

Getting back to **SUMMER!**

CONISTON CHRONICLE

2021 MICRO EDITION

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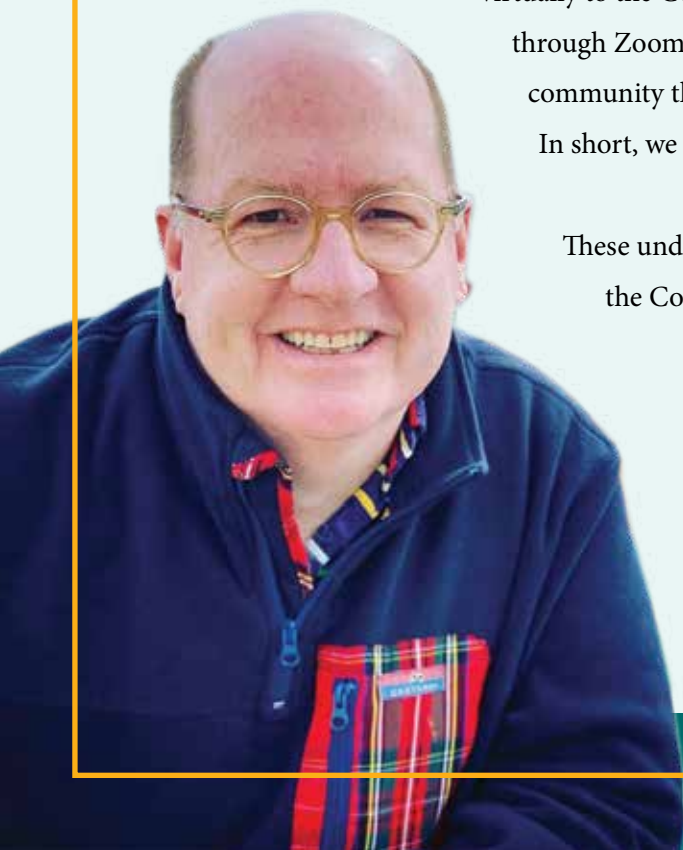


In a year where it felt like everything around us was challenging, complex, and at times discouraging, our work gave me great hope for the future.

I truly believe that we are doing our part to make the world a better place. I hope your spirit is lifted as much as mine by the thought that each day we are one step closer to welcoming campers back to Coniston this summer. Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission.

I'm happy to report that our recovery is underway. We are working closely with well-known medical experts and will be open this summer with appropriate protocols. Many of our families either allocated previous tuition payments to this upcoming summer or donated them outright. Our annual fundraising continued, and thankfully, we were the beneficiaries of significant generosity. Meanwhile, we connected virtually to the Coniston Community through Zoom vespers and our local community through Community Days. In short, we were resilient.

These undertakings demonstrated that the Coniston spirit is alive and well. We may have been knocked temporarily off course by the virus, but we are back on track and well on our way toward resuming the magic that is Coniston.



MODIFICATIONS FOR *summer*



Pre-Camp

Current recommendations and guidance requires every camper be monitored for COVID symptoms for 7 days prior to Camp.



Check-In

To ensure the safety of the Coniston Community families will be assigned a check-in time to drop off their child/children. Counselors will meet your family on the A-field.



Testing

Every camper must arrive with a negative PCR test. Camp will conduct another PCR test on check-in day, and again within 7 days of arriving at Camp.



Masks

When Conistonians are with their 'cabin family' they will not be required to wear masks. When interacting with people from other cabin families masks will be required.



Dining

We will dine outside when weather permits. In inclement weather we will dine inside on a staggered schedule, in smaller groups, to ensure social distancing.



Altered Activity

We anticipate running activities as normal when campers are masked and socially distanced. When this is not an option, like swimming, campers will remain in their cabin groups.

ADDITIONAL COVID GUIDELINES: coniston.org/covid19-updates

* Information above is subject to change. Check the website for the most up-to-date guidelines.

