

THE KNOLL NEWS

William Lawrence Camp



MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CAMP DIRECTOR



Dear William Lawrence Camp Community,

If you had told me when I first showed up on the Knoll as a Middler back in 2006 (or even as recently as a couple of months ago) that someday it would be my job to write the Director's Message, I wouldn't have believed you. Never in a million years would I have thought it possible. Yet here I sit – honored, deeply grateful, and humbled to step into the role of Interim Camp Director at WLC. Honored by the tremendous trust the Board has placed in me to fill this role. Grateful for the opportunity to give back in a meaningful way to a place that means so much to me. And humbled by the scope of my responsibility and charge.

It is absolutely not an exaggeration to say that my relationship with William Lawrence Camp over the past 20 years has been the single most transformative experience of my life thus far. Camp is where I learned what it means to lead by example and with integrity, how to grow through adversity, and how to find a sense of belonging in something bigger than myself – not to mention the lifelong friends I've made along the way. And as I sit here, reflecting on what Camp has done for me, it's difficult to describe how excited I am for the opportunity to help each and every one of our campers, staff, and alumni take from their WLC experience everything that I've been fortunate enough to get from mine. Because that kind of experience is a gift. And it's one that I will do my best to pay forward by continuing to lean on the guiding principles and core values that made – and will continue to make – WLC the exceptional place that it is.

That said, while it's vital that we hold onto the long-standing traditions that make WLC so great, we must also be careful not to cling to tradition solely for tradition's sake. In an organization like this one, change is both important and necessary. But change and tradition are not mutually exclusive. After all, at their core, our traditions have always been much less about what we do than the spirit in which we do it. And, to that end, we will continue to explore ways to evolve our program in ways both consistent with our values and in keeping with the times.

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Things to Remember!

- ✓ Early Enrollment Discount deadlines are December 1st and March 1st.
- ✓ Annual Fund donations are a tax write-off because WLC is a Not-For-Profit.
- ✓ Don't forget to light your WLC candle on New Year's Eve to join your WLC brotherhood in spreading light across the world.
- ✓ Save the Date! Our Annual WLC Reunion will be held on January 19, 2026 from 5-7 PM at the Craft Food Hall in Waltham, MA. Stay tuned for more details soon!

Message From the Interim Camp Director

(Continued from Page 1)

In recent weeks, we've been hard at work putting together a central leadership team with both deep ties to and decades of experience at William Lawrence Camp, reaching out to our alumni network, undergoing a facilities review, and preparing for the 2026 recruiting season. Following the close of the 2025 season, we've seen an influx of interest and engagement from the greater WLC community that's nothing short of inspirational, and it's our aim to build on and carry that momentum forward while we work to make the summer of 2026 our best one yet! With that in mind, as we begin to write this next chapter of our story, I'd love to hear from you, our Camp families and alumni. Let's keep the conversation going as we prepare for the incredible summer ahead!

Sincerely,
Kevin O'Neill

Dates & Rates - Summer 2026

We're thrilled to announce the **Summer 2026 season at William Lawrence Camp!** It's going to be 7 weeks of adventure, friendship, and unforgettable memories — all starting **June 28 and running through August 15, 2026**. Boys entering **3rd through 10th grade** are eligible to join the fun.

Take advantage of our **Early Bird Discounts!** *

- Enroll By December 1, 2025 to get 10% off tuition
- Enroll By March 1, 2026 to get 5% off tuition

Additional Discounts:

- Sibling Discount: \$200 off for each additional child
- Referral Discount: \$200 off per camper referred

\$500 non-refundable deposit secures your camper's spot!

A limited number of **scholarships** are available based on need and personal circumstances.

* These incentives are available to all campers except one-week, six-week and seven-week participants.

SCHEDULE

6/28 - 7/5	One-week option (Sunday to Sunday)
6/28 - 7/11	Two-week option
6/28 - 7/25	Four-week option
7/12 - 7/25	Two-week option
7/26 - 8/2	One-week option (Sunday to Sunday)
7/26 - 8/8	Two-week option
7/26 - 8/15	Three-week option

TUITION

One week	\$1,815.00
Two Weeks	\$3,625.00
Three Weeks	\$4,895.00
Four Weeks	\$5,425.00
Five Weeks	\$5,950.00
Six Weeks	\$6,555.00
Seven Weeks	\$6,995.00

Because tuition is non-refundable, we strongly encourage families to purchase the **Protection Plan**, available through **Campminder**, for peace of mind.

If your family needs a different schedule, please contact us — we'll do our best to make it work!

💡 Remember that the final payment is due by **May 15, 2026**, and **payment plans** are available via **Campminder**.

If you are interested in our **LIT Program**, please reach out to the Camp Office for more information.

