

YMCA CAMP CONISTON CHRONICLE

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Heart of Coniston
Campaign



DOUBLE your IMPACT on
GIVING
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 28TH

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

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



BELONGING.
CONNECTING.
ACHIEVING.

Armed with the most recent neuropsychology research, we openly made these three human requirements the theme of staff training during the past two years. It felt so new. It felt so informed. In an age of increased teen, mental health problems, it felt so timely.

As we wrote this issue of the Chronicle, it became apparent that Belonging, Connecting, and Achieving aren't new to Camp at all. They are the foundation of Camp. We have always tried to teach young people to be open, be themselves, and to love one another. The result is why campers would often say that Coniston *is the only place where I can be myself* only to then say they had *made the friends of my lifetime*. Even in 1919 the Camp's brochure said: *It is the aim.... not alone to provide the "best time ever" for the Campers, but to make the weeks they spend there worthwhile from an educational point of view.*

Coniston's alumni illustrate how the lessons of Camp continue long after our campfire has burned down. Their examples inspire us the same as our favorite counselor did—by showing us possibilities. For us all, isn't the word possibility just another way of saying hope?

Hope.

Hope is such a big word.

Society requires more hope, but that seems to be in short supply these days.

This issue more than ever before illustrates the difference we make in each other's lives. Young people enter as campers and there is an arc that ties us all together as we return, again and again, to make a difference, just as a difference was made in each of us.

When I look at our incredible alumni community, I see a group of people who take their sense of hope into the world and translate it into their lives—healthy relationships, new families, careers, happiness, connections, and a sense that they belong.

Without each of you, our community wouldn't be the same. We have built something so strong, that's filled with love, trust, and respect for one another. This is precious. We are raising the next generation and every one of us has a part to play. As you read through this Chronicle, I hope you are reminded of the special community you are a part of and the good we are all doing for our children's futures.

Each one of us can make a difference. But together we can make change. *I hope* you will continue to help.

JOHN TILLEY
CAMP DIRECTOR



LESSONS FROM THE CHEYENNE INDIAN RESERVATION

Every CIT Session is special but as alumni know, we are always trying to make every program's lessons more meaningful.

This summer, our West Coast CITs traveled to YMCA of the Seven Council Fires, on the Cheyenne Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The Lakota people welcomed the CITs to their land, gave them language lessons, and invited them to a private Pow Wow.

In return the CITs helped build cabins at the reservation so they could offer more camp to more kids. CITs also spent time working with campers at YMCA Camp Marrowbone developing leadership skills within a camp environment very different than Coniston.

CITs returned to Coniston with a deeper understanding of the importance of camp in introducing individuals into a larger community. It was a different program in a unique setting but the shared good work done by both our YMCAs is life changing.



... IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO LEARN THAT OUR CAMPS SHARED SO MUCH IN COMMON WITH EACH OTHER.

2023 W-CIT

THREE GRANTS FUND 21 CAMPERSHIPS



YMCA Camp Coniston was the recipient of an **Eastman Charitable Foundation** grant that funded three children from Grantham, Enfield, or Springfield. The local children were all selected by their school counselor and all three loved their first Coniston summer!



Camp received three camperships for children from Bronx, NY from the **Helen Gurley Brown Foundation**, one of which was a CIT!

Camp was the recipient of a **YMCA of the USA's Strategic Initiatives Fund** grant which provided fifteen children from diverse backgrounds a Coniston Experience.

ALUMNI PUT ASIDE BUSY LIVES AND RETURN TO LEAD TRIPS

There is an old adage that “from whom much is given, much is expected.” At Coniston we view that expectation as a form of gratitude. It’s the reason behind the creation of the Service Trips and our alumni are modeling thankfulness when they return to work with teens in all of Camp’s trip programs.

This summer a record number of twelve alumni took time out of their careers to lead trips. These alumni shared their leadership skills with campers while visiting incredible, awe-inspiring places along the East Coast and in Canada.

Midcoast Habitat for Humanity in Maine was the first Service trip where Conistonians spent the week helping to build a house for a family having difficulty in affording a place to live.

A second trip ventured to Block Island Maritime Institute (BIMI) in Rhode Island to assist with marine life care, tank maintenance, and beach cleanup. Campers learned about environmental conservation and solutions they could take home to address these issues in their own communities.

Through the Quebec Quest trip campers immersed themselves in new cultures and explored what it means to be a global citizen. Thanks to all our alumni trip leaders for choosing to impact lives of others during your summer.

