

2009 Camp Schedule

Discoverer:

1 Week B 7/19-7/24
1 Week B Sail 7/19-7/24

Pioneer:

2 Week A 6/28-7/10
2 Week B 7/26-8/7
3 Week A 6/28-7/16
3 Week B 7/26-8/13

Trailblazer:

3 Week A 6/28-7/16
3 Week B 7/26-8/13
4 Week B 7/19-8/13

Explorer:

3 Week A 6/28-7/16
4 Week B 7/19-8/13

Adventurer:

3 Week A Canoe/Bike
6/28-7/16
3 Week A Hike/Bike
6/28-7/16
4 Week B Canoe/Bike
7/19-8/13
4 Week B Hike/Bike
7/19-8/13

Voyageur:

3 Week A 6/28-7/16
4 Week B 7/19-8/13

Odyssey:

3 Week A 6/28-7/16
3 Week B 7/26-8/13

Vista:

3 Week A 6/28-7/16
3 Week B 7/26-8/13



Vista VIEWS



A PUBLICATION OF

Camp Merrowvista

Attention Campers:

Are you longing for those days of summer? Are you feeling a bit campsick? If so follow these simple measures to help you feel better.

- Sing "Rattlin Bog" at the top of your lungs
- Make a s'more in your fireplace or in your microwave (make sure an adult is present)
- Teach some friends how to play mosquito
- Whenever someone says the word tournament, break into the theme song for Indian Jones! (Dun da dun daaaa dun da daaaa!)
- Look at your photos from camp
- Wear some crazy dinner clothes to your next meal and make sure you eat dessert first!
- Yell "announcements, announcements" at the end of every meal.
- Insist that you can't go to bed before you have gotten all of your energy out in a Night's Doings Middle Earth Duel.
- Have your parents dress up as the Lone Inspector and rate the cleanliness of your room.
- Try to learn how to balance objects on your chin, like Ethan
- Go hiking with some friends and yell "Tongo" at the top...see if anyone answers back.
- Go up to someone and say, "Hey __(insert name)_____do the enraged Barbie!".
- Go to Ben and Jerry's and buy a Vermonster...perhaps get someone to help you eat it.
- Build your own Melbourne Cup chariot and enlist some friends to help you race it around the yard
- Insist on Easy Time after lunch, & unlike camp, actually take a nap.
- Take time for reflection before school or before bed
- Song challenge a friend's table during lunch
- Eat a little GORP
- Go running or exercise every day before breakfast.
- Go up to a friend with teeth tucked under your lips, look em in the eye and say, "Zip..." Don't be surprised if they don't say "Bong" back to you.



If none of the above seems to relieve your longings for summer, then we recommend you register for Camp 2009 to ensure another fun filled summer at Merrowvista!

A Message from Heather

Aloha, Founder Friends! I hope your transition from Merrowvista to school has been successful. Summer 2008 was filled with challenges and accomplishments, fun and adventure. Favorite moments of summer regularly inspire me to be my best self, and to be aware of the little things I can do each day to make a positive difference for my family, friends, and community. I hope you are continuing to draw on what it means to be your own self, at your very best as you move through your days at school and at home. I "dare" you to strive for balance in your weeks, staying active and mindful of how you work with others, and not getting too pulled into screen time options!!

You demonstrated perseverance this summer, recognized the power of acting with kindness, and took on real responsibility in caring for yourself and this community. Now the task is to bring that same responsibility, perseverance, and kindness to the world outside of the Ossipee Mountains! As I told you at Candlelight Sing, you are incredibly capable individuals and I have no doubt you can meet this challenge. I look forward to hearing all about it when you return to Merrowvista next summer!

Each year brings changes to our camp program and staff team, and I want to take this time to update you on a recent change in the Director of Camp Program position. After much thought, Ethan made the decision to resign as the Camp Director. We appreciate all that he brought to our 2008 camp community and look forward to his continued support as a member of the Founder Family.

I am excited to announce that Kris Light will be joining Merrowvista in November as the new Director of Camp Programs. Kris has served in a variety of roles at Merrowvista over the last 8 years including a leader, Pioneer Coordinator, Community Coordinator, and several seasons coordinating our school year programs. He understands and values the AYF philosophy and is committed to creating a *fun, safe, quality* experience for each camper. When not at camp, Kris has most recently served as a teacher with the Westminster School in Atlanta, GA. We are thrilled Kris has stepped into this role, and I look forward to working with him to make Merrowvista 2009 one of the best ever. Please be in touch if you have any questions, and remember... think summer!

All the Best,
Heather



Aloha from Ethan:

The arrival of fall means the nights are a bit cooler, the days warm and sunny, with a gentle breeze reminding us of the change in the seasons that is headed our way. As the seasons change, so do our paths in this life. After having "lived camp" for a season, my family and I have decided that we were not able to maintain the balance and focus on family life that we value so much.

The decision to move on was not easy for me, particularly because of the magic that we created here this summer. There are so many of you who have invested so much in me in this role, and so many of you who welcomed me (and my family) with open arms into this community. Heather, Nicky and Lauren deserve special thanks for spending untold hours teaching me the ropes of the position, but also taking the time to instill in me the sense of magic and beauty that permeates throughout this place.

