

Fall 2017

YMCA CAMP
CONISTON CHRONICLE
FOR YMCA CAMP CONISTON ALUMNI AND THE CAMP COMMUNITY

the



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Present



1994–1999



1970–1993



1969–1970



1964–1968



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Camp Coniston 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.

YMCA CAMP CONISTON

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Maintenance



WE BELIEVE KIDS NEED MORE CAMP

The Coniston Experience is enormously transformative in campers' lives—I hear it from parents and alumni every day. Kids, then and now, grow during their camp experience each summer. Our program is designed to build kids and adults who will go into the world showing trust, initiative, friendship, faith, and respect.

One of the things that makes Coniston special is that children across the socio-economic spectrum attend Camp together and form one community. Camp is an equalizer, and that provides a child with a sense of self which prepares them to face the struggles of the modern world. I have witnessed the Coniston Experience help create more engaged, empathetic, and prepared adults.

We believe MORE kids need MORE Coniston.

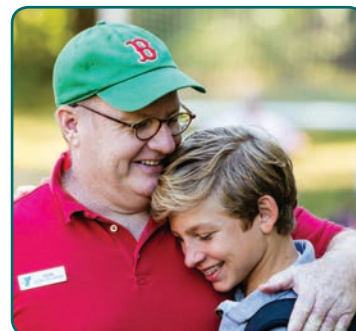
This is why we have to get better at doing what we do. To this end, the Board developed three strategic priorities:

1. Offer more camperships to children who otherwise cannot afford the cost.
2. Keep prices as low as possible to assist all families through an endowment and ensures Coniston continues as one of the nation's preeminent overnight camps.
3. Serve additional children through improvement to programs and facilities.

In this issue I hope you will see—we are a community that not only builds better kids, we build a better world. I hope you value what Camp has given your family. I hope that you will come to agree that a Coniston accessible to any child is a better Coniston for every child. I hope you'll find a way to join us! —

JOHN TILLEY, CAMP DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR'S 2c





THE 12TH CAMPER FORREST NEVER ATTENDED CONISTON, BUT NOW SENDS A KID EVERY YEAR

Over the past 20 years, Nell & Dick Leach sent eleven of their grandchildren to Coniston. They love the lessons of confidence. They adore the friendships that were shared. Most of all, they thought Camp's safe, structured, and encouraging environment was priceless.

But there was a 12th grandchild who never shared in what became a family experience.

Forrest M. Leach passed away at a very early age. It was the loving memories of Forrest that were central to the newest perpetual campership. Nell and Dick's gift will provide camp to a child every year, forever, through a \$35,000 fund in Forrest's name.

What a gesture of love. Nell and Dick faced the unfulfilled hopes and dreams of Forrest and translated them into the gift of a camp experience for children they may never meet.

Memories. Hopes. Dreams. Love. Thanks.

MAKE A CHILD'S FUTURE YOUR LEGACY

How does this work? Because of generous donors like the Leachs, the Coniston Endowment Fund is growing and providing the life changing experience of Camp to many deserving children--regardless of financial means. The endowment also helps Coniston moderate inevitable cost pressures — rising prices, inflation, and unexpected expenses. This gift was given as a one-time tax deductible gift of securities, but other donors have chosen to give an endowment gift over a period of time.

Gifts can be given to children through Coniston in many ways:

- ▼ Check or Online at www.coniston.org/give
- ▼ Multi-Year Pledge
- ▼ Stock or Mutual Funds
- ▼ Corporate/Foundation Philanthropic Gift
- ▼ Reoccurring Credit Card Gift
- ▼ Estate Gift
- ▼ Matching Gifts
- ▼ Life Insurance Policies

If additional information is needed to help your gift giving process go smoother, please contact lindsey@coniston.org or forms can be found online at www.coniston.org/downloads/PledgeForm.pdf or www.coniston.org/downloads/EstateGiftForm.pdf.



CAMPERSHIP UPDATE

WINNING SPIRIT PARTICIPANT FLOURISHES IN OVERNIGHT CAMP



Last summer, a Camp Winning Spirit camper received Catherine Malatesta's Campership. This young, new, overnight camper spent two years of their life battling cancer. Two years of childhood. Two years of experiences. However, the camper's family always saw smiles at Camp Winning Spirit.

The costs of treatment made the costs of camp unattainable. That is why they received the Catherine Malatesta Campership. This past summer, another child was able to experience the joy Catherine lived for. The campership will follow the child until they age out of Camp.



