Greetings From Camp!

Another autumn is upon us and the excitement of the schoolchildren fill the cool air with laughter and wonder. We will host over 6,400 students and guests during the weeks throughout the fall, winter, and spring, and an additional 4,500 weekend adventurers spending quality time at good old Camp Edwards.

We would like to thank those parents who took the time to fill out our parent evaluation form. Overall we had great reviews and are pleased with our performance. As with everything in life, there are areas to correct, and we will be addressing those as the year continues. The KYBO (central shower house) was mentioned several times, and we are working on a way to address those concerns. Our Master Plan does call for a new KYBO to be constructed, but we do have some financial limitations prohibiting us moving forward. Although we are not actively campaigning for capital donations for the KYBO, we do have $100K set aside for the construction. If you feel compelled to donate, please contact our offices.

Summer Camp registration is off to a great start with some sessions already closed. If you plan to sign up for the summer of 2019 hop online to register.
In 1982, a young whippersnapper left the construction trade and found Camp Edwards...Ok, he never really left the construction trade, but he did find a job at Camp Edwards.

One cannot say enough about Paul Kesselhon and his contributions to Camp Edwards. His artisanship can be seen throughout camp; whether it is lighting your path at night, camp-made cabin doors, or a fishing dock, Paul has always exhibited the knowhow and quality craftsmanship we have come to depend on. He has built or been apart of all projects at camp since his hire; the construction of Hoffer Lodge (1984), here for the Micklewright fire of 1986, the building of the Marshwalk (1994), construction of staff houses (1990’s), the renovation of the KYBO (2006), the remodeling of Sequoia Hut (2007), up to and including the introduction of our two newest buildings, the Cooper Recreation Center and the Seigle Welcome Center and Camp Health Lodge. The list of accomplishments would be exhaustive and require this entire Arrowhead newsletter to be dedicated to him.

Therefore, it goes without saying that after spending half of his life at Camp Edwards, and being the property manager for over 1/3rd of the time camp has been in operation, Paul deserves his retirement. Paul has decided to retire in January and head off to a couple places of interest. However, we really don’t see him ever leaving camp. There is a more than likely chance that Paul will be at the shop most days doing odds and ends or helping the new property manager. He always said, “It’s about the kids”. Paul will be greatly missed and we wish him the best of luck in his retirement. Thanks for everything, Paul!

Every Child Should Have a Blast at Camp

$60,000 Goal

Every year we raise money through our Annual Friends Drive to support campers in need of financial assistance and to make improvements around camp. Over the past 14 summers, we have raised and provided financial assistance of over $238,000, directly benefitting 1000’s of campers in our summer program. Through the same generosity of our extended camp family, we have invested over $430,000 back into camp in the form of canoes, Jungle Joe, speedboats, paved roads, KYBO renovation, cabin renovation, new cabins, and much more.

As we actively raised funds for our Capital Campaign, our Friends Drive suffered slightly, but we always invested in the campers first before providing for camp improvements. The difference you make by helping support children in need of assistance is immeasurable. Often the camper does not even realize someone else provided them the opportunity to come to camp; they just know that they are at camp having a great time and making memories. Other veteran campers from the past have told stories of how much they appreciated the financial assistance that they are now in the position to pay it forward.

I guess that is what it is really about, helping each other out in times of need. We encourage campers to pay a minimal amount, because we strongly believe in investing in yourself as well as investing in others and building a stronger community.

In the upcoming year, be on the lookout for our annual Friends Drive solicitation, and please give what you can to help others who need a little help.

All donations are Tax Exempt. Donate by responding to the upcoming mailer or give us a call at Camp.
What’s NEW!!!

As most of you have noticed or experienced, parking during check-in can be frustrating. For the summer of 2019, we are going to attempt to institute a staggered check-in process to alleviate parking issues and streamline the camper check in line. Campers with the last names beginning with "A" through "M" will be checking in between 12:30pm and 1:15pm and campers with the last name beginning with "N" through "Z" will check in between 1:15pm and 2pm. We typically have special requests due to flights, sports conflicts, etc. that require a special consideration, and we will honor those requests. However, we believe staggering the check-in will help with our limited parking. Check-in at either time does not carry any benefit besides easing our wonderful parents’ frustrations.

