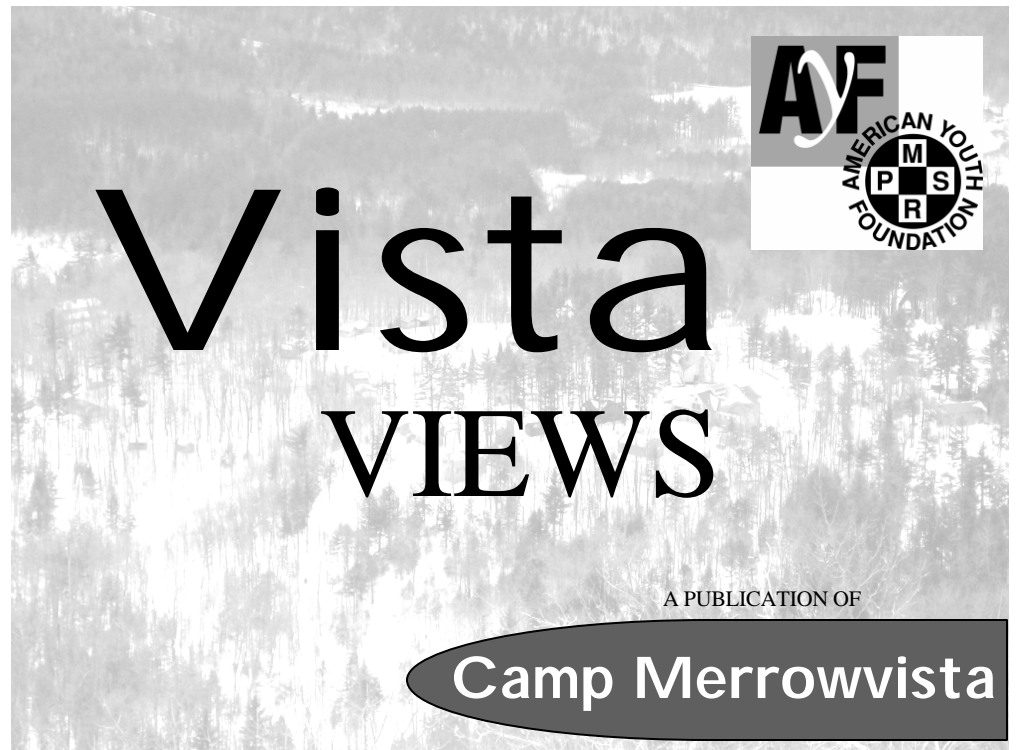


RETURNING STAFF 2008

Tisha Achorn
Hayley Anson
Joe Baty
Ashley Bennett
Jason Bornstein
Elise Bowers
Erica Bryan
Tovah Burstein
Sarah Caliendo
Carter Cox
Geno Cruz
Pippa Davis
Chip Dixon
Michael Freitag
Connor Garvey
Lillian Gritter
Dave Harris
Julz Harris
Doug Harrison
Luke Hasselbeck
Rob Hopkinson
Sheldon Jackson
Alastair Lawson
Laura Leonard
Kris Light
Matt Loper
Rachel Maliniak
Carla Marconi
Becky McCluskey
Emily McIntosh
Sally McNamara
Rosetta Morse
Dea Nielson
Nick Odato
Jamie O'Hagin
Claire Opel
I sanie Pino
Papa Richter
Alejandro Ruiz
Jess Schlenkerman
Leila Serman
Erick Van Til
Andrew Waling
Carrie Weber
Madeline Welsh
Nikki Wyman



Top Reasons to Get Excited for Camp!

- Jumping into Dan Hole Pond early in the morning to go for a swim
- Song challenging one another at meals
- Trying a new activity that you've never done before like rock climbing, windsurfing or archery
- Swimming to Birch or the Outpost and maybe even Strawberry
- Roasting s'mores and looking out at the beautiful view after reaching the top of a mountain
- Looking up at the stars and out over Dan Hole Pond during candle light sing
- Making new friends and seeing old ones
- Dressing up for themed dinners
- MV Idol and Talent shows
- Singing 60s Party at the top of your lungs
- Making ice cream
- Participating in Camp Conquest
- Hearing the voices rise into the night as we sing around the council fire



Are You Ready for the Summer?

I can't wait! As the snow slowly melts from the athletic field, and we begin to see a bit of open water on Dan Hole Pond, thoughts turn to your arrival at camp. I look forward to hearing your voices in the eating lodge, hearing your words of wisdom at flag raising, and celebrating as we each discover more about being 'My own self, at my very best, all the time!'