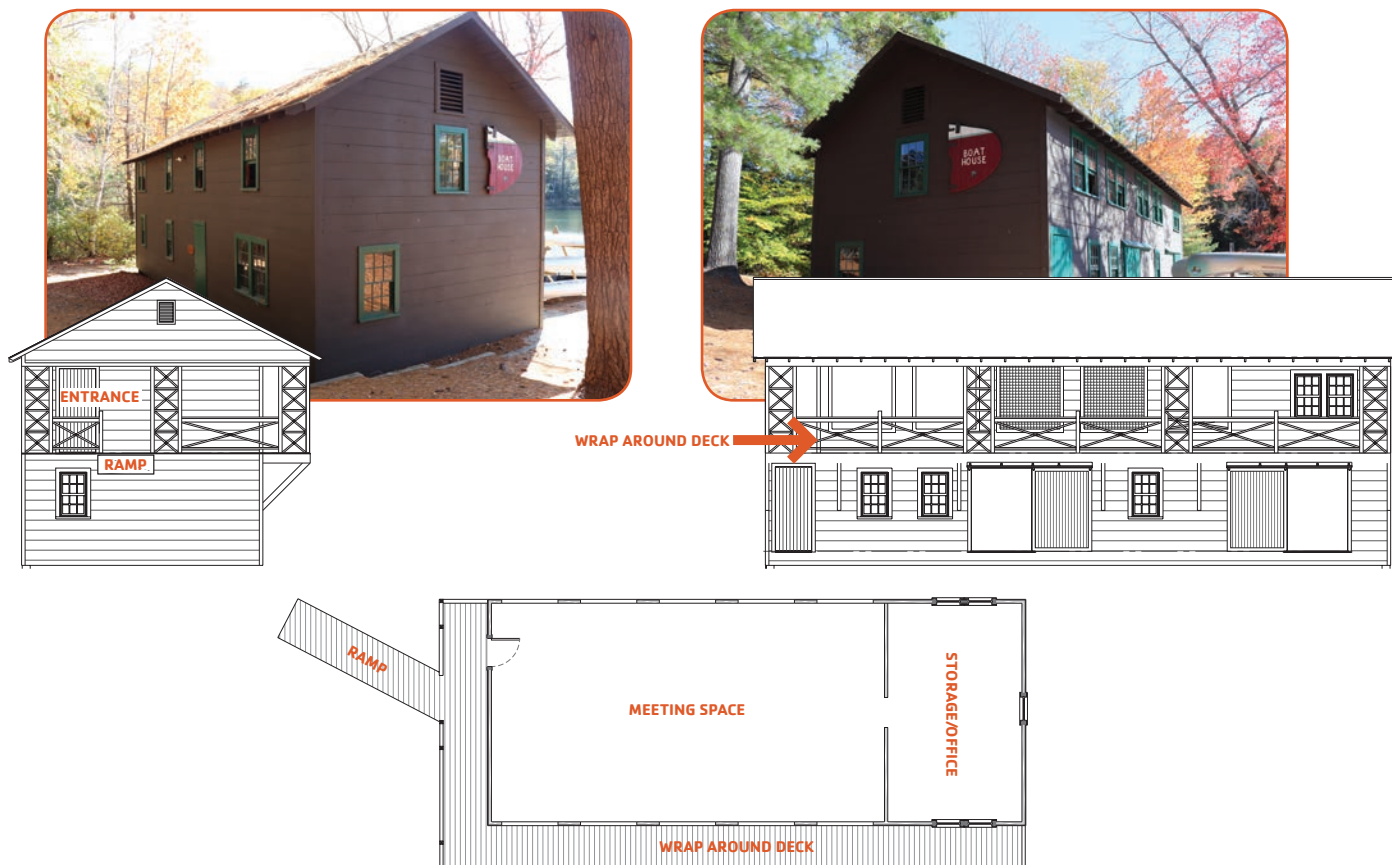
As many of you know, Catherine was a charismatic person and full of life. Her spirit could light up a room. Through her strength, she set an example for all who knew her—and even those who did not. After her passing, donations flowed into Camp in her memory and the Coniston Board of Directors established a campership in perpetuity in her name. Catherine's memory and strength continue to live on forever.

After Catherine died, her mother found a journal. There was one entry. She wrote of fragility: "I'm sure most people have forgotten how beautiful air tastes, but once you're in the hospital for days, a breath of fresh air is like a magical touch." Then, she wrote of strength: "I'm going to get out of bed and put on my wig or hat, even if I'm feeling sick as a dog, with a smile on my face, hoping and praying I'm inspiring someone else to get out of bed on a tough day. And hopefully we can both find happiness in something, even if it's just the taste of the air."

Winning Spirit is a collaboration between Coniston and NH Childhood Cancer Lifeline over Labor Day Weekend for families of children with cancer. The over 20-year-old program is free of charge to any family in NH who has a child with a pediatric cancer diagnosis. —

IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Thanks to the financial support of many Sanders' Era alumni, a new **TEEN LEADERSHIP CENTER** in honor of Erma Sanders will be constructed in the upstairs of the Boathouse. The building will be renovated and expanded with a handicap-accessible ramp leading to the second floor and new wrap around porch!

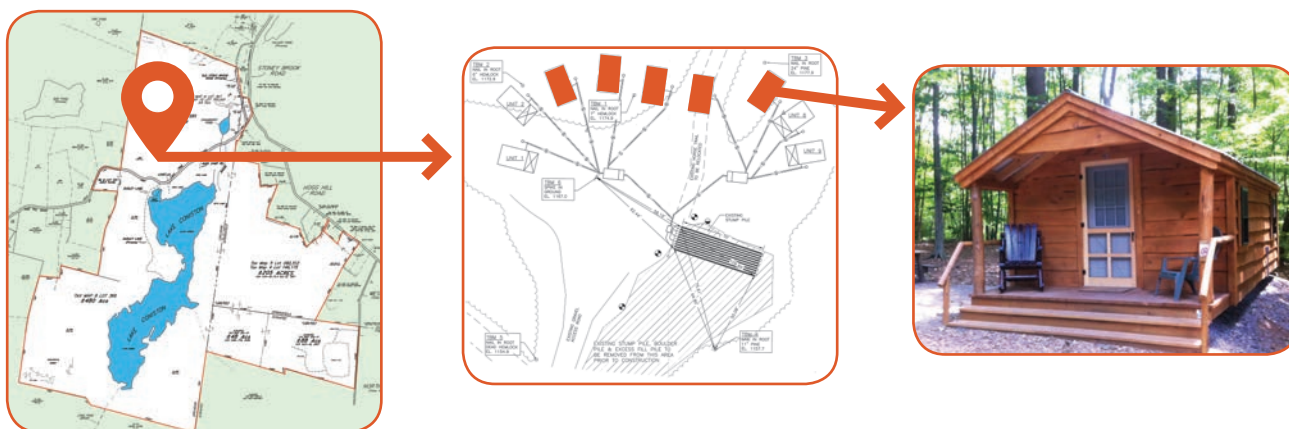


Two years ago, the Coniston Board of Directors began a seven-year, comprehensive, strategic plan which includes adding a **NEW BOYS CABIN** yearly for 5 years. Each new cabin will avail a Coniston Experience for 40 additional children a summer. Of those children, 10 will be offered a campership.