We will also be extending our parking lot and putting in a one-way exit lane from the parking lot. This small expansion, along with the staggered check in, should solve the parking issue in the main parking lot.

Seigle Welcome Center and Camp Health Lodge is operational. Upon arrival for summer camp, feel free to stop in and use the facilities, but **check-in will remain at Micklewright Lodge**. All medications will still be checked in with the medical coordinator on the Micklewright Lodge porch.

Although we are unable to build a new shower house, we believe we can increase the cleanliness and fluidity of the nightly showers with a few changes to our staffing and cleaning routine. Our goal is to provide a clean facility, which is difficult with 200 campers using it every night. However, we will be instituting a new schedule to help facilitate improved cleanliness.

Thank you, once again, for all of those who gave us feedback. You directly impact the way we do things at camp.

A Summer Well Lived!

Summer 2018 staff favorite memories:

“We had one camper in swim lessons who was so scared of the lake and refused to get in the water. He just sat on the side barely putting his feet in, but on Thursday we were finally able to get him to go in the water. By the end of swim lessons, he was floating around on a kickboard and was so happy, smiley, and proud.”

“Watching all the kids go wild during the giant water fight of color war.”

“I had a camper in high ropes who couldn’t get up the whole wall without wanting to come down. After a week of trying to help her, on Friday, she went through the entire course with me and down the zip line. When she got down she had the biggest smile. She was so proud of herself, it was adorable.”

“I think it was during session 2 when the Blackbird cabin boys were super energetic and every meal the table became the dance floor. It was a Blackbird party and every kid got to show off their Fortnite dances.”

“One night I went to check up on a trekker girl cabin around lights out time and ended up staying there with them for over an hour talking about their goals and dreams.”

“First youth girl pack out of the summer, the girls were singing songs the entire night. Every girl had a huge smile on their face and I had the pleasure of hearing the ‘how hot is hot’ song 100 times.”

“I was doing camper evals with Blackbird cabin and a camper said: ‘I wouldn’t change a thing about this place. It’s the most perfect, special place in the world.’”

This was probably our favorite response: “I even had campers who sent me letters after they left, which is super cool and it made me really happy. I don’t think campers realize how much an impact they make on their counselors.”

Seeing the impact that staff members have on campers’ lives is incredible, but seeing how much the campers help our staff grow and learn is just as amazing. So, thank you for sharing your campers with us this past summer. We’re already looking forward to summer 2019!
The Tribe of the Nani Ba Zhu Update

We had another great summer of successfully upholding the Honors Program at Camp Edwards. Over 50 new campers were inducted into the NBZ tribe, thanks to the continued support and donations of our members. We held elections this year and a new and enthusiastic team of alumni is continuing the tradition of Honors while strengthening it with new service projects and outreach ideas. Please check out our Facebook Page – Camp Edwards NBZ – for more up to date information throughout the year! And never hesitate to reach out with comments, questions or suggestions by emailing campedwardsnbz@gmail.com. We are proud to continue the I’m Third tradition with all of our camp alumni. May this coming year be even better than the last, and we hope to see you at volunteer opportunities throughout the year and next summer!

Cala Millis
NBZ President

Winter at Camp Edwards

Who says all the fun of camp is limited to the months of June, July, and August? With the leaves changing colors, temperatures dropping, and morning frost starting to become more regular, winter is just around the corner here on the shores of Lake Beulah. As much as we love summer around here and all of the action summer camp brings, the anticipation of the first snowfall brings just as much excitement.

When it gets cold and the snow accumulates, camp becomes a winter wonderland. It may be colder but the snow lets us put a twist on some of your favorite camp activities. While it’s a great place to fish in the summer, in the winter the boat bay turns into a fantastic area for ice skating, hockey, and broomball. Do you enjoy the Buck Island swim? How about a Buck Island hike once the ice on the lake thickens? And if you think the tube slides are amazing in the summer you should give them a try with a foot of snow at the bottom. We also offer an optional ski/snowboard trip to Alpine Valley.

This year Winter Camp will be running from December 27th to 30th. Come join some of your favorite staff members at Camp Edwards over winter break!

But wait! Don’t let the kids have all the fun this winter. New Year’s Family Camp will be running from December 30th to January 1st and will feature many of the same winter activities for campers of all ages. Come join us and ring in 2019 Camp Edwards style!

*Some activities are dependent on favorable weather conditions.