



THERE IS A PLACE...

CAMP 2009

CAMP—2009

There is a place...



There is a place... a very special place called "camp."

It started in 1958 at The Geneva Point Center, better known as "Camp Winni," on the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee. After 25 years at "Winni," "camp" was moved to Camp Kingsmont in West Stockbridge, MA. for the next 18 years. In August of 2001 we moved to our new home—Camp Cody—on the shores of Lake Ossipee in Freedom, New Hampshire This is our ninth year at "Cody." And it really is a special place!

Yes, there is a place called "camp," but we have learned that it's not really the place and it's not really the program that makes camp so special... it's all the great people: the campers, the veteran counselors, the enthusiastic "rookies," the senior staff; and the very real presence of God that create the camp spirit and makes "camp" such an exciting and memorable experience year after year.



Place.

Year #52 begins today, August 22, 2009, with 396 campers and a staff of 70. We are looking forward to a great week. Our theme for year #52 is: *There Is A*

Matt Boudreau and Dan Sibbald were the first campers to arrive in the parking lot of Braintree High School for the eagerly anticipated trip to camp. By 10:15 A.M. all the campers had arrived, the tuff boxes and sleeping bags were loaded onto the 3 trucks by the "rookies" and everyone awaited the arrival of the 10 yellow school buses that would take us north to Camp Cody.

The buses were ready to roll just before 11:00 A.M. for the three hour ride to camp. Right on schedule, the first bus rolled into camp at 2:00 P.M. quickly followed by the others. As each bus came down the road, a huge cheer from campers signaled their safe arrival.

The campers quickly tumbled from the buses and gathered in the Council Ring where they were greeted by "Rip," our director. "Rip" has been a part of camp since its very beginning in 1958.

After "Rip's" welcome, the first order of business for the campers was to find out their cabin assignments and race across camp to claim the best bunk. The trucks were swiftly unloaded before the rain set in and the contents of the trucks were settled into the cabins for the week.

At 4:00 P.M. everyone gathered in the Rec Hall for a "power point" which introduced the counselors to the campers. The 2009 camp staff includes 18 "rookie" counselors, all of whom are former campers.

After the introductions, Terry Martinson emphasized a few of the most important guidelines for the week and then dismissed the campers by Morning Groups so that they could meet with their leaders.

Morning Group is a very important part of the camp day. Each morning the campers gather in groups of ten or twelve with two leaders. It's a time for group building and great sharing. There is a different theme for each morning's program and enough material to keep each group busy for 90 minutes or more.

Before our first dinner, the entire camp gathered in the Council Ring for worship led by the young people from Old South. Like Morning Group, worship is an important part of each day's schedule at camp. "Chapel" always includes songs, scripture readings, a brief message delivered by one of the campers or counselors, and a prayer. We are fortunate to have several gifted song leaders at camp, including Greg Zopatti, Jon McCabe, and Glenn Holt.



The evening program on the first night of camp was a campfire which gave a number of our counselors the opportunity to share their musical gifts with the campers.

Following vespers and the singing of *The Lord's Prayer* campers and counselors headed back to their cabins for "bonding time" and cookies.

SATURDAY

Weather: Overcast with some brief rain showers...

Dinner: Grilled Chicken



SUNDAY

Each morning the camp is quietly awakened at 7:00 to begin the day. The Junior High campers go to "first breakfast" and the Senior High campers go to "second breakfast."

Breakfast is followed each day by Morning Watch—ten minutes of quiet time. Morning Watch includes a reading from scripture, a story or two, questions for reflection, and some suggestions for prayer. The theme of Morning Watch this week was *friendship*.

After cabin clean-up, the campers head off to meet with their Morning Groups from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M.



"Spree Time" follows lunch. "Spree Time" gives campers the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities including: swimming, volleyball, basketball, ultimate

Frisbee, talent show rehearsal, juggling, arts & crafts, and more. Since many campers went "mud-sliding" right after lunch and were covered with mud from head to toe, the lake was the most popular "Spree Time" activity today.

The Canteen opens as "Spree Time" draws to a close. The canteen sells candy and other snacks, plus water, Gatorade, and soda. Raffle tickets are also sold in the canteen.

The scheduled afternoon activity (3:30 P.M.) was the Camp Carnival. Games of skill pitted Morning Groups against one another in fierce competition.

The evening activity (7:45 P.M.) was the "Neon Nights Dance." What a colorful spectacular the dance was! So many campers decked themselves out in bright attire and accessorized their clothing with neon face paint, neon necklaces and bracelets, and glow sticks. The dance ended at 10:15 P.M. with the playing of *Stairway To Heaven* (some things never change.) Before heading back to their cabins, all the campers and counselors headed to the Council Ring for vespers under the stars.