I am truly impressed by everything we've done together here. It has been an honor to work, play and build a community alongside you. I'll miss Camp Conquest, crazy dinner, and the spirit of Merrowvista. I look forward to crossing paths in the future. Until then...

Happy Trails,
Ethan



A Hello from Our New Camp Director!!!

Hello founder friends,

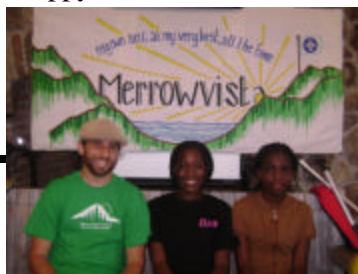
Greetings from Atlanta, Georgia where I am busy working to bring closure to my teaching position, and preparing to move to a place very close to my heart as the new Director of Camp Programs. For the last five years I have had to wait through a very long winter before returning to camp, but this year, I am pleased to returning to the Ossipees to begin planning and preparing for another memorable summer at Merrowvista. I could not be happier or more honored to become the new camp director, and to remain a part of the inspiring community that all of you help create each summer.

I realized a few weeks back that I have spent more summers at camp than I have doing anything else. 17 summers! During high school and college I had a brief hiatus from the camp life, but a lucky encounter with some AYF staff in 2002 unexpectedly brought me to the shores of Dan Hole Pond. What happened next was an awakening. That first year I had the incredible opportunity to lead Explorers. I traveled the roads and wilderness of New England with an impressive group of young men. It was these campers who first showed me that the true magic of Merrowvista is in the way we treat each other. It is in the way that we help each other out when someone is struggling, and it is in the laughter that brings us all closer together and unites us with lasting memories. That first summer was full of unexpected surprises and lessons, and I knew that I had found a place where I truly felt at home. It seemed to me that it would be very difficult to leave.

This upcoming summer will be my eighth at Merrowvista. I have returned each year to see new and returning campers and staff working and playing together in this beautiful setting that has come to mean so much to me. I have come to understand in this time that you don't really leave camp behind when you throw your trunk in the car and set off for home. The challenges that we meet with success while in our founder community are carried with us in our time away.

We seek inspiration in the memories of campers and staff working together to achieve best self and balanced living. It warms our winters to reflect back on the laughter, music, and joy of hundreds of voices sounding out as one. Closing our eyes, we can still see the shadows on the council circle roof cast by the light of the great central fire. We remember the days when we tried something we never thought we would do, and the pride we felt at having taken the risk. We know that even though we drove out over that hill when we left, we *biked* in over it first, and the image will never leave our minds of our group dancing at the top, celebrating an unfathomable journey's conclusion. There is a quote by Albert Camus that hangs in the farmhouse. It reads, "In the midst of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer." At Merrowvista, all of us have contributed to that invincible summer, and I cannot wait till you all return so we can start it all over again!

Happy trails until the next.....Kris Light



Four Trails Corner

It was an experience you will remember, and perhaps dream about as the weeks from camp get further and further away (or you optimists may be thinking that the weeks are getting closer and closer to next summer!) As I lay in the A-Field grass last night under a blanket of stars, glimpses of the summer floated through my mind. Much like many nights spent on trail in that perfect campsite, last night was a perfect night. The Milky Way came out to play with the half moon that was revealing the silhouettes of the Bahn, camp store and Farmhouse. It seemed as if every star came out to keep me company, the shining presence in your absence. As I reveled in their beauty I was comforted thinking that although you are not here at Merrowvista in these cooler autumn days, you were here, you did lay in a similar spot on the A-field, or under a canopy of pines in the mountains, or on a beach listening to the calming water while still looking up at the same stars. Last night I was chilled by the autumn breeze and the silence of camp, yet warmed by the realization that we are all still connected under the same blanket of stars.

Fasten your R-Fold seatbelt 'cause we're going to take you on a wild and crazy ride that will take you up to your summer highs, drop you down to those learning experiences and cruise you safely back to your fondest memories: We ask that you think back to the circles that connect you, the cycles of learning you experienced, the knowledge that you've gained. Remember looking at the stars and remember the love you felt knowing that others were looking up at those same stars and thinking of you. Remember the kindness of which you were beneficiaries, the support you felt as you challenged yourself mentally, socially, physically and religious/spiritually. We hope these are things that you have carried with you in the days after you drove up and over camp hill. We hope that every time you zip up your vest, put on your rugby, or run your fingers over the fire on your founder medal, every time you face some challenge you believe is impossible, you take a moment to remember your own inner strength and your own connectedness to your village mates and the experience you created together. We hope you never, for a single second, doubt your own ability to touch the lives of others and affect change in this world.

Just look up at the stars, and as you inhale, remember. On the exhale, get inspired!

Can't wait to see you next summer!

Nick



Merrowvista

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Take Advantage of 2009
Early Bird Registration!
Register before October 31st
to guarantee your spot
& to receive a **5% discount**
on 2009 tuition!



Register on-line at www.ayf.com
or
contact Lisa at (603) 539-6607 x2011
lisa.boucher@ayf.com.



We can't wait to see you next summer!!!