“

**WE ALL LEARNED SO MUCH
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY
HOW WE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO
CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN
OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.**

____ IZZY, TRIP LEADER



660 HRS
VOLUNTEERED IN THESE
PROGRAMS TO BETTER THE WORLD

**BY 22 TEENS/STAFF
MEMBERS**



SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Magic was felt in the raindrops!

Did it rain this summer ... yes, maybe a little! Did magical moments and countless memories still happen? **YES, MORE THAN WE COULD COUNT!** And with the new arts & crafts center we had a dry space to connect with one another face to face.

The truth is no matter the weather, Coniston is a safe place to be ourselves. A place like home, where we all can belong with our community cheering us on! Let's take a look back at some of the amazing moments that made summer 2023 one to remember.

CHECK-IN DAYS are always so special. The bell rings, campers stream through the gates, and the warmth of summer fills every Conistonian's heart. Laughter, talking, and sounds of re-connection are the soundtrack of the Camp coming alive again after a school year apart.

This summer check-in days featured big facility changes with the arts & crafts center and the relocation of the office. However, because the office exterior didn't change many walked right by without realizing it had moved. We often heard, *"in spite of all the changes it feels like nothing has changed."*

Feeling confident and safe to be themselves, campers took to the stage to perform in the talent, drama, and dance shows! A huge part of summer is having the opportunity to step out of comfort zones and take a risk performing—all while knowing you will be cheered on and supported by everyone. Memorable **EVENING PROGRAMS** created by Program Directors, Hayley Horton and Lucy Barham included an international festival with a performance by Hans Williams, Taylor Swift night; a homage to one of Camp's favorite artists, potato night, and "A Quiet Place," the quietest you have ever heard Camp!



...FOR SOME, DANCE SHOWS ARE THE CHANCE TO TRY SOMETHING NEW, FOR OTHERS IT'S SHOWCASING THEIR PASSION, AND FOR EVERYONE IT'S A TIME TO FEEL THE LOVE AND SUPPORT FROM THE CHEERS OF FRIENDS.

WILL, DANCE DIRECTOR





The sounds of cheers echoed throughout Camp during camper versus staff sports games, intercamp competitions with Cardigan and Kenwood-Evergreen, and Camp's own events including the triathlon and snorkel-off! It's special to see hundreds of campers and staff alike gather to support their friends. It doesn't matter if you're the best player when you are surrounded by a supportive community!



CAMPERS: We've talked about some fun events and activities, but perhaps what made this summer so special is the fond memories made and life lessons learned at Camp. Did you learn how to build a fire? Cook a meal? Dive from the diving board? Did you make a new friend and challenge yourself to try something new? Whatever you consider your achievements of 2023, we hope you remember how much you're capable of and hold on to every cherished memory. 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 2024. Thank you for a wonderful summer!



THE TRIATHLON BRINGS CAMPERS TOGETHER BY INVITING THEM TO FORM TEAMS AND CHEER FOR FRIENDS OUTSIDE OF THEIR OWN CABIN BRINGING ALL OF CAMP TOGETHER!

PETER, COUNSELOR



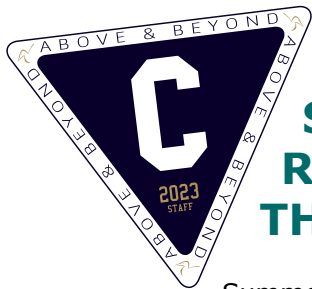
SUMMER STAFF RAISE TWO CAMPERSHIPS

Raising two camperships by summer staff sends a powerful message. Camp is not just a welcoming place, but a high-spirited community that naturally draws people in. Counselors see value in their work and believe that others should be a part of it. We have been amazed by the staff's dedication to giving a Coniston Experience to more campers.