Because Coniston is serving more youth, we are in need of additional staff housing—more campers requires more staff. With the support of the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, we are building a **STAFF HOUSING UNIT** consisting of five small cabins and a septic system located near the Sugar Hill horseback trail. This new housing will give us space for additional kitchen staff, maintenance workers, and support staff.



As additional campers arrive there is need for more space to play. To create this space, we are re-building the **TENNIS COURTS**. Three new courts will be built in the space where the games court and archery range once lived. Then two additional courts will be placed in front of those, leaving space for the Sugar Shack. Archery will be enlarged and relocated to the B-Field. This improvement will not only double the green space campers currently have to play on, but will enhance program areas for campers to enjoy.



To round off the improvements for summer 2018 we will be building **TWO NEW OVERNIGHT SITES**. We plan to have one site on Sugar Hill to give campers the opportunity to star gaze in a wide-open meadow and a second site at General's Grove—a yurt has been rumored.

If you are interested in supporting future improvements please feel free to check out our list of upcoming projects here: www.coniston.org/downloads/improvements.pdf

INTERNATIONAL STAFF IMPACT OUR CAMP CULTURE

According to reports in the Wall Street Journal, the J-1 Exchange Visas that bring international students to study, be au pairs, and work at camps could be eliminated. The cultural and educational effect of this Executive Order would be crippling on the Coniston Community.



One of Coniston's biggest impacts on campers rests in learning to live with people from different places and different points of view. That impact would change if staff and campers from other countries were no longer allowed to spend the summer at Camp.

Campers and staff need your support! Please contact your elected officials in Washington, DC and ask them to support the J-1 Visa program for camp counselors. Our international staff, have been changing and improving camp culture for decades—read some of their stories below and on the next page:



In Hungary, I had been an 8 year camper and a 5 year counselor so being given the opportunity to work at Coniston in the US was exciting. At Coniston, the staff members were very kind to the international staff from the beginning, therefore it was one of my best summers. I was most focused on learning the American camp culture so I would be able to take pieces back home with me to share.

—Armin from Hungary



Going to the USA was a dream come true. But working in Camp Coniston is living the dream! Coniston is my second home! I feel safe, happy and confident there! Every staff and every kid makes every day bright! Coniston is a huge family and you can count them in for all of your life. When you go back to camp they welcome you as if you left yesterday!

—Fanny from Hungary



ARTURO LOCATES HIS SUPERPOWERS



When I arrived at Coniston, I was afraid. What if I didn't understand how the woodshop machines worked? What if a camper asked me a question I couldn't understand, or worse if I was not able to be understood by young children? I was afraid and I didn't know what to do.

It wasn't long after being at Camp that I discovered the first **CONISTON POWER**—the power of a **HUG**—a hug that gave me strength to understand that everything would be fine and that there were many people who were willing to help me understand.

I have a shy personality and I preferred to be in remote places by myself. This is when the second power showed up—the power of a **SMILE**—a smile that made me feel welcome and a part of a community. I started to smile more myself and discovered that even without many words I started to understand more.

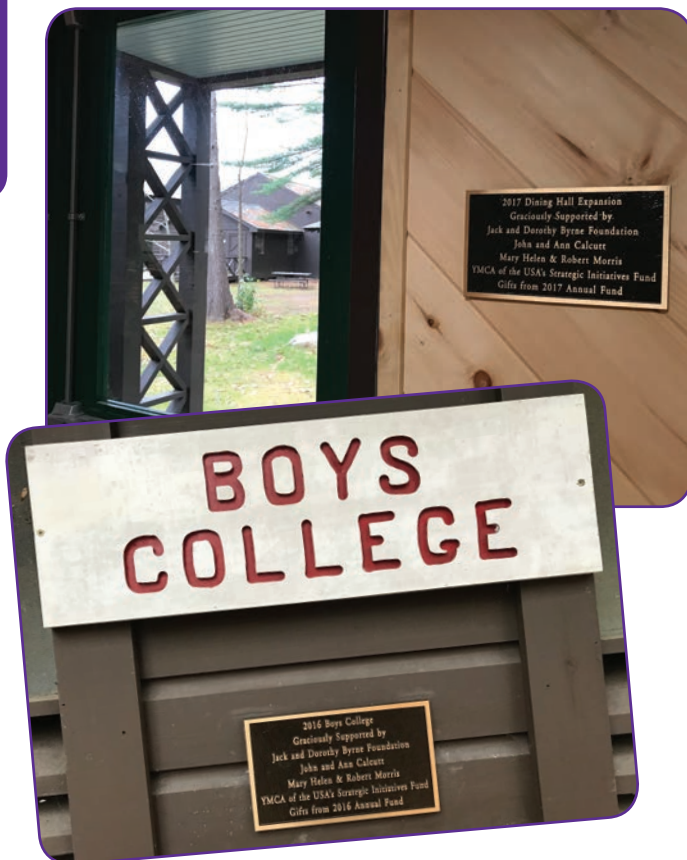
After a few more days, I got another power—the power of **CONFIDENCE**—I had a great team of co-counselors and their enthusiasm gave me confidence to share my knowledge of woodworking with campers, even though I was still perfecting English. When the first campers arrived to woodshop my fears started to become real. Campers were constantly asking me to repeat myself, I became nervous again. Luckily this is when my next power arrived—the power of **FRIENDSHIP**—Nick my co-counselor was by my side, helping me be understood. Soon I was able to speak better and connect with campers through stories of my culture.

