could spend a week or two at Camp? Or school teachers who can't give up their whole summer but could help out? With such a large LIT group, we will be running three separate LIT trips, which puts pressure on our outcamping program. Would you be willing to lead some trips? How about an alum who is a member of the Honor Society who could guide campers and LITs through their tests? Do you have a commercial boat license to help out with waterskiing and wakeboarding? Often counselors need to leave early to get to college. Want to come be a cabin counselor for a couple of weeks in August? Give me a shout if you think you can help Camp this summer. It looks like Tom Cleary, Adam Muhith, and Jonathan Neske will be contributing. Anyone else out there?



Recognize and Thank Young Alumni

Over the past few years, we've had a number of alumni volunteer for our various Trustee committees. We want to take a moment to thank them for their participation: Paul Gallagher, Joe Caruso, and Geoff Peyton on the Development Committee; Drew Duncan, Kevin O'Neill, Alex Camerino, and Tom Cleary on the Alumni Committee; and Ross Fidler, Ben Marston, and John Swanson on the Communications Committee. They've stepped up and helped with fundraising campaigns, alumni outreach, and ensuring that the Knoll News goes out twice a year – amongst a range of other projects. It's essential work that helps keep the Camp running.

We are always looking for alumni to help out. It's an excellent opportunity to stay connected with the Camp community. There's no shortage of ways to help – whether that's writing a blog post for the website, hosting an open house in your area, or pitching in at Work Weekend.

If you're interested in joining our growing list of alumni volunteers, reach out to knoll@wlcamp.org



Mark Your Calendars!

2023

May 6

Work Weekend

Come help open up Camp. A light breakfast will be served at 8am on Saturday, after which Nat will divide attendees into work crews. Please bring your chainsaw, gardening gloves, and rake, if you can, as we have a LOT of winter storm debris to clean up! A full lunch will be provided, as well as dinner Saturday night and a light breakfast again on Sunday before those staying overnight depart. Cabin accommodations are available for Friday and/or Saturday nights—please call Camp at 603-569-3698 to request.

June 3

New Camper Tours

Come tour Camp so you know exactly what your child is talking about when he describes Camp! Bring a picnic lunch and your walking shoes! Current and former staff are encouraged to attend whenever possible to help lead tours. You are welcome to bring or send a prospective camper family as well. All interested families should contact Camp to arrange a tour time. If you'd like to visit on a different date, please contact Camp.

June 8-16

Certification School

June 17-24

Staff Training

June 25

CAMP BEGINS!

July 15

Board of Trustees Meeting

Please arrive by noon if you would like to join us for lunch in the Dining Hall prior to the meeting.

August 12

Camp Ends

August 13-18

Camp Kesem, UVM and Dartmouth chapters

August 20-25

Camp Kesem, Chestnut Hill chapter

August 26

110th Celebration on the Knoll

Come join staff, fellow alumni, and families to celebrate 110 years of Camp! Cabins may be reserved for Friday and/or Saturday—get your request in early! More information will be sent out later this spring.



Things We Could Use

AED (automated external defibrillator) for the Waterfront: \$2,500

New Commercial Ice Machine: \$2,000

Used Golf Cart: \$3,000 and up

New Food Bar: \$2,500

Clothes Dryer: \$750

New Air Compressor: \$350

Variable Speed Scrolling Saw: \$300

Bunk Beds: \$1,500 each

Riflery Supplies/Bullets: \$2,500

Tripping Supplies (tents, dry bags, PFDs): \$2,500

New Old Town Penobscot Canoe: \$1,500

Skeet Supplies (20 gauge rounds and clay pigeons): \$1,500

We thank all of you who have responded to our requests for help purchasing particular items in the past. Of note, recently Paul Hendrickson and Dave Arnold generously donated toward our kitchen equipment needs and John Stephenson has donated toward the purchase of all necessary archery equipment. Although it would be great if we could get full donations for each area/item, please feel free to donate what you can.