**EVERY KID DESERVES
THE OPPORTUNITY TO
COME TO CAMP. I GAVE
SO EVERY CAMPER CAN
HAVE WHAT I HAD.**

— JACK, COUNSELOR



FAMILIES THANK STAFF FOR BEING ROLE MODELS TO THEIR CHILDREN

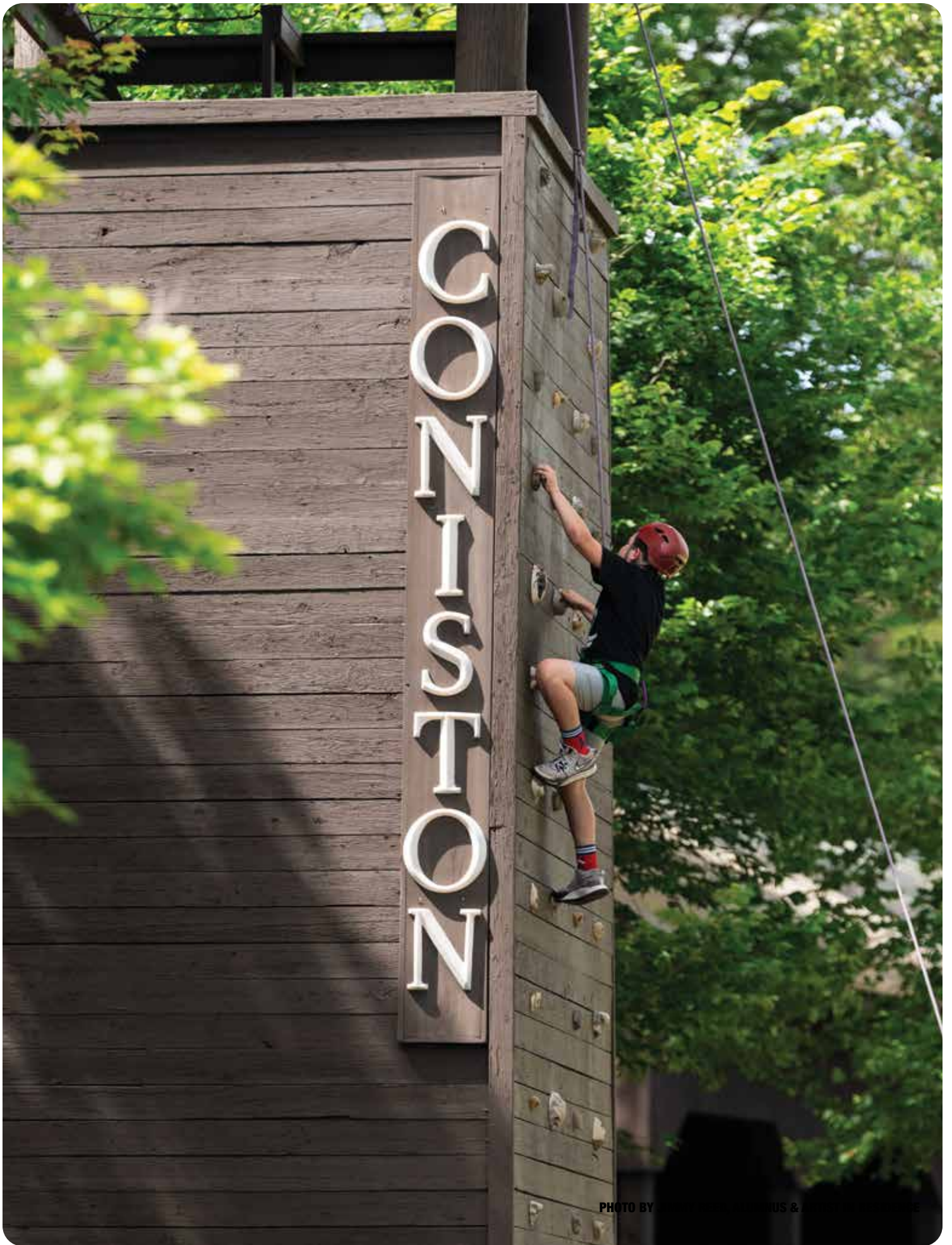
Summer after summer, Coniston counselors give their all to create the best experience possible for campers. This year parents had a formal way to recognize staff through the ***Thank a Counselor Campaign***.

Campers and their families could show their gratitude with a personal message and optional donation. Staff were then recognized in an all staff meeting and given a sticker they could proudly display. Donations were used for staff appreciation gifts and fun experiences during the summer!



**YOU MADE A HUGE IMPACT!
OUR CHILD ADMIRES YOUR
WORLD OUTLOOK AND
WANTS TO FOLLOW IN
YOUR FOOTSTEPS. NEVER
UNDERESTIMATE YOUR
INFLUENCE!**

— CAMP PARENT



INTERNATIONAL STAFF TEACH LIFE SKILLS TO CAMPERS AND LEARN ABOUT HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY FROM LOCAL RESORTS

Culinary graduates from the *South African College of Tourism* once again led the beloved cooking program! Middler campers, ages 11-13, learned to cook and have the opportunity to try new foods and gain confidence while learning about South African cultures. Campers returned home with recipes to share, a jar of homemade jam, and important life skills they will carry with them throughout their lifetime.