I was feeling great and making connections, but then out of nowhere, I became homesick and that same day I got another power—the power of **IMAGINATION**—one of my campers, asked me directly: "Arturo, what do you miss about Mexico?" I did not answer. With my silence, I received the best advice of my life from an 11 year old, "My mom told me to look at the moon if I start feeling homesick, she told me she will be watching the moon and we could be together in that way." I responded by asking what do you do if you are homesick during the day. Without hesitation, he said "That's easy, you just have to close your eyes and imagine everything you want into your reality." Since then I have not ceased to imagine all the things that make me happy and that from a distance I feel close.

Suddenly I found myself on the last day of Camp in tears saying goodbye to everyone. After this incredible experience, all I can say is **THANK YOU CONISTON**, thank you for making me the **POWERFUL** person I am today.

The Coniston Experience is so powerful because it gave me the opportunity to share with friends from other cultures, it has made me a person who recognizes the importance of universal values, to know that peace comes from forging relationships of friendship. Coniston has given me a sense of belonging, a purposeful role as a global citizen, and a desire to make a world that believes that happiness is only real if it is shared. I only hope that more people from around the world will be given an opportunity like this and can share their happiness in a place like summer camp.

—With all my love, Arturo from Mexico



CONISTON RECEIVES \$60,000 FROM THE JACK AND DOROTHY BYRNE FOUNDATION

This past year the **Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation** was extremely generous and supported us with several improvement projects. At the beginning of the year, they helped to match our YMCA of the USA's Strategic Initiatives Fund \$100,000 expansion award for our dining hall with a gift of \$25,000. Later in the year, they matched the Sanders Era Alumni with a \$10,000 donation for the Teen Leadership Center in the boat house. Then to round the year off, they matched a \$25,000 gift for the new staff housing complex. Gifts like these, help Camp impact every kid and help us keep our prices down too! Our thanks to the Byrne Foundation is symbolized with a brass plaque on the buildings they helped us create for campers today and in the future.

LOCAL COMMUNITY HERE AT CAMP

After Camp has ended we welcome many school, church, and community groups to use the Coniston facilities. **Our Lady of Fatima, Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church**, and **St. Pauls Church** held services, a retreat and a picnic on Sunday's throughout September. The **New London and Sutton Elementary Schools, Grantham Village School**, and **Lebanon Middle School** all joined us on separate occasions for an environmental learning adventure on our beautiful lake. This year we also hosted **Croydon Day** for all the community members in town. In addition, we are proud to serve as the **Northern New England K-9 Search and Rescue's training Center!**



1-WEEK CAMP IS NOW SESSION 5

I'm a Session 5 camper!

I live here for a week!

For 6 days in late August, when Camp is at its peak!

1...2...3...4...5... Session 5!

This summer, 1-Week Camp became known as Session 5 with huge success and enthusiasm. Session 5 was such a hit they created this chant to celebrate!





RE-CONNECT WITH ALUMNI AND RECEIVE YOUR STICKER

Register as an alumnus at
www.coniston.org/alumni
to tell us about your camper and
staff history. Not only will you
be able to re-connect with old

friends on-line and at events, we will send you this new sticker
to help you spot other Conistonians in your area!



KIDS START THE SCHOOL YEAR OFF RIGHT

For the second summer, Camp organized a school supply drive on check-in and check-out of every session. Gracious donations poured in from Camp families and we donated the majority to Wish List NH who provide physical resources to those in need as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Filled bookbags were also given to the Concord, NH refugee families who attended Camp on financial assistance. Our combined support made quite a difference for these families and communities. Thanks for your support!

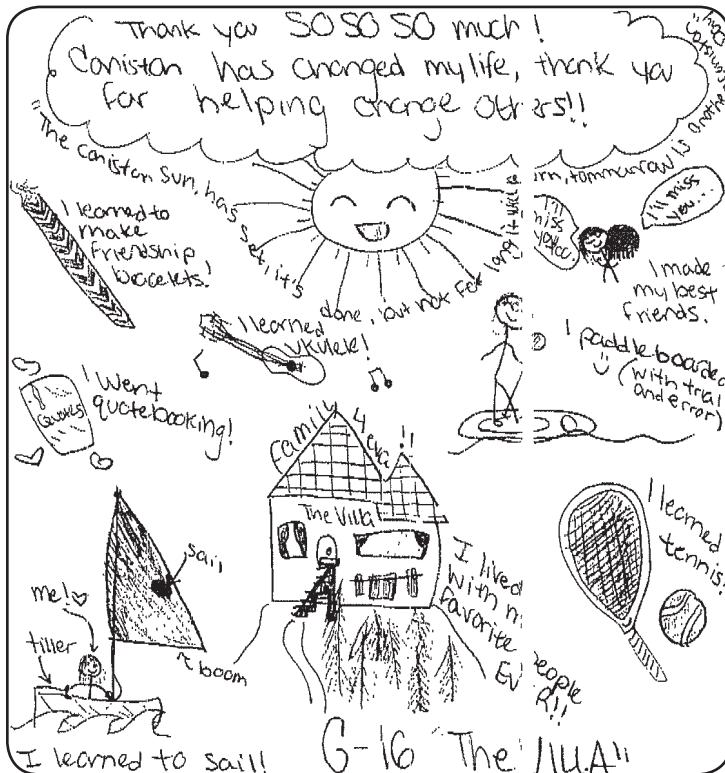
A PARENT THANKS YOU FOR HELPING HER CHILD

I want to thank you with all my being for what you and everyone at Camp Coniston did for my son this summer by allowing him to attend for free. What a blessing you gave to our son and our family—no one has ever done anything for us like that. We are always the ones who help others and to have this gift returned is so moving for us. To all the counselors, even your kitchen staff who showed our son love and true kindness. I was amazed to watch as each counselor spoke with him saying goodbye and gave him hugs. Some even said he made their week! Our son had an amazing week and he can't stop talking about all the fun he had. He told us that this was the first time he has gone someplace and didn't get bullied by anyone and was able to make friendships. Our son has had many negative experiences and we are gracious for the opportunity the Coniston Community gave our son. After a week at Coniston our son came home a more happy and confident individual. Thank you so much for giving him this gift and bringing that spark back to his life.