WHY KIDS NEED CAMP *more than ever*



DEVELOP BETTER
COMMUNICATION SKILLS

GAIN
Independence

GET *Unplugged*

BE
Happier

GROW A BROADER
Perspective

MEET POSITIVE
Role Models

BUILD
friendships

BE
Together

ACEs

We watched our children miss building relationships—we saw them being lonely. Due to COVID almost every child faced adversity. **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** have a strong and cumulative impact on the health and well-being of adults. Growing healthy adults requires teaching young people how to make healthy relationships. Camp mitigates the effects of ACEs by fostering strong, responsive relationships, and by helping children build core life skills that buffer them from the effects of toxic stress. This is what children will get more than ever from Coniston in 2021.

NEEDS *for* SUMMER



PROVIDING *ample testing*

We anticipate PCR and antigen testing to cost Camp **\$250,000 to \$400,000.**



INCREASED *cabin* VENTILATION

We have updated the electrical infrastructure in Boys and Girls Camp to accommodate the increased air circulation for 40 cabins. **\$50,000**



CREATING *space*

Additional boats, 5 large tents, 80 picnic tables, and 160 benches will enable campers to spread out over our 1,600 acres and still be together. **\$180,000**



More STAFF *More* TRAINING

This summer we are hiring extra staff and providing new and more extensive staff training to support our campers. **\$90,000**

HOW YOU CAN

Help



Together the Coniston Community accomplish amazing things in 2020. I come to you and ask for your continued support. Help us transform to meet new challenges and make the improvements we need to run Camp safely this summer. Together we can do so much more.

Every year, through the Coniston Annual Fund, we have subsidized every camper—some years the subsidy has been \$249—this year with the need for testing, outdoor dining, increased ventilation, and more staff training, we may need to subsidize each camper by \$500 or more.

We need your help making up this difference.

What children learn from Camp can transform lives inside and out of Coniston. Children learn to trust in themselves and in others. They discover that the world is both bigger and smaller than they thought, as they meet people from all over the globe, who are just like them! Most importantly, they learn not to be afraid, that they can have fun, make friends, and be safe in this magical place called Coniston.

If you are in a position to do so, we hope you will choose to support the Coniston Annual Fund and help us provide all children, regardless of their ability to pay, the opportunity to benefit from the Coniston Experience. When we come together we can accomplish anything!



During the dark days of winter there were times it felt like we would never come back together, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and **THE FUTURE IS NOW**. We look forward to re-engaging kids, supporting our community, and lighting a brighter path for the future.

THANK *You*

In our time of need you stepped forward and saved Coniston. In the last year every person has struggled, but when we needed you — you were there. Because of your generosity, Camp will be able to continue to change lives for another 100 years.

FAMILIES and **ALUMNI** played a bigger role than ever before!

Their combined gifts set a new record, which more than doubled the previous year's annual fund.

\$770,413



THANK YOU for your continued support. With your help Coniston was able to procure PPP loans through the SBA so that we did not have to lay off any full time employees over the last year. This has allowed our staff to work on planning a successful summer in 2021.

CAMPERSHIP *and* DIVERSITY GROWTH

In the time of COVID when everyone is asked to socially distance from each other, it has made us realize how important camp is for all children. This year more organizations stepped forward to broaden our camperships into different and diverse under-served communities.



VETERANS & SERVICE MEMBER FAMILIES



NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

THANK YOU for providing us a community grant to support our operations budget



THANK YOU to the many volunteers who hosted a virtual vespers.



3429
COMMUNITY DAYS PARTICIPANTS

THANK YOU to the Brown Foundation for funding Community Days.



THANK YOU to the Y of the USA for the COVID Sustainability Grant Funding



MORE EMAILS LESS MAIL



MORE VIDEOS



NEW CAMP APP

BE *informed* STAY *connected*

You will be hearing from us more than normal because things change daily due to COVID. To stay connected, please join our communications list at:

coniston.campintouch.com/v2/family/inquiryForm.aspx



MISSION *Statement*

As a nonprofit service organization with a focus on youth, YMCA Camp Coniston creates experiences that build spirit, mind, and body for all.