As part of the educational requirements for the culinary students, Coniston coordinated tours with several local five-star resorts including Omni Mt. Washington Resort, Woodstock Inn, and the Equinox Hotel. This experience ensures that their time spent in America will also improve their lives upon returning home.



INTERNATIONAL STAFF RECEIVE
A TOUR OF WOODSTOCK INN

COLLEGE CREDIT INTERNSHIPS

This summer, Coniston had three interns who gained college credit for their work at Camp.



Bella Schambers accomplished an IT internship by working closely with Coniston's webmaster, Sherm Horton to explore the process of a Coniston app. Bella also created

website pages to help build a Coniston college and career network.

International staff member, **Edgar Gonzalez**, worked towards his degree in administration and tourism and used his work at Camp to inform his thesis. Camp provided an opportunity for him to see a different culture and improve his English which will be invaluable in his future career.

Boys Camp Director, **Nate Levine**, gained credits through his work for his outdoor leadership and management degree at the University of New Hampshire.



CONISTON HAS HELPED ME LEARN THROUGH MY TRAVELS ABOUT OTHER CULTURES.

EDGAR GONZALEZ,
COUNSELOR



THIS ROLE HAS GIVEN ME EXPERIENCE THAT I COULDN'T LEARN IN SCHOOL.

NATE LEVINE,
BOYS CAMP DIRECTOR

SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

Coniston offers fellowship positions to engage staff's academic knowledge and leadership ability for the betterment of the Camp Community. This year, **Ava Berger** and **Libby Foley** were awarded college scholarships to be Coniston Fellows.

Ava, studies journalism and communications at Boston University. By watching Camp from the inside as a cabin counselor, Ava was able to write the untold stories of Camp. She wrote blog posts, attended alumni events, and even created an "Ava edition" of the Coniston Ambassador Newsletter.

Libby, a psychology major at Kenyon College worked closely with Coniston mentor, Caroline Beale, a professional market researcher. Libby used her coursework in research and child development to create a questionnaire to quantify the impact of relationships at Camp. Libby's study includes two surveys for approximately seven hundred participants. Many campers received the second part of the survey in October. Libby hopes to share her findings and make recommendations to Coniston and other camps around the country.



EVERY EVENING PROGRAM, EVERY VESPERS, EVERY CONVERSATION AT CAMP CHANGES LIVES AND I WANTED TO SHARE THIS IMPACT THROUGH MY STORIES.

_____**AVA BERGER, FELLOW**



...I WANTED TO SEE HOW THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PROGRAMMING AT CONISTON HAVE IMPACTED STAFF MEMBERS AND CAMPERS.

_____**LIBBY FOLEY, FELLOW**

HELP CONISTON BUILD A COLLEGE & CAREER NETWORK

Share information about your college, profession, career paths, and job skills. The more who participate, the broader the range of information the network can offer.



DAILY LESSONS THAT BUILD SPIRIT

Vespers come from the soul of every counselor which is why the late afternoon gatherings have developed into a favorite tradition. Quiet moments of reflection offer campers a chance to learn new lessons from young staff members and serve as a reminder of the importance words can have on each of us.



"We all need help at some point. And if you are brave enough, there is a helper in the mirror too. I encourage you all to look for those in need of your help and give it without hesitation. Look for the helpers. And if you don't see one, be one"

—BRACKETT LYONS,
AQUATICS DIRECTOR



"I am who I am because of Camp. Camp and the people I've met through it have found their way in and out of my life. I loved many of them, liked most of them, and found just a few challenging (but I learned the most from those who challenged me). And I'm better off for all of it."

—LAUREN TORRES,
ASSISTANT SUMMER CAMP
DIRECTOR



"Asking for help and being honest and open with those around you means that you're strong enough to admit that you don't have all the answers - because honestly, nobody does. Asking for help means that you're willing to lean into the discomfort that so often comes with uncomfortable emotions like fear, anxiety, and embarrassment. Asking for help means that you're willing to challenge yourself and hopefully grow along the way."

—LIBBY FOLEY, FELLOW



"If any of you think your presence here doesn't matter, you're wrong. If you think that one cabin mate you don't like so much has nothing to offer you, you're wrong again. Every single one of you is so special, and each summer, every single one of you taught me more than you will ever know. Everyday I tried to teach all of you about life, but everyday you taught me what life is all about".