—Coniston Parent

AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION AWARDS A CONISTON FAMILY CAMPERSHIPS

The ACA New England Campership Fund provides camperships to financially assist children to attend a minimum of 2 weeks of summer camp. This past summer they offered 207 camperships to New England children attending New England ACA Accredited camps. Coniston was awarded two camperships that were awarded to a family who had recently experienced financial difficulties. The family was so grateful of this gift, they sent this beautiful note.



Campership Recipient Thank You Note

Camp is important to our family because it is the gift of a lifetime. I've spent many summers at Camp and was a previous staff member when I was younger. Once my children were of age I knew I wanted them to attend Coniston, however due to unseen circumstances we didn't have the financial means and needed financial aid.

Coniston has taught my children how to enjoy life and the people who are in it to its fullest. They inspire others with their love, kindness, leadership skills, and enthusiasm. This past year was a challenging one for our family, yet my child received the "Honor Camper Award". Some have

complimented me as the parent of the honor camper, but it is Camp Coniston that I give credit to for instilling qualities in my children that one can only experience and grow from by being a camper at Camp Coniston.

Camp Coniston is family, it is home, it is a special place that nurtures and instills self-confidence, teaches tolerance and social skills, empowers campers to strive to be the best they can be, and make lifelong friendships.

Thank you to all who make campership funds available for all children to have the opportunity to experience the world of Camp. Our family is forever grateful for your generosity.

—Award Recipient Parent





CONISTON PARENT AND DONOR GIVES BACK IN A POWERFUL WAY

Over the years, the Garrahan family has treasured the time their children have been able to spend at Camp—learning important life lessons and building everlasting friendships. This past May, Lisa and Jack attended one of our alumni events in Waltham, MA and were very moved by how this year's fundraising support allowed us to provide a Camp Experience to 9 refugee children. In addition, donations helped provide these children with the proper supplies needed for a two week stay at Camp, however letters and packages from home rarely make an appearance. Lisa and Jack took it upon themselves to make care packages for these children and include a simple warm note. Thank you Garrahan family for making these children feel special!



WALGREENS AND YMCAS ACROSS THE NATION TEAM UP

From October 16th to 30th the **Walgreens in West Lebanon** helped to run a national YMCA Campaign in support of YMCA Camp Coniston's community strengthening programs. Coniston provides afterschool care at the Hanover Street School and Mt Lebanon School for working families in the West Lebanon area. In addition, we keep prices affordable and offer financial assistance when needed. In the summer, over 30 kids from the Lebanon and West Lebanon area come to Camp on full Campership every year. Thank you, Walgreens, for your support in helping us strengthen communities.

HYPERTHERM EMPLOYEES VOLUNTEER FOR 8 YEAR IN A ROW

Every spring and fall, over 100 volunteers from **Hypertherm** join us in preparing Camp for the upcoming season and make our facilities come to life. We appreciate Hypertherm for continually making YMCA Camp Coniston a priority in their philanthropic work. Their employees are truly dedicated in making an impact big or small to everything they touch.



CAMP WINNING SPIRIT VOLUNTEER

For the past 22 years over Labor Day weekend, the **NH Childhood Cancer Lifeline** and Coniston host families who have children with cancer. For 20 years, **Berta Sinclair** has participated as a staff member! Thank you, Berta, for helping run this program and making a huge difference in the lives of these special families!



CONISTON IN THE NEWS

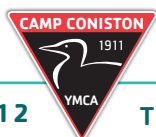
Over the years, we have been regularly featured by national and regional media in stories regarding camping. We have been twice named the NH Champion of Children by NH Governors John Lynch and Maggie Hassan. This year we were rated one of the top summer camps in the US by CampRatingz. In September, we were featured in the American Camp Associations Camping Spotlight Series. We sure do pop up everywhere!

CONISTON RECEIVES NATIONAL GRANT AWARDS

YMCA Camp Coniston was the recipient of a **\$100,000 expansion award** and a **\$6,000 access award** from the YMCA of the USA's Strategic Initiatives Fund and received matching amounts from numerous donors. The expansion award helped us to expand our dining hall to allow seating for five additional boys' cabins over the next several years. The access award allowed eight children to have a Coniston Experience—two of the campers being from military families.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Give a child the opportunity to come to Camp by simply making your holiday purchases at
smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3357821





BRIAN GRIP INDUCTED AS EMERITUS



Board Member 1987-2017

On September 28th, we celebrated the leadership and vision of Brian Grip by inducting him as an Emeritus Member of our Board of Directors. Brian's personal Coniston journey has led him from alumni, to parent, to Board Member to our first Chairman after becoming an independent YMCA in 1997!

Independence was a substantial turning point for Camp and was accomplished through the hard work of Brian and his fellow board members Bert Myer and Tom Simon. They helped Camp transition from a unit of the NH State YMCA — reporting to them, having our finances controlled by them — to an independent organization, responsible for our own growth and success.

Brian said after looking back there is no doubt that becoming independent was the correct decision. "It turns out that Coniston is now stronger than we ever predicted — in a much better position financially, and with arguably one of the finest facilities in US camping."

As an Emeritus Member of the board, Brian will always be listed with the board members in the future, receive board communication, and enjoy alumni and board social events at Camp as often as he can! Thank you, Brian, for all you have done, for generations of Conistonians—allowing the Coniston Experience to continue to impact children year after year.



RECYCLED ART MURAL FOR HORSE BARN

Last summer, our artist in residence, **Barb Hawley**, came back for the entire summer as our Arts & Crafts Director. With a full time counselor dedicated solely to arts & crafts we were able to keep the program area open during free time. All campers enjoyed the new friendship bracelet station and numerous painting projects. With the assistance of counselors and campers, Barb was able to create a recycled mural from bottle cap donations. The horse mural will be hung in the barn for all to enjoy in summer 2018!