Annual Fund Update

We'd like to thank everyone who has donated to our Annual Fund thus far. In addition to the list of specific items above, Camp has other needs which the Annual Fund supports. These needs range from vehicles to lawn & garden equipment, small appliances, and various program supplies. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Donate now
using this
QR Code



Password: Connection

By Ross Fidler

There are few connections I have with people that are like the ones forged at WLC. Camp is an experience that brings people together in a way that is hard to find elsewhere. For many of us, the connections created as campers and staff through communal living and shared experiences help us develop interpersonal skills, a sense of responsibility to others, and long-lasting friendships. At Camp we feel connected to each other not through social media but instead from the kinds of relationships that have helped humankind survive and thrive for millenia. Face-to-face interaction, relying on one another, and laughing with our comrades help develop a deep sense of connection that our hardwired human brains crave. Personally, my deepest connections come from my years on staff. If you have been an LIT, then you know how much bonding occurs while going through lifeguard training, cleaning waysides, and embarking on the LIT trip. The connections I made and maintained through my years at WLC helped me make the most of the greatest character-building years of my life. To the campers reading this Password, I say cherish the friends you've made and keep them strong by coming back next summer. To everyone else, keep making meaningful connections in your lives today. Reach out to an old camp friend and get together and watch as the conversation flows effortlessly as you reminisce.



Families Welcome!
Cabins available for Friday
and/or Saturday night

Save the Date

WLC 110th Celebration 08.26.23

Events held 10am - 5pm





Donating to William Lawrence Camp Using a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA

If you are at or above 73 years old, then the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires you to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your tax-deferred accounts, such as an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

You can make a direct gift to William Lawrence Camp from your IRA as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). The amount of the QCD does not count toward your taxable income. Since it does not count toward your income, it is not a deductible line item.

By making a QCD, you may be able to reduce your income, lower your tax bracket, and become eligible for certain tax credits and deductions that may be lost at higher income brackets. This includes Social Security and Medicare.

QCDs have the following rules:

- You must be at least 70 1/2 years old at the time you request a QCD.
- The QCD must be distributed in the current year before your IRA RMD deadline, which is usually December 31st of each year.
- Funds must be transferred directly from your IRA custodian to William Lawrence Camp. This is usually accomplished by requesting your IRA custodian to issue a check payable to the Camp.
- The maximum annual distribution amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$100,000.
- The following account types may utilize a QCD: Traditional IRAs, Inherited IRAs, and inactive SEP/SIMPLE IRAs.

Please consult your tax advisor if you have specific questions regarding QCDs.



Camp Family News

On Sunday, January 8th, WLC campers and staff gathered at The Craft Food Hall Project - CityPoint in Waltham, MA, for an evening of ping-pong, knock hockey, pizza and comradeship! We were excited to have so many friends and family attend, including alumni from across the decades. Make sure to join us next winter for our annual reunion!



THE WLC JANUARY CREW



In light of this issue's Password, we would like to highlight some people who have managed to stay closely connected for years after attending WLC. Kevin O'Neill, Joe Caruso, Thomas Cleary, Ross Fidler, Andrew Nagle, Ryan Pitcairn, and Kurt Schnaars have all made it a tradition to make the trek up to Camp on the first weekend of the year for a mini-reunion of their own making. Traveling from all over New England (and even as far as Washington, DC), these lifelong friends continue to hold WLC in their hearts. These men have also continued to stay involved with Camp by participating in service weekends, serving on committees, and donating to Camp. Thank you to these boys of white and blue!





The Sweetland, Rimalovski, and Boehning families met up at Jay Peak, VT, for a February ski weekend. Pictured left to right are: Xandy Rimalovski, Nate Sweetland, Teddy Sweetland, Alex Boehning, and Nick Rimalovski.



Paul Gallagher wrote to us on January 12th: Jon Ceru was in San Francisco for the JP Morgan Health Conference and joined me for dinner and drinks at my home in Redwood City. Similar hospitality awaits any other Bill Larry alums who might find themselves in the Bay Area!



Fast forward a month: Nat Crane and daughter Hannah left Tuftonboro on February 10th on a grand adventure: a month-long trip to New Zealand. The main goal of the trip would be to locate talented International Staff for Summer 2023. Meetings were planned with various Staff Agency representatives, and Nat planned to interview recommended candidates in person to speed up the hiring process. In addition, he met up with many WLC alumni up and down the island, both to continue recruiting and to get in some fly-fishing. He also dropped Hannah off at the University of Otago in Dunedin. Before flying out of San Francisco to Auckland on February 12th, Nat met up with Paul Gallagher and Andy Amiri.

WLC Across the Pond

Nat planned a grand reunion of former WLC staff from New Zealand in Auckland for February 12th, while Mother Nature planned a great cyclone! The closure of the major bridge into Auckland undoubtedly kept some from getting there, but those who came had a grand time!



Nat and Hannah rode out the cyclone in Matamata with Dane, Anna and Emma Lowe, then went to see the sights with Deon Dempsey! Now on to the South Island for a little fishing with Dane...

Random flocks of sheep may show up anywhere on the road, with hundreds or even thousands of members.



Nat, Shaun Howarth, and Dane Lowe at Shaun's house in Riversdale

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