—CHARLIE LEVINE,
CABIN COUNSELOR



◀ READ THE
FULL VESPERS
Scan the QR code!



OLYMPIAN PHOTOGRAPHER RETURNS TO CAMP

We had an amazing treat this summer with artist in residence, Jimmy Reed! Jimmy has a long connection to Coniston and was a camper, CIT, and staff member! However, his roots in Camp reach far deeper than that. His grandfather, Doug Reed, was the Camp Director from 1959-1969 and was responsible for helping move Camp to Lake Coniston!

It had been sometime since Jimmy had been back to Camp, but he said he was so happy things *"felt exactly like the Camp I knew and loved twelve years ago"*.

As well as taking photos, Jimmy had the opportunity to reflect on his journey and how Camp helped him to become an Olympian Bobsledder for Team USA.

"My story as an athlete really revolves around being resilient and not giving up. It took me eight long years to become an Olympian. I missed my shot in 2018, went through multiple surgeries, and sat through the unknown of a pandemic all to compete at the Olympics for a total of four minutes.

There were plenty of times where my journey was difficult and I didn't know if I was going to make it, but I kept on pushing towards my goal. Resiliency started at a young age for me and Camp played a major role in that. At Camp, you are always encouraged to try new, challenging things. Whether it's the ropes tower, high dive, or entering the talent show, trying new things in an atmosphere that is encouraging and safe instilled a sense of confidence that I could do difficult things. And more importantly, if you make mistakes or don't succeed at first, not only is that okay but you shouldn't give up and you should try again. I didn't give up and in 2022 I officially became an Olympian!"



OVER ONE HUNDRED CONISTONIANS VISIT CAMP

Through tours, reunions, vespers events, and volunteer work days over 120 Conistonians returned to Camp this year. Reconnecting with old friends and seeing the improvements around Camp was very exciting.

We are so happy to show Camp in action during the summer season and hope to see you at an event soon. Consider becoming an ambassador to plan an event or host an event over the coming winter.



◀ BECOME AN AMBASSADOR

Scan the QR code to get more involved with what's going on at Coniston and receive regular Camp news and volunteer opportunities!



ALUMNI LEAD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

This spring two career development events were led by volunteer panels in Boston and New York City. Our volunteers were a group of Coniston alumni specializing in different fields who shared their expertise and offered advice to our younger alumni who are studying at college or are in the early stages of their career. They shared their professional journeys, as well as offering interview/resume writing tips and advice on how to use your camp experience to excel in your career!

A big thank you to the panelists! Boston: **Meghan Salvas Ship, Brad Ship, Sherm Horton, Nicholas Zweig, Marty Metz, Nicole Reiss**, and **Josh Adler**. New York: **Emily Kohlberg, Hannah Lewis, Josh Bates, Kyle Olson**, and **Katherine Von Jan**.

PARTICIPANTS AT
THE PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
EVENT IN NY



FOLLOW US ON
LinkedIn

AND JOIN OUR CAREER
DEVELOPMENT GROUP



UPCOMING EVENTS

TUES
05
DEC
12PM

Sunshine Luncheon

SENDING LOCAL KIDS TO CAMP

Lake Sunapee Country Club
\$60 per person includes lunch, non-alcoholic drinks, & tip

FEATURING: The Rev'd Jay MacLeod
from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

SAT
16
MAR
2PM

JOIN US IN LOS ANGELES at the Skirball

Coniston Ambassador & Alumna, Jocelyn Tetel will be hosting Conistonians at the **Skirball Cultural Center** to include a tour of **The American Library** by Yinka Shonibare CBE RA exhibit this spring! Enjoy a Camp arts & crafts project and hear from John Tilley and Lindsey Tompkins about what is happening at Coniston.



GIVING TUESDAY

On **NOVEMBER 28TH**
GIFTS WILL BE MATCHED
through the generosity of

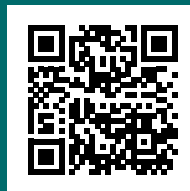


BAR HARBOR
BANK & TRUST

If you prefer, you can mail a check with
#GivingTuesday in the memo line to
have your gift matched!

REGISTER FOR EVENTS HERE

CONISTON.ORG/EVENTS



HELP US PLAN EVENTS!
If you know a great place to
host an event please reach
out to lindsey@coniston.org
as we would love your help!