I am also very excited for you to meet the new Director of Camp Programs, Ethan Hipple. Ethan joined Merrowvista's team in January, and has quickly been inspired by all that makes a Merrowvista summer magical. He's jumped right into hiring staff, talking with camp families, and working with Nicky, Lauren and I to plan the best summer EVER! We keep telling him how wonderful you all are and what an amazing community you help create; he is ready and looking forward to experiencing it all first hand.

Ethan joins Merrowvista after most recently directing a program with the Student Conversation Association. He's a "wicked good" musician who I'm sure you'll hear at a council or candlelight sing, loves the outdoors, and is a huge fan of camp. Ethan and I will be working together, along with the rest of the awesome summer staff team, to create a summer filled with fun, adventure, balanced living, and best self !

We all hope this issue of Vista Views gets you excited and ready for the summer!

-Heather :)



Sunrise at Merrowvista

It's early in the morning here at Merrowvista. It's around the time that the go-getters bell should be sounding, but this time of year, the bell is silent. I'm sitting here in my office watching the sun rise over Dan Hole Pond. It's quiet here right now, just a few of us full time staff on site. And as I'm sitting here watching the rays reflect over our beautiful lake, I am filled with excitement and anticipation. I am longing for the day when camp will once again come alive with your voices rising in song from the eating lodge. Alive with the sound of basketballs hitting the court as interest groups start up. Alive with the sound of drums playing from junk band, and from campers running around in games like camper leader hunt, Melbourne cup and the four fold relay. As I'm looking out, I can almost see the sailboats and windsurf boards gliding across the lake in a warm breeze, and I can faintly hear the hikers at the top of the ledge yelling down...TONGO!!! I can see the meadow from my window, and I am filled with excitement for the day when it will once again be filled with campers going in and out...off to interest groups or nights doings or to the super BIFF to get ready for bed, flashlights dotting the night sky. And I'm excited to see your smiles again. To watch the way your faces light up when you've accomplished something that you've never done before, or the way you respond when you've met a new person for the first time, or to watch you become more of who you are, and seeing you share that with other people. I cannot wait until I can sit and look across the Council Circle from you all and enjoy what an amazing community we are all a part of. As I'm sitting here I am ready. Ready for all that the summer has in store for all of us. The snow is melting, the full time staff are practicing their knockout skills, the days are getting longer, and soon you will be driving up and over the camp hill and into Merrowvista...we cannot wait to see you!

Coming Full Circle



It is good to be back at camp. When I was ten, my sister and I took a life changing trip from my home in California to my aunt and uncle's soybean farm in Southern Minnesota. After spending a week at the farm, we loaded in their van and headed north. Hours of driving later and the farms and small towns of the south gave way to the Great Woods of Northern Minnesota—unbroken stretches of hardwood forests dotted with lakes, wetlands and rivers. The towns grew further and further apart, and the landscape outside the windows flew by—we were very far from home, headed into the *wild*. We were headed to camp for the first time.

We finally turned onto a small dirt road and came to a stop at a small clearing in the trees. As we got out of the van, my stomach was turning with mixed emotions—a combination of excitement and dread. But no sooner had we started walking down the path to the main lodge did we hear the sounds of guitars and singing through the woods. We came around a corner and a group of singing counselors greeted us with open arms. Any sense of apprehension dropped completely away at that moment—and the next couple weeks were some of the best of my life. I remember hours spent at the waterfront, making new friends, running through camp at dusk in epic games of Capture the Flag, singing our hearts out on the sunny deck of camp.



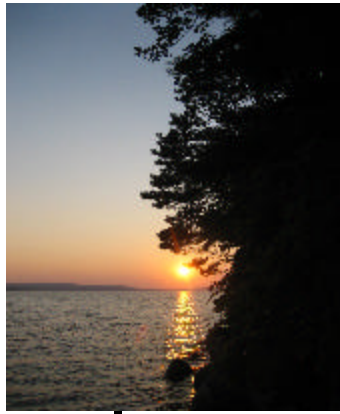
My sister and I returned to camp for the next three summers, and the experiences there are ingrained into my memory to this day. Even now, many years later, there are smells and sights that bring back the memory of camp vividly—the smell of Cutter bug spray and pine paneling, the sight of bright sunshine shining through birch leaves and morning mist on a lake.

And now I've come home to camp. Every day I come in to work and see the smiling faces of the Merrowvista family. I walk in the door and the warm smell of pine paneling greets me and I am instantly transported back to my days as a camper. I am so glad to be here and I can't wait to meet you all this summer. Together, we will make this the best summer possible and I hope that the memories and friendships you make at camp will have as lasting an impact on you as they did on me.