FIELD TRIPS WITH AFTERSCHOOL

In October, **Mount Lebanon and Sunapee Afterschool** programs had their very first field trip to an apple orchard. The kids had a blast seeing which group could pick the most apples and sampling their bounty. Both groups plan to use the fruits of their labor for activities throughout the next few weeks. With the assistance of new Coniston office staff, Jack and Sara, we had enough chaperones and drivers for the trip—look forward to future adventures.



LEBANON POLICE AND FIRE DEPT. COME FOR A VISIT

In September, Officer Tracy, K9 Briggs and the Lebanon Fire Department educated the **Mount Lebanon Afterschool** about what they do to support and help our local community. The kids were really interested and loved watching the demonstrations. The questions seemed endless, but answers were given to everyone.

AFTER-SCHOOLERS GIVE BACK

From November 1st to December 1st our programs will be gathering donations and making items to benefit the Upper Valley & Sullivan County Humane Societies. If you wish to help bring items to your afterschool location or the Coniston office. Thanks!



Bubbles at **Hanover Street!**

END OF SUMMER CELEBRATION

Our end of year bash at YMCA Camp Coniston was a HUGE success. Families enjoyed the beautiful weather, walking around the lake, and the animal encounter by VINS.



FULL TIME STAFF UPDATE



Nicole Berthiaume, Director of Staff Development and Alumni Relations, has been connected with Coniston since 1993! Most of Nicole's family has also worked at Coniston or attended as campers. She has

held many staff roles over the years from Cabin Counselor, Office Assistant and most recently the Afterschool Director of 5 sites.

In her new role as Director of Staff Development and Alumni Relations, Nicole will focus on camp operations including staff recruitment, hiring, training and management, alumni relations, community outreach, and career development.



John McNair, Director of Operations, has a long history at Camp Coniston—camper in 1993, CIT in 1998, and staff member in 2002. He has served as CIT Director, Boys Camp Director, Maintenance, and Senior Program

Director just to name a few. He also schedules, trains and supervises Adventure Camp, Service Trips and all Coniston travel program staff.

In his new role as Director of Operations, John will focus on management of facilities, infirmary, food service, and travel programs, as well as the oversight of summer camp. In addition, John will help with staff recruitment, hiring, and capital development.



Jack Berthiaume & Sara Noble, Camp and Non-profit Management Associates, accepted new positions at Camp early this fall. Both Jack and Sara have been with Coniston for many years—Jack a bit longer than most since his mom was a staff member when he was born. Jack and Sara were campers in 2005 and were ironically both 3/4 WCITs in 2011. In 2015, Jack was the 2015 ECIT Director and Sara was WCIT Director in 2016. Jack has been Boys Camp Director the past two years and Sara was Girls Camp Director last year.

In their new roles as Non-profit Management Associates, Jack and Sara will assist in day to day office tasks, attend conferences regarding program and camp operation, and work side by side with John and Nicole helping with their roles at Camp. We are all very excited to have them here all year long!



2017 SUMMER MEMORIES

Summer 2017 was one of excitement, happiness and great memories! In our last meeting before campers arrived, cheers erupted from the summer staff dressed in a sea of pink and green tie-dye. Perhaps it was the excitement to try new things, the beautiful weather, or maybe even the tie-dye shirts themselves, but whatever the reason, energy was high around the lake from then on to the last day of Session 5. The enthusiasm was infectious and from that moment, we knew we were in for a great summer!

Our staff this summer was comprised of many returners as well as a great group of **new international staff**. Traveling from as far as Australia, Hungary, and the United Kingdom to name a few, our international staff brought their bright personalities and eagerness to share their cultures and experiences with everyone here at Camp. Thank you to all our campers and staff members who bring a different perspective and help us learn and grow together!



SUMMER STAFF



INTERNATIONAL STAFF



Our program directors, **Evan Ruderman** and **Jackson Hartwell**, created some incredible evening programs! What were your favorites? How about **Flocean's Eleven** where John Tilley grew a full head of hair overnight all to make it into the All Flow League? Or the **Battle of Conistonia**, when even our Board Chair John Calcutt had to get in on the fun and pledge his allegiance to a color war team?

Need something else to jog your memory about the summer? How about the **new running program** area open to seniors? Or the **Junior's Science Fair** division night? Or the standing room only musical drama production, **Annie**, during Session 3 in New Hampshire Hall for all of Camp? Did you participate in the **Kickball Classic, Triathlon, Snorkel-Off, Tennis Tournament, Kendama Tournament** or the many other events of this summer?

Our **adventure and service trips** out on the road had a great summer as well! From West Virginia, all the way up to Quebec and Nova Scotia, the buses were full of happy campers. Whether visiting National Parks or working in a food pantry, each participant gained lifelong skills while having a ton of fun along the way.

What did you learn this summer? Did you build a fire? Shoot an arrow? Rig and sail a sailboat? Or, did you make a new friend and challenge yourself to try something new? Whatever you consider your victories of 2017, we hope you hold onto these memories and remember how much you're capable of. Take the lessons you learned this summer and apply them to your life at home. Spread the magic of camp around you until it is time to return to the hills of old New Hampshire for summer 2018. Thank you for a wonderful summer!

Live, Laugh, Loon!



THE YEAR OF CONISTONIAN WEDDINGS!

Conistonians gathered around the flag pole at the wedding of **Hannah Gesen & Michael Slafsky**—congratulations to the happy couple!



This summer **John Tilley** officiated the wedding of **Katie Smidt** and **Max Winer**.



Jacquie Zimmerman and **Michael Wheeler** tied the knot!



Very creative Coniston wedding triangle **Sam Coleman**!