VISIT [CONISTON.ORG/EVENTS](https://coniston.org/events)
REGULARLY FOR DETAILS

- ▶ **BOSTON & NYC**
WINTER 23/24
- ▶ **PROFESSIONAL**
DEVELOPMENT
SPRING 2024
- ▶ **WASHINGTON, DC**
FEB 14 @ 6PM
LOCATION: TBD
- ▶ **SAN FRANCISCO, CA**
MARCH 14 @ 6PM
LOCATION: TBD
- ▶ **MANCHESTER, NH**
MARCH 22 @ 4:30PM
LOCATION: TBD
- ▶ **DENVER, CO**
APRIL 4 @ 6PM
LOCATION: TBD
- ▶ **NEWTON, MA**
GOLF TOURNAMENT
MAY 2024
- ▶ **VOLUNTEER WORK DAY**
JUNE 8 @ 9AM
- ▶ **20YR CIT REUNION**
2002-2004 Invited
SUMMER 2024
- ▶ **40YR CIT REUNION**
SUMMER 2024

ALUMNI NEWS



This fall I found myself watching Noah Kahan perform outside of Boston with a tear in my eye. I was so proud watching one of our own reach their dreams—I couldn't help but think about everyone that has come to Camp and how many amazing people in our community have reached their dreams that we don't always talk about.

People like Jen Whitman, who is teaching kids in school, Kelsey Wilcox who just passed the bar exam, Odeyi Kizungu who has just finished his navy training, Emily Kohlberg, a field producer at ABC news, people like Rebecca McCown who was just named to a post in the White House. The list goes on. There are so many people that I feel extreme pride for.

We're also welcoming new family members into our community and hope even more Conistonians will keep the community updated in the future. Coniston is a place where relationships are the heart of everything. We lift each other up and we celebrate one-another.



Thank you to **Abby Kaufman** for hosting a 90s reunion in Sudbury, MA this fall! Conistonians who attended were Brian Isabelle, Mike Clifford, Christina Murphy, Sarah Bothwell, Nicole Reiss, Allison Carroll, Sarah Donnelly, Laura McCarthy, Galen Tremblay, Sarah Raeburn, Ryan Davey, Emily Trenholm, Bridget Parker, Christina Smaglia, Katie Perry, Heather McLean, Beth Friedman, Shannon Sawyer, Brian Beale, Laura Bothwell, Amanda Navarolli, Diana Blazar, Nick Zweig, Meghan Salvass, Berta Sinclair, Abby Jordan, Brad Ship and John Kersey.

"I was a Coniston camper, CIT, and staff member from 1989-1999. Camp was one of the greatest experiences of my youth, and it was so meaningful to pass the Coniston Experience on to my oldest son in 2023. Being back at Camp as a parent also brought the unexpected gift of reconnecting with fellow Coniston alums.

But it left me wanting more than a quick hello and hug on check-in and check-out days. Thus I planned a reunion and around thirty Coniston alums gathered for food, fun, and conversation. We traded stories, memories, and many laughs and caught up on our current lives. We poured over old Coniston annuals, and flipped through photo albums from the past. It filled my heart knowing that even though decades had passed since our days at Camp, the bonds of Coniston friendship had remained just as strong. I'm now a Coniston Ambassador to help plan more opportunities for Coniston alumni to gather and reconnect. I hope to see many of you at an event, or back at Camp next summer!"
—Abby



This spring, after the Career Development event we caught up with our NYC alumni: **Hannah Lewis**, **Shannon Rush**, **Sean Lanzner**, **Max Humphrey**, **Josh Bates**, **Kyle Olson**, and **Nicole Berthiaume**. Taking Photo: **Jesse Ladd**.



Congratulations to **Emma Tilley**, on her marriage to David Mauer! A beautiful wedding was hosted this summer in New London with many Conistonians in attendance.



2003 CITs



1997 CITs

This summer Camp hosted the 20-year CIT reunion for **2003 CITs** along with a delayed 25th reunion for the **1997 CITs**!



Congratulations to **Shannon Hogan**, on her marriage to Jimmy Flotken this summer. It's great to see so many Conistonians celebrating your big day.



Callum McCaffer married his wife, Claire, at Royal Troon in Scotland! His co-counselor, **Corey Miller**, was able to go across the pond to see their special day.



◀ STAY INFORMED

Scan the QR code to register as an alumni so we can let you know when an event is in your area.