-Ethan Hipple

New Things You Can Expect At Camp This Summer...Drumroll Please (We're gonna build up the suspense a little bit)

5. A new woodworking shop
4. A New OCE shop
3. Two new duplex cabins (Lincoln and Liberty)
2. A new camp song that Carter is not revealing to any of us until the summer!
1. And new themed dinners which are (here is where the drumroll comes in....INDIANA JONES ADVENTURE DINNER!!! And SUPERHERO DINNER!!!



Hello Four Trails!!!



Reflections from the Road

Sweat drips from the furrow of your brow and sizzles as it hits the hot pavement. The rumble in your stomach motivates you to make it up and over the next hill, as you know you will soon reward and refuel your body with your perfected turkey, cheese, tomato, mustard and bar-b-que chip sandwich. The sound of song resonates off the hillside and provides the encouragement you need to make it to your mid-day destination. The final few miles pass quickly as you reflect on last night's village insight and how it applies to your life outside of camp. Alas, you hear your friend who is biking in front of you say "Slowing" and you begin to squeeze your right hand. Lunchtime! In the tree's shade you join your friends, those magnificent individuals with whom you laugh, struggle, learn from, and listen to and with whom you've grown to be comfortable as yourself around. They are traveling with you on this awesome adventure. They've been there for you when you struggled, just like how you were there for them as they struggled. As you lean back up against the tree while digesting the last morsel of some sweet treat, you put your shades down and out of the corner of your eye you catch the sun's sparkling reflection on the rim of the bikes that are propped up against the general store. The corner of your mouth turns upwards as you realize just how lucky you are. Your state of happiness is created by life's simplicity. Material items no longer matter as you realize that all you need is your bike, the gear you have loaded on it, your physical ability to power yourself forward and more importantly, the people with whom you are sharing this experience. You let out a quiet chuckle as you get up to join your buddies who are tossing around the frisbee before hopping back on the bike you've come to love, and continue to travel on this voyage of discovery. Yep, life is good, and you are living it to its fullest.



-Nicky



Whether pedaling a loaded bike, walking with a pack, or paddling a canoe we are gearing up for you summer's experience. The Four Trails program is shaping up brilliantly again this year, and Robbie and I are thrilled to work closely with you. For our Explorers, we are excited to extend our on trail time and have all three trips be four days long first session and six days long second session! In between trips we have some exciting new surprise in camp activities. Adventurers can look forward to summiting the incredible Saddleback Mountain and it's not so junior Saddleback Junior Mountain, sleeping in Sugarloaf lodge, biking along the coast in Maine or through the mountains to Vermont, or being the first to check out our brand new six day canoe trip. Adventurers also get to take on the challenge of the dangling duo while in camp. The Cat is ready to transport you audacious Voyageur cyclers to Nova Scotia where you will be given the incredible opportunity to embrace the wonderful people of Nova Scotia, bike through morning mist in the quaint port towns, and create your own, unique village experience. And although Mt. Katahdin faced some intense weather this winter, it will be ready for you Odyssey hikers to conquer, but will you be ready for it?!

Still Want to Know if We Have Spaces for this Summer?

Sessions still available:

Females:

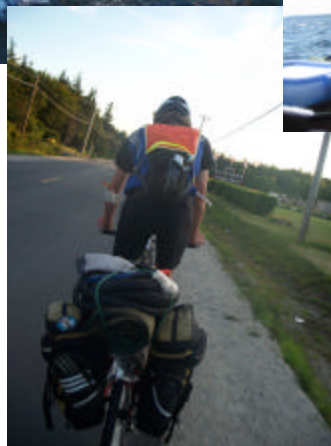
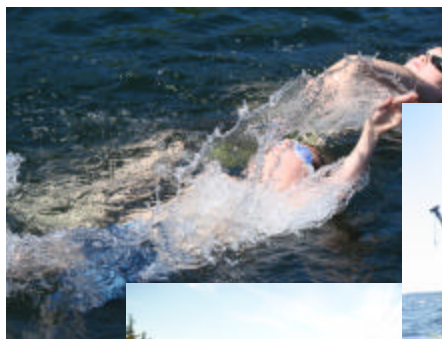
- 3 Week A Pioneer (6/29-7/17)
- 1 Week B Discoverer (7/20-7/25)
- 1 Week B Discoverer Sailing (7/20-7/25)
- 4 Week B Explorer (7/20-8/14)
- 4 Week B Voyageur (7/20-8/14)
- 3 Week B Vista (7/27-8/14)

Males:

- 2 Week A Pioneer (6/29-7/11)
- 3 Week A Adventurer Canoe/Bike (6/29-7/17)
- 3 Week A Adventurer Hike/Bike (6/29-7/17)
- 1 Week B Discoverer (7/20-7/25)
- 1 Week B Discoverer Sailing (7/20-7/25)
- 3 Week B Pioneer (7/27-8/14)
- 4 Week B Voyageur (7/20-8/14)
- 3 Week B Vista (7/27-8/14)

VISTA UPDATE

We are extremely excited that the Vista program is returning and will now be commonplace as a Four Trails program at Merrowvista. Vista is focused on providing avenues and inspiration for campers to make a difference in the wider world based on their own strengths and gifts. We hope to empower and reinforce the idea that each camper is highly capable of powerful change within their communities because of the gifts that each of them already possesses, and to connect them with professionals, organizations and philosophy that are already out there doing great things. Vista aims to both aid campers in their understanding of their values, strengths and passions as well as provide them with a multitude of means and media through which to share their gifts in supportive, engaging community setting. This summer Vista will kick off with a hike in Vermont's Green Mountains and then head over to team up with our local Ossipee Mountain Habitat for Humanity before engaging in other service learning and work. There still are a few spots available, so if you've craving another meaningful summer at Merrowvista, sign up now! Call Lisa at (603) 539-6607 ex. 2011.



NEW CAMPER CORNER

Reflections on My First Year of Camp: A Returning Camper's Letter to New Campers

Arrgh! It is the day before summer camp starts! Before, you were excited, but now you are just plain nervous. Your heart races as you think about two whole weeks away from home. I felt like this, too, when I went to summer camp for the first time. I had heard other people rave about Camp Merrowvista, but I was convinced that I would not feel the same. Wrong! I had no idea how much fun camp would be compared to home.

The first thing that makes camp far superior to home is the recreation. If you were worrying about being bored at camp like you are sometimes at home, toss that thought out of your mind! There was always something to do at Merrowvista, whether it was playing basketball, climbing a mountain, or making ice cream. Although there were no electronics allowed, in two weeks I learned to amuse myself in much better ways without them. Throughout the day, you can choose to do things that you like to do normally, or new things like windsurfing, rock climbing, ultimate Frisbee, archery, African drumming, or even improvisational acting. Whereas at home, you might not be able to get outside every day, you live outside at camp. Don't think for even a minute that you'll get bored!

Second of all, you have WAY more responsibility and freedom at camp. There is no one to tell you to do things or not to eat that cookie. If you ever get tired of your parents trying to schedule your life, then camp is for you. You are able to choose which activities you want to do at almost any time.

On that day before camp, you may think you will get lonely. However, there are tons of friendly counselors and people your age around to talk to. You are bound to make friends with someone. And you will be with people so much, you will get to know them like family, especially your bunkmates. You have parents and maybe siblings at home, but at both places there are people who care about you. Also, if you have ever lacked someone to play with at home, you will love camp.

All in all, Camp Merrowvista was a great break from home that I think everyone should be able to take. Even if at first you feel nervous and apprehensive, you will have a blast. So when you are trembling on that day before camp, think about what I have told you and realize how much fun you are going to have!

-Max Sopher
Merrowvista Camper

THEME DAYS AT CAMP, AND WHAT TO PACK

2 & 3 Week Pioneer/Trailblazer Campers:

- CrAZY DiNnEr: Mismatched clothing/ wacky clothing/wigs/etc.
- Superhero Dinner: Dress like your own superhero, or one you like.
Ex. Best Self Man (wear a cape with a B on the front in tape)

3 Week Pioneers/ Trailblazers Only:

- Pirate Water Carnival: Bring bandannas, eye patches, roll your pants up, make a hook out of tin foil, etc. Please no weapons.
- Indiana Jones Adventure: Bring safari hats, fishing vest, cowboy hat or fedora, etc.



Tips To Help You Get Ready for Camp

- Look over your "What to Bring List" to make sure you have everything
- Get your singing voice warmed up
- Start go-getting and/or training for your trips
- Make sure you've packed your favorite book and stamps for writing letters.
- Set a few goals for things you'd like to try at camp
- Practice your morning and nightly routines like brushing your teeth and getting ready for bed.
- Break in those hiking boots
- GET READY FOR THE BEST SUMMER OF CAMP EVER!!!!



Merrowvista

147 Canaan Road
Center Tuftonboro, NH 03816
603-536-6607

Merrowvista Open House

Save the Date - May 10th

New and returning camp families, please join us for our Open House Saturday, May 10th from 12pm-3pm. Meet staff, tour the facility, and see a slide presentation to help you prepare for an awesome Merrowvista Summer!

For Directions or questions please contact Lauren Abrami at labrami@ayf.com