Coniston friendships truly are forever. Congratulations, **Kendra (Stacy) Connolly**!





Congratulations, **Emily Ascarino** on your May wedding!



Conistonian's from left to right at the **Katie Smidt/Winer** wedding: **John Tilley, Shane Goodrich, Ben Winer, Jacquie (Zimmerman) Wheeler, Will Cox, Mike Slafsky, Nancy Kane, Morgan (Milardo) Shermerhorn, Beth (Sawitz) Doucet, Tommy Tessier, Katie Evans, Matt Comstock, Kevan Donovan, Hannah (Gesen) Slafsky, Kyle Olson, Gen Izutsu, Katie Smidt, Jeff Smidt, Max Winer, Eric Rightor, Brenden Olson, Evan Shuman, Katie (Arnold) Tipp, Jill Lenson, Nicole Berthiaume, John McNair, Brian Doucet, Tom Morris, Will Kavanagh, Jen Deasy, and Zach Zimmerman.**

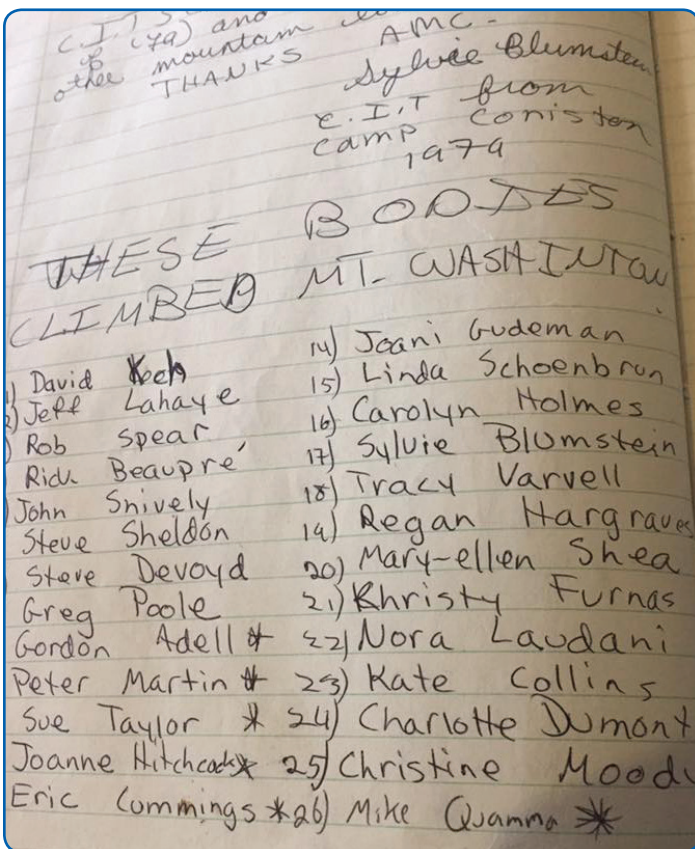


Sam Brooks successfully passed his basic training course in the RAF & graduated top of his class with the trophy being awarded to him by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall at the ceremony in May. He went forward to undertake an extremely challenging Leadership course in which he again did himself and his parents, **Kieran & Jane Brooks** proud by successfully passing (only 50% of those undertaking the course succeed their first time) which meant that he has been promoted to Sergeant and is now posted to an RAF station whilst he awaits the next phase of his training as a Weapons Systems Operator on helicopters. On station, he is going to undertake delivery of Adventure training courses to fellow members of the RAF and start to work with the Mountain Rescue so there is little chance that he will get bored.





2011 CITs and staff members **Robert Morris**, **Corey Miller**, and **Jake Stetson** traveled throughout Europe this past September. They visited six different countries and met up with a few other conistonians who are currently living in Europe. #camparoundtheworld



These **1979 CIT** bodies climbed Mt. Washington!

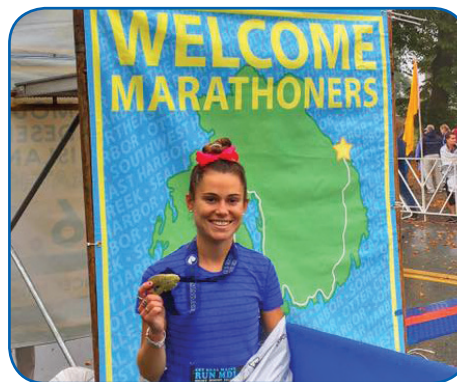
Nicole Reiss wrote in to say: "I was just packing some vernacular photo albums from Asia pre WW1, handwritten Margaret Sanger letters, a signed Einstein book, and 3 signed Emerson books. I LOVE my job."



Carter Bascom is now working full time at Four Seasons Sotheby's International Realty in New London, NH.

Arturo Martínez is writing a children's book based on Camp Coniston. He found a sponsor to finance him for printing. Keep your eye out in the next chronicle to see how to purchase.

Mary Reynolds is in Uganda as a Health Volunteer for the Peace Corps!



Cassie Short recently completed the Mount Desert Island Marathon in Acadia National Park!





I N M E M O R I A M
BY TIM PROSKAUER, '92 CIT DIRECTOR

DENISE BRIGANTI CHOINIERE

On September 16th Camp Coniston lost one of its family. **Denise Briganti Choiniere** passed away after a six year battle with lymphoma. Denise came to Coniston in 1989 as a senior counselor and immediately integrated herself into the Coniston community. She stayed for four summers as a Cabin Counselor, Campcraft Program Staff, and Campcraft Director. She made her most important and lasting impact as the 1992 CIT Director, where her mentorship of future leaders at Coniston was felt for a decade.