SUNDAY



Weather: Cloudy with a few heavy rain showers = great mud-sliding
Breakfast: Pancakes & Sausage
Lunch: Grilled Cheese
Dinner: Pasta & salad bar

MONDAY

Monday was "Yad Sdrawkcab" (Backwards Day.) The campers knew something was up when they learned that they all had to gather in the Council Ring by 7:45 A.M. Some thought that *everyone* was in serious trouble, but others guessed that something good was about to happen.

The entire camp ate breakfast together (pizza and salad) in the Rec Hall while a group of counselors presented a murder mystery written and directed by Andy Sheflin. The plot involved the murder of Mike Miller. It turned out that "Rip" was the culprit, but he did it to save camp.

Since it was "Backwards Day" chapel came before lunch. "Spree Time," the afternoon activity, and dinner took place at their regular times to avoid confusion with the kitchen and waterfront staff, but dinner was bacon and eggs.

The afternoon activity was "The Ossipee Trail" - a camp wide game based on "The Oregon Trail." Campers were divided into teams. The goal of the game was to arrive at Ossipee before winter with the most supplies and the healthiest team to start a "new life." The game involved strategy and the successful completion of a variety of tasks.

Again, because it was "Backwards Day," Morning Watch took place after dinner and Morning Groups met at night. The campers enjoyed their quiet time as the sun set over the lake and they loved meeting in their small groups under the stars. The day ended as all days end at camp with the singing of *The Lord's Prayer*.



"Backwards day was very popular. Many of the campers suggested that we do this each summer, not so much because they enjoyed eating pizza for breakfast, but because they enjoyed Morning Watch and Morning Group at night.

MONDAY (Backwards Day)

Weather: Some sun and a few rain showers

Breakfast: Pizza

Lunch: Mac 'N Cheese and Chicken Nuggets



TUESDAY



Tuesday was "Senior Day" at camp. Our 40 seniors were given the opportunity to lead the Junior High Morning Groups. They shared with the younger campers their thoughts about growing up. They focused on the times in their lives when they needed help and who they turned to for that help. Following Morning Group the seniors had lunch with the Junior High campers while the Junior High counselors enjoyed a "Barbarian Lunch" (no knives, forks, or spoons) together at several tables in the corner of the dining hall. The seniors spent Spree Time on Sandy Beach with their cabin counselors. Here they freely shared their thoughts about camp and took the opportunity to speak meaningfully to one another. According to their reports, this was a very powerful experience. The seniors also led by chapel and vespers on Tuesday.

Adam Fiander coordinated today's afternoon program (3:15) titled, *Meal Ticket*. The entire camp was divided into two teams (red or blue). Within the game there were offensive players, defensive players, puzzle makers and jailers. The offensive players had to retrieve clues from "enemy territory" without being caught and jailed. The clues led to the hiding place of the buried treasure. Time ran out before the game could be completed and a winner could be crowned, however the campers enjoyed the competition.

Tuesday night's supper was tacos. It should be noted that George Raymond came out of retirement to issue his taco eating contest. The champion was challenged by several hungry campers. The competition ended in a tie (13.5 tacos) when the kitchen ran out of tacos.

Tuesday's evening program (8:00) was planned by Rachel Grant. The program was titled, *The Legend of the Ossipee Princess*. Morning Groups were paired together to solve brainteasers. The successful solution to a brainteaser earned clues toward the identity and location of the Ossipee Princess.

The stars at vespers were particularly brilliant on Tuesday night.

TUESDAY (Senior Day)

Weather: Beautiful Day... not too hot
Breakfast: French Toast & Sausage
Lunch: Chicken Patties & Potato Puffs
Dinner: Tacos



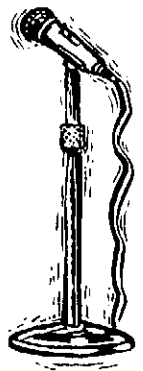
WEDNESDAY

There is a place... a very special place called "camp."

Every day at camp is a great day, but it takes a great deal of work in advance to make sure that everything will run smoothly once we arrive at Camp Cody. Our staff spends the entire year writing the program for Morning Group and planning the afternoon and evening programs. Pastor Dick and Glenn sketch out the worship schedule long before we get to camp. The "Bread and The Cup" rehearse the new music they want to incorporate. Staff meetings begin in mid-September. The final staff meeting is 3 nights before camp just so that we can make sure that everything is ready to make the camp week a positive experience for all who are involved.

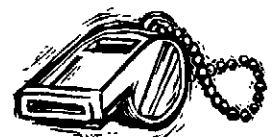
George Raymond, of Taco eating fame, planned the afternoon activity (3:15) titled, "The DK Challenge." The game was based on the most recent Batman movie. The counselors were fantastic in their Joker Clown and Scarecrow costumes. Campers were divided into 16 teams of 25 members each. The object of the game was to create the best "society" in Gotham City. The contest included many games within the game spread throughout the campus and there was great strategy in trading players from one team to another. Again, because of time constraints, a definite winner could not be declared, but our campers have learned that "winning isn't everything—it's how you play the game."