TOWNIES



JAKE SATOW AND NOAH KAHAN RELAXING
BETWEEN SETS DURING BOSTON CALLING



GRACE FERGUSON



HANS WILLIAMS



BROOKS HUBBARD

ALUMNI SUCCESS INSPIRES NEW PROGRAM AREA

Music is a powerful tradition at Coniston. Powerful memories often include screaming out the lyrics of 'Don't Stop Believing' while dancing around the dining hall without a care in the world. We applaud our friends who tell their story through an original song at the talent show. We stand arm in arm around the campfire and sing taps. As we light our candles in front of the lake, we listen to the beautiful guitar strings and together sing "One Voice" before the sky is lit up with fireworks.

Music has always been part of Coniston and the achievements and passions of alumni have highlighted how special this is. Next summer, Coniston will offer a music program area in addition to the Coniston Singers! Grace Ferguson,

a member of the band Luna and The Carpets, will create and run the new program as an official Coniston Fellowship.

Grace is looking for instruments to be donated for the new program!

When we look at our incredible alumni community, we see a surprising number of them storming the music industry. Not only are they creating amazing music, they're also spreading important messages. Noah Kahan was recently named as one of the next 100 emerging leaders for his music and work in the realm of mental health in Time Magazine.



◀ **INSTRUMENT DONATIONS**
Scan the QR code if you would like to help.

CONISTONIANS STORM THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

Check them out by downloading their music on Spotify!

HANS WILLIAMS

While touring New England this summer, New Orleans based singer-songwriter, Hans Williams visited Coniston to put on a special show. In July, Brooks Hubbard opened Hans' show at the Lebanon Opera House!

TOWNIES

Townies, a band made up of Coniston alumni Nolan Melia, Chris Magnani, and Tom Lynch, will be heading into the studio in LA this month to record their debut full length album with Joe Reinhart, the guitarist of renowned emo/rock band Algrenon Cadwallader.

BROOKS HUBBARD

After relocating back to New England from Nashville, Brooks has been touring all over. He even stopped by Coniston this summer to perform for Camp. Be sure to catch his performances when he's doing a gig near you!

NOAH KAHAN

Noah Kahan's fame and recognition is growing. Next year's world tour includes multiple sold out dates at Fenway Park, Madison Square Garden, and Hollywood Bowl.

ACTOR OBSERVER

Jake Satow is in the band Actor Observer from Boston, MA who have become a well respected musical force throughout New England. This spring you may have seen them playing at Boston Calling!

LUNA AND THE CARPETS

In addition to creating the new music program area for next summer, Grace Ferguson's band released their first album "I Wish Venus Had a Moon" available on Spotify or Apple Music!

ALUMNI RETURN FOR WINNING SPIRIT

Since 1996, Coniston has partnered with the Childhood Cancer Lifeline of NH to provide a free weekend for families affected by pediatric cancer. Families, many at different stages of their cancer journey, come together for a weekend of fun, support, respite, camaraderie, and of course, Camp! The success of this weekend hinges on the current and previous summer staff members who in many cases donate their time to bring Coniston to families that need it most.





Asie Makarova graduated from Penn's Wharton School and announced her engagement to Judson Woods! The couple have moved to Denver!



Congratulations to **Chloe (Ladd) Parker** and Jon Parker for the birth of their little girl, Lennon Jesse Parker!



Zach Zimmerman and Sarah Parker welcomed their daughter Hadley this year! They even brought her for her first visit to Coniston this summer.



Congrats to **Olivia Stack** and Ryan Simoneau on their engagement!



Matt and **Katie Comstock** had baby boy Cole Granger Comstock this July! Congratulations to you and to Rory, the best big brother!



Congratulations to **Martha Calcutt Powers** and Drew Powers for their beautiful baby daughter, Faye!



Jen LeBlanc and Ben Thornton announced their engagement! Congratulations!



Congratulations to Shelby and **Ben Kamisar** on welcoming their new child, Evelyn to the world. The news of her birth was even announced on Ben's show *Meet the Press*. Check out the full video here:





Emily Muller (CIT '04) has been busy this year as a design contractor with Target! Additionally, Emily and her husband, **Robby Muller** (CIT '00) will be welcoming a future boys camp camper this winter! Big sisters Leah and Nora are excited for a little brother to join the family.



With the numerous projects around Camp in preparation for the lodge restoration and expansion we were in need of some extra hands. Boys Camp Director, **Nate Levine** and Aquatics Director, **Brackett Lyons** have stayed on staff to help!



Nicole and McNair ran into **Eric Rightor** at the NH Directors Conference this October! Eric is now the Executive Director at YMCA Allard Center of Goffstown, a branch of the Granite YMCA.