📞 **Camp Office:** 603-569-3698 or knoll@wlcamp.org



Tom Cleary and his wife Rebecca welcomed a baby girl into their family on July 10, 2025. Tom is pleased to report that their daughter, Juliet Rebecca Cleary Gray, has already had the pleasure of spending a day on the Knoll.



In March, Bill Larry alums came out to cheer on fellow alum Matt Nathanson at the Chevalier Theatre in Medford, MA, as he played to a sold out crowd. Pictured above (l-r) Derek Kopff, Gregor Makechnie, Doug Melinn, Matt, Jon Crellin, Judy Levenson and Seana Crellin. Amazing, as always, to see Matt bring down the house!



Tyler Kopff of Ridgewood, NJ, signed a two-year contract with the Buffalo Sabres in March 2025. He previously played forward for Brown University and was a 1st Team All-Ivy League selection. Tyler was a camper at WLC from age 8-11. Congratulations!

Thank You for a Great 2025 Season!

Summer 2025 marked our highest enrollment since 2019 with 199 campers having fun on the Knoll! Not only did we have a lot of returning campers, we also welcomed over 80 new boys and their families to Camp. This would not have been possible without the help of families and alumni in our broader community. Word of mouth has proven to be the most successful form of PR for Camp. We appreciate all of those willing to share their positive camp experiences with friends and family and, as a result, make personal connections that are an integral part of, and often a deciding factor in, enrolling at WLC.

Our recruiting efforts for Summer 2026 are underway and there are many ways to help, including:

- Hosting an in-person or virtual open house
- Bringing friends to our Boston-area reunion on January 19th at Craft Food Hall in Waltham, MA.
- Sharing Camp brochures in your local schools' newsletters or posting them on message boards both online and in your community
- Sharing WLC social media posts widely

If you are willing and able to help with any of these initiatives, please call or email Camp today!

MEMORIAL



many wonderful memories of his times on the Knoll!

Matt Kiehnle, age 40, of Narragansett, RI (previously of East Granby, CT), passed away on November 26, 2024. Matt was a camper from 1992-1997. He and Nat Crane became Bill Larry Boys together in 1997. Matt's love of AAU basketball was the only reason that he didn't return to Camp. He had

Matt worked in the Medicare field for 15 years. His last position was Senior Manager of Regulatory and Government Affairs with Unite Us. Previously, he worked for the State of Rhode Island in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.



The Magic of Camp Through Generations

by Liam Neish



4332 days... that's how long it took me to get back on the Knoll since the last time I drove down that dirt road. I never imagined it would take me that long—but life happens. That's the thing about "growing up." Time passes, plans change, amazing things happen, and life throws challenges you never expected. But through it all, Camp never really leaves you.

The feeling of pulling up the dirt road and seeing the sign, stepping out of the car onto the Knoll, sitting in the Chapel, walking into the Farmhouse, jumping in the lake, rocking in the Dining Hall, or lighting candles at Candlelight—it all comes rushing back. Even after 4,332 days, it felt like I'd never left. That's the magic of Camp. The traditions and foundations run so deep that it's still the same place it's always been. And yet, like anything that's lasted 113 years, it's grown and changed just enough to stay relevant in today's world.

So, what finally brought me back? Honestly, it was my son. After 9 summers on staff, I went back to university at 27 to start a career in education, thinking it would let me keep coming back every summer. But the truth is, life just didn't work out that way. Three years ago, I emailed Nat about returning, since Harper would be old enough for the Junior Unit the following year. Long story short—it took until this year to finally make it happen.

I'll admit, as staff I was always a little jealous of the kids who got to be campers. Growing up in Scotland, the idea of going to camp myself was never an option. So, I promised myself that, at the very least, I'd give my son that chance. I'd seen the impact Camp had on kids for nine summers straight. I'd made lifelong friends who still talk about their camper days with huge smiles. Watching them return years later to send their own kids here showed me just how strong the values of WLC really are.

When Harper and I finally arrived, it was after midnight. I had to laugh—we pulled up to the Knoll in total darkness. Just as it had been for me in 1999. I never imagined our introduction to Camp would be late at night like that. In exactly the same way. It made me feel even more connected to the experience.

I've never really been the nervous type, and even though I'd be on the Knoll as well, I was still just a parent dropping his kid off for the first time at Camp. But once I signed Harper in, helped him settle into his cabin, made his bed, and gave him a hug goodbye, I suddenly felt nervous for the first time. He ran straight to the Knoll to shoot hoops with other kids, and just like that, his first summer had begun.

The session flew by. A few smiles in the Dining Hall, a quick hug here and there, a couple of tired tears one night, and lots of excitement over firsts—riflery, swimming in the lake, gaga ball, password, rafter cake, you name it. Slowly, my nerves melted away because I could see Camp working its magic on him, just like I'd watched it do for hundreds of kids before.