Wednesday's evening program was eagerly anticipated by the entire camp. Adrienne Perfetuo produced and directed the annual Talent Show. Many claimed that this was by far the best Talent Show ever. Highlights included the singing of seventh grade camper, Emily Lynch, the juggling of senior high camper, Tyler O'Donnell, and a bold skit performed by the Pawnee Boys. The incredible musical talent of many of our campers was on display. We are truly blessed at camp to have so much talent among our campers and we congratulate all the performers on having the courage to "let their light shine" by sharing their gifts in front of the entire camp.



WEDNESDAY

Weather: The best day yet—sunny, bright, cool...
Breakfast: Waffles & Bacon
Lunch: "Deli Day"
Dinner: BBQ Chicken



THURSDAY

What a great day it was for sailing! The weather was beautiful and the breeze was just right for a good sail on



Ossipee Lake. This is the first summer that we have been allowed to use the Camp Cody's sailboats. We have a number of accomplished sailors among our campers and a few brave novices. Only one managed to tip his boat over and needed to be rescued.

Excitement was building well before noon on Thursday for "Cabin Wars" which has become a regular part of the camp program. It was hard to wait until after lunch for the games to begin. Many of the cabins chose to dress in a particular color and others chose a theme (*Braveheart*; Cops 'n Robbers) for their outfits. The cabins paraded to the field cheering, chanting, and singing. The campers' enthusiasm reached new heights. Kevin Smith and Paul Galligan coordinated the double elimination competition that included: dodge ball, tug-o-war, trash the backyard, knock-out, and a variety of other games. The battle was finally won by one of the Junior High girls' cabins. What a thrill it is for the younger campers to be able to claim victory over the older campers.

Thursday evening is also eagerly anticipated by everyone except the more shy seventh grade boys. The "Formal Dance" takes place in the Rec Hall from 8:00 to 10:45 P.M. with Tom Remsen serving as the D.J., ably assisted by camper, Chris Davern. It was great to see the boys in their shirts and ties and the girls in their dresses. The cool, clear evening created an awesome atmosphere for our second dance of the week.

MANY THANKS

Many thanks for a great week of camp to all the campers—especially to the seniors who set a great example for the younger campers, to the veteran counselors, to the rookies, to Rip and all the executive staff—especially Tom Remsen, Michelle Remsen, Donna Fallon, Jess Lynch, R.N., Pastor Dick and Rev. Bill. You all made camp a very special place. Thank you... thank you... thank you!

T.O.M.

THURSDAY

Weather: Incredible!
Breakfast: Chocolate Chip
Pancakes
Lunch: Steak & Cheese Subs



FRIDAY

Morning Groups on Friday are special. For most groups 90 minutes isn't long enough, so lunch is 45 minutes later than usual. Strength Bombardment and a Faith Wandering are part of each groups' final time together. The positive comments that the campers offer to one another are cherished.

Lunch on Friday is outdoors. On the menu are hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and cookies.

After lunch it's time for the "hug line." For so many of our campers this is the most emotional experience of the week. The campers and staff bid their farewells to one another as if they will never see each other again. It takes just about two hours to make your way through the "hug line" with the seniors leading the way. For some seniors, this brings to a close their camp years. Others will return to camp as "rookies" within the next year or two.

"Graduation" is next on Friday's agenda. The graduation ceremony includes a round of applause for the seniors, a hearty "thank you" to the entire staff, the "Ollie" or "Golden Apple" awards to well deserving campers and staff, and the drawing for the raffle. This year, with free camp tuition for 2010 as the top prize, the raffle raised over \$1,700 for *Team Kermit* and the Pan Mass Challenge which benefits the Jimmy Fund. Tim Twidwell's name was the first to be drawn out of the basket. Since Tim is a senior, he decided to donate his "campership" for 2010 to The First Congregational Church of Braintree for their camp scholarship fund. The raffle also included more than 50 gift cards donated by camp families. We sincerely thank them for their great generosity.

Friday ends with the Consecration Service. Junior High campers gather with Glenn and Tom in Pahaska Lodge. Senior High campers gather with Rip, Dick and Terry in the Rec Hall. Senior High campers move to the Council Ring following the Consecration Service. At the final campfire each of the seniors offers their "shout-outs" and five of the seniors are chosen to share a personal reflection on their camp experience. This year the seniors chose Sean Farrell, Maggie Holland, Tracy Schermerhorn, Colin McDonald and Kelsey Fritz to share reflections.

FRIDAY

Weather: Gorgeous!!!!
Breakfast: French Toast, bacon &
Sausage
Lunch: Hot Dogs & Hamburgers