Denise is fondly remembered for her fierce independence, tireless hiking ability, love of the outdoors, and capacity to serve as a strong role model for the young women in her charge. Friends also cherish memories of her sarcastic humor, easy-going nature, love of music, and spirit of adventure. Our image of her will forever include her Ford Bronco that was a symbol of her willingness to forge new paths, and her special relationship with Hoke, her black Labrador, who traveled everywhere with her in pure devotion to her and to anyone with a tennis ball. Denise's passing was felt deeply in the Coniston community by the former staff members of the early 90s and especially by the still strongly connected group of 92s.

Some comments posted by her friends reveal that Denise stayed true to herself until the end:

"Yesterday Heaven received the coolest, most badass, funniest, wittiest, most caring angel ever. One thing is for sure, the heavens are going to be rockin' now that Denise has arrived. And down here, though we will miss you so very much, as we mourn, we will bask in the echoes of your heart, laughter, smile, and splendid sense of humor that will remain long after."

"She was one of my personal and professional heroes and always did things on her own terms. She held herself and others to the highest standards and I learned more from her in our years together than any other time in my life. She would never want tears shed for her, but I never listened to her anyway. Maybe that's why we got along so well."

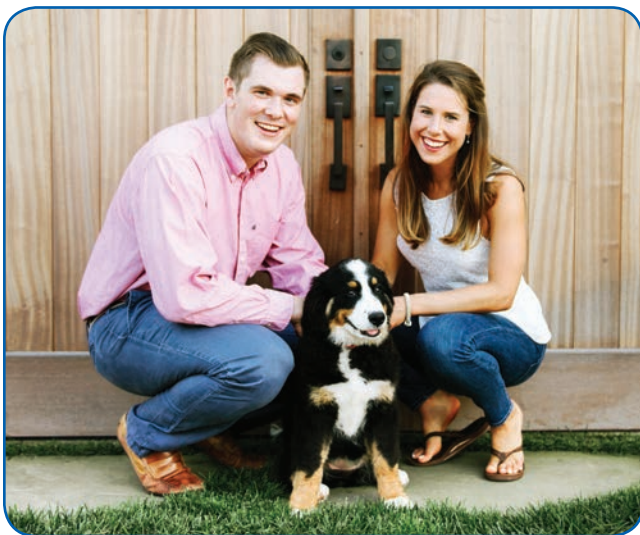
RIP Denise. Peace and Carrots always. 



'92 CITs Session 1 + 2



'92 CITs Session 3 + 4



Matt Comstock and **Katie Evans** got engaged in May! They are planning a wedding for 2018 and looking forward to celebrating with lots of camp alumni!



Three Conistonians studying at St. Andrews in Scotland found each other randomly. Thanks for the photo **Charlotte Perkins!**



TIM PROSKAUER AND THE AFTER MATH OF HURRICANE MARIA

Tim Proskauer, CIT and Campcraft Director for several years says it's still pretty intense down in Puerto Rico. Tim told us the skills he took away from campcraft have been needed every day. He never goes anywhere without rope, a tool bag, and machete because he never knows if he might need to drag something, tie something down, repair something, or cut branches to get where he is going. He describes the experience as a really long camping trip—in his house.

On social media, Tim has been posting updates about the recovery for Puerto Rico. After 20 hours of category 4/5 conditions, the people of Puerto Rico were without power, water and communication networks to the outside world. Due to lack of electronic communication, coordination of the recovery effort has been greatly hampered and peoples' daily lives are compromised.

Given the situation, Puerto Ricans have met it with their characteristic resolve and humor. The mood of the people is positive. Families are helping families, neighbors are helping neighbors, and everyone is pulling together.

On Day 22 there was a serious operation on the island by the US military, who are doing amazing things to help. The mood however, has changed. The reality is hitting everyone and people are grieving—for the way of life they once had, for those who had to leave, for their lost livelihoods, and for the destruction they see every day. Survival is exhausting. Any support is greatly appreciated so the people of Puerto Rico can sing and dance again, and tell stories that aren't about this destruction. It may be a while before this happens Tim told us.





THANKS FOR JOINING US AT OUR RECENT EVENTS

This spring we hosted two events in Massachusetts and two events at Camp which were attended by many alumni, parents, and board members. The events gave us a wonderful opportunity to re-connect with friends of Coniston and the community. Within the next few years we will be hosting events in Boston, New York City, New Jersey, Florida, Seattle, New Orleans, LA, San Francisco, and where ever else we can locate a large group of friends. In order to plan the events, we need to know your alumni history. To update us please go to www.coniston.org/alumni and submit the form. Hope to see you soon!



If you wish to attend future events we need your past alumni history. Please fill out the form at www.coniston.org/alumni to help us coordinate events better.

ALUMNI THANKS FOR VISITING THIS SUMMER!





NOVEMBER ELECTIONS RESULTED IN TWO 95' CITs



Matt Tirman was elected to city council in Bainbridge Island, Washington.



Brandon Laws was elected alderman at large in Nashua, NH

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Meg MacInnes, '09 1/2 east coast CIT, '10 LIT, and on staff in 2011 is excited to share she started a new job as Communications Manager & Asst. Press Secretary for the New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs.

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Robby Muller, CIT '00, and **Emily (McCarthy) Muller**, CIT '04, welcomed a baby girl, Leah Parker Muller on June 6th in New York City.

.....

An update from **Jamie Gallagher**..."Edward "Teddy" Gallagher joined our family this year. William age 7 has signed up for the one week camp next summer. Our oldest Charlie age 9 feels that he is too busy for an overnight camp. Our daughter Anne age 5 entered Pre-K this year, and her best friend is Amy Kirchofer. Amy's mom is **Sarah Hughes Kirchofer**. **Colin Forbes** moved to the town next door, however, we have not been able to find a time to meet up. If anyone is wondering four is a lot more than three."

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Caroline Scott, 31 weeks pregnant with her first child, closed on her first house in Denver, CO with husband Scott! She is busy nesting getting everything ready for their sweet baby boy!



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