Soon, he was fully immersed—proudly making the basketball team and representing WLC in playing against Belknap and later the soccer team, too, cheering with his cabin during meals, buzzing from Carnival Night and Goldrush, wide-eyed watching fireworks. He hasn't stopped talking about Honor Society, the test of resolution, and which challenges he's aiming for next summer.



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The Magic of Camp Through Generations

by Liam Neish (Continued from Page 4)



The most powerful moment, though, was Candlelight. Being there with Harper when I was presented as a Billy Larry Man is something I'll never forget. Seeing him smile proudly and give me a thumbs up—that was priceless. For two boys from Scotland, moments like that are hard to put into words.

“Building Character Since 1913” isn't just a slogan—it's the truth. Willingness, Loyalty, Comradeship, and Sportsmanship aren't just words on a banner; they're the heartbeat of this place. Camp shapes boys in ways that last a lifetime. I've always believed that, but now I get to see it shaping my own son. And with another child on the way this Christmas, I know it will shape him, too—just as it shaped me and continues to shape me even now. As a dad, I honestly couldn't hope for anything more than to continue the WLC journey with my sons.

William Lawrence Camp Annual Fund Campaign

As a reflection of their dedication and belief in the mission of William Lawrence Camp, **all Trustees and Members of the Corporation** have pledged their support—together committing **\$50,000** toward our **Annual Fund goal of \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2025–2026**.



This generosity sets the pace for our broader community and demonstrates our shared commitment to preserving the traditions and values that define William Lawrence Camp—**Willingness, Loyalty, Comradeship, and Sportsmanship**.

Now, we invite you to join us.

Your gift—large or small—directly impacts every camper's experience and ensures that future generations of boys will continue to learn, grow, and lead in the spirit of WLC.

You can give **monthly, annually, or through your estate**—each contribution helps us reach our goal and keep the WLC spirit thriving for years to come.

Please give today at <https://wlcamp.charityproud.org/Donate/> or by scanning the QR code here.



Things We Can Use

Below is a list of items that we need to purchase for next season. Please call the Camp Office at 603-569-3698 to let us know if you would like to purchase any of these items (and avoid duplication) to help out William Lawrence Camp!

- [Soccer balls \(size 5\) x 12](#)
- [Soccer balls \(size 4\) x 12](#)
- [Baseball helmets x 3 \(for each size\)](#)
- [Field line paint x 2 \(cases\)](#)
- [Baseball bases set](#)
- [Baseball pitching rubber](#)
- [Clay pigeons \(as many cases as possible\)](#)
- [Small climbing harness x 5](#)
- [Medium climbing harness x 5](#)
- [Court cleaner for pressure washer](#)
- [Waterski tow line](#)
- [Weed wacker x 2](#)
- [Dewalt impact driver x 2](#)
- [Dewalt 20v battery set](#)

Do You Wish to Go Digital?

In the interest of WLC's sustainability and cost-effectiveness efforts, if you would like to receive the Knoll News via **email only**, please contact Camp at knoll@wlcamp.org or call 603-569-3698 to verify that your correct email address is on file.

New Mailing Address!

Please note that our mailing address has changed to:

(for USPS mail)

**William Lawrence Camp
P.O. Box 177**

Wolfeboro Falls, NH 03896-0177

(for UPS/FedEx deliveries)

**William Lawrence Camp
139 Federal Corner Road
Ctr. Tuftonboro, NH 03816**

Spread the Word! Enrollment for 2026 is now OPEN!

Please be on the lookout for Open House dates and invite your nephews, grandsons, neighbors, son's teammates, daughter's classmates, etc. to join us! Visit www.wlcamp.org or call 603-569-3698 for more info!

Connect with Fellow Alums!

We will be hosting regional Alumni gatherings, both in-person and via Zoom, throughout the off-season. Stay tuned for more details soon!



The Scott Giessler Award, created in 2016 to honor Goose's then-25 years at WLC, is "awarded to the first-year counselor who best exemplifies the Camp's commitment to excellence in the areas of camper care and program." This year we had two winners, Charlie White and Ido Kirson, pictured here with Liam Neish. Thank you for your dedication to William Lawrence Camp!



The William Lawrence Camp Honor Society is one of the Camp's oldest traditions. Becoming a Woodsman is the highest honor one can achieve. This year, under Guardian Ido Kirson, William Lawrence Camp welcomed seven new fantastic Woodsmen: Hamilton Krolak, Zachary Evitts, Liam Walker, Erik Luis Rojas-Pratt, Eli Ekholm-Jacobson, Griffin Hastings, and Jon Hippenmeyer (Honorary) Congratulations!



Summer 2025



William Lawrence Camp
P.O. Box 177
Wolfeboro Falls, NH 03896-0177



Helping Good Boys Become Great Men