Congrats to **Brenden Olson** who just started a new job working as Sales Manager at Miller Milling Company!



Beth Cairns has taken a new position running an autism program at Hillsboro Deering High School.



Asie Makarova and **Jen Leblanc** are co-workers AGAIN. Our 2014 and 2015 Program Directors are both working at Analysis Group, an international economics consulting firm.



CONISTON TUTORS

SIGN UP TODAY //
[CONISTON.ORG/TUTOR](https://coniston.org/tutor)

FREE tutoring sessions from Coniston counselors and alumni providing 1-on-1 support and an ongoing confidence boost to help your child succeed. Whether it's to review the fundamentals, practice current concepts, or look ahead to the next topic! Getting help at home doesn't need to be a struggle.



OR **BECOME A TUTOR** TO GIVE BACK TO A PLACE THAT HAS TAUGHT YOU SO MUCH!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS MAJOR CHANGES IN CAMP

The new location of the arts and crafts building (where the previous office was) inspires campers' artwork with a beautiful view of the lake. The larger space accommodates more campers and allows room for connecting with friends while making friendship bracelets. The new building features a dedicated, outside, tie-dye beach which resulted in more colorful creations around Camp.

The office move was featured in the Spring Chronicle. Because the building was moved on wheels to the site of the old basketball court, many people visiting Camp felt like nothing had changed!



◀ **CHECK OUT THE MOVE**
Scan the QR code to view the building moving to its new location



ARTS & CRAFTS/WOODSHOP CENTER



INSIDE ARTS & CRAFTS



TIE-DYE BEACH

SPRING RECURRING CHALLENGE

Conistonians responded in record numbers with over **75 RECURRING MONTHLY DONATIONS** equaling a **CAMPERSHIP EACH MONTH!** We are extremely grateful for to all that contributed. Small gifts add up and are making a HUGE impact!



SUMMER 2024 PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY

The completion of the new woodshop space on the ground floor of the arts & crafts center is on track to be finished in time for the summer of 2024. Construction has also begun in a meeting space in the basement of the office. As you can see from the photo to the right, the roof and rafters of the lodge porch were replaced so it can hold up for another one hundred New England winters.

In addition to these projects, plans are being made to replace the main water system located in the basement of the lodge. Water systems, while practically invisible, are the most important facility feature in all of Coniston.

These improvements are steps to bring us closer to finalizing the lodge expansion and renovation in 24/25. Plans for the lodge include an indoor/outdoor theater to maximize and enhance our drama and dance productions. Along with a complete wrap around porch to increase capacity while flexibility for programming to keep up with our ever-growing community.



**ROOF & RAFTERS
REPLACED ON
LODGE PORCH.**



24/25 INDOOR/OUTDOOR STAGE CONCEPT



24/25 WRAP AROUND PORCH CONCEPT

81% TO GOAL // \$2.83M RECEIVED
\$669,437 TO REACH GOAL

Our **GOAL IS IN SIGHT** to complete the campaign and we are hopeful to have the funding to complete our plans by year end. **THANK YOU** to all that have helped us get this far. If you are in a position to do so please **CONSIDER A GIFT** this winter to our annual fund to help us reach our goals!





YMCA Camp Coniston
PO Box 185
Grantham, NH 03753-0185

www.coniston.org | (603) 863-1160

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2023

BY THE NUMBERS

AS OF 10/26/23



1744
CHILDREN
ENROLLED IN CAMP
HAD OPPORTUNITIES
TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

39
STATES
&
8 COUNTRIES
CAMPERS & STAFF CAME
TOGETHER SHOWING
WE ALL CAN BE ONE

493
CAMPERSHIPS
\$414,688
FINANCIAL AID
 PROVIDED A CAMP
EXPERIENCE REGARDLESS
OF FINANCIAL MEANS

210
STAFF HIRED
170 UNITED STATES | 40 INTERNATIONAL
STAFF FROM AROUND THE WORLD
MODEL ONE COMMUNITY

\$1.7M
ENDOWMENT
FUNDS 24 FULL CAMPERSHIPS
FROM ITS QUARTERLY DISTRIBUTION

Heart
OF **CONISTON**
Capital Campaign 
81% RAISED



102 LIFEGUARDS
CERTIFIED
FIRST AID AND CPR CERTIFIED
TO PROVIDE CARE FOR ALL

\$669,437
TO REACH \$3.5M GOAL