

Returning Staff 2009

Lauren Abrami
Tisha Achorn
Caroline Anson
Hayley Anson
Ben Applebaum-Bauch
Ed Argles
Joe Baty
Max Beasley
Ashley Bennett
Elise Bowers
Rica Bryan
Quillah Burstein
Tovah Burstein
Sarah Caliendo
Ali Coburn
Geno Cruz
Pippa Davis
Lindy Dawson
Will Field
Elise Foerster
Jean Marie Gossard
Kristen Greenwald
Lillian Gritter
David Harris
Julie Harris
Kiri Hermann-Tross
Annie Jacob
Sam Kohler
Jack Lamont
Andy LeClerc
Matt Loper
Will (Golgi) Malan
Rachel Maliniak
Carla Marconi
Cat Marconi
Heather McPherson
Becca Melnick
Rosetta Morse
Cashel O'Brien
Nick Odato
Jamie O'Hagin
Patrick O'Hagin
Maggie Olson
Anny O'Neil
Claire Opel
Ali Philippides
Papa Richter
Alejandro Ruiz
Zach Schiewetz
Jess Schlenkerman
Randy Schreiner
Christopher Simonton
Jane Sinsky
Krista Snizek
Leila Sterman
Joe Tang
Amrine Tomlinson
Bootsie Vainer
Matt Waldo
Madeline Welsch
Kelsie Whitney
Marcus Willis



Vista VIEWS

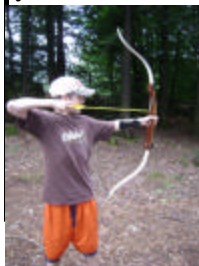
A PUBLICATION OF

Camp Merrowvista



Hello Founder Friends! I hope all of you have had a great year in your lives away from the Ossipee Mountains. For those of you who have been here before, I hope you have carried fond memories of camp with you through your adventures in the towns and cities you call home. I hope the friendships and accomplishments that you have gathered during your New Hampshire summers have pushed you to be your best selves in the months away, and that you have continued to lead balanced lives inspired by the lessons learned while living and playing at our little camp in the woods. For those of you who will be new to Merrowvista, I hope you are getting excited for your first time here, and for what I am sure will be a fun experience you will never forget. The one thing I can safely say with certainty is that those of us who are fortunate enough to be on the staff team this year are very eager to meet all of you.

Spring has arrived at Merrowvista, and after a long, cold winter, Mother Nature is doing her part to get this place ready for campers. Life has crept back into our majestic setting as the hours of daylight have stretched on longer. The feet of snow that had blanketed the ground have melted away, turning small streams into raging torrents, and emptying into a recently thawed Dan Hole Pond. The trees have started to unfurl their brand new leaves that will shade our days from the heat, and create that soothing rustle when the wind passes through. Birds have returned from their long migration and can be heard singing and calling from their perches, bringing the first notes of music back into camp. The A-field is bright green, freshly watered with spring rains, and wild flowers of every color decorate the woodlands, adding a nice touch to an already beautiful landscape. Even the waves of black flies have been kind enough to come out early, ensuring that they will be gone by the time you arrive. Everywhere you look there is something in the natural surroundings to remind you that summer is right around the corner, and camp is almost here! (Cont. Pg 2.)



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

Females:

- 2 week A Pioneer (6/28-7/10)
- 3 week A Explorer (6/28-7/16)
- 3 week A Odyssey (6/28-7/16)
- 3 week A Voyageur (6/28-7/16)
- 1 week B Discoverer (7/19-7/24)
- 2 week B Pioneer (7/26-8/7)
- 3 week B Pioneer (7/26-8/13)
- 4 week B Trailblazer(7/19-8/13)
- 4 week B Adventurer Hike/Bike (7/19-8/13)
- 4 week B Voyageur (7/19-8/13)
- 3 week B Vista (7/26-8/13)

Males:

- 2 week A Pioneer (6/28-7/10)
- 3 week A Pioneer (6/28-7/16)
- 1 week B Discoverer (7/19-7/24)
- 4 week B Explorer (7/19-8/13)
- 4 week B Adventurer Hike/Bike (7/19-8/13)
- 4 week B Voyageur (7/19-8/13)
- 3 week B Vista (7/26-8/13)



I sit here at my computer with a very big smile on my face. My winter and spring have been spent doing something that I love; talking to families, future campers, and summer staff about the magic of Merrowvista. What I have come to realize as I have these conversations is that the true magic that makes this place so special comes from you the campers. The spirit that shines bright in this community is a unification of the happiness, generosity, and kindness brought here by each individual camper. I have seen in my seven summers that each season is unique, and all are notably amazing. This year will have its own distinct legacy of unforgettable memories and new friendships made. New campers will mix with returners. Kids from around the world will work and play with those from very close by (This year we will have campers from five continents, and staff from six!). Your perspectives, your laughter, your determination, and your heart are the gifts you bring with you. They are the gifts that will bond us all together in the company of a shared experience, the gifts that keep us smiling on rainy days, the gifts that push us to keep climbing that mountain, the gifts that help us be patient and caring towards the others in our village. So, on that last night of camp, when your heart is full, and you sing out joyfully beneath the endless stretch of stars, you should beam with pride knowing that you have

helped create a thing of wonder that will long be remembered by everyone who was lucky enough to be a part of it. You are Merrowvista!

Now as camp begins to wake from its hibernation and the land readies itself for the arrival of the next group of inspiring happy campers, we here in the valley can hardly contain ourselves while we wait. Every step we take on this property rekindles images of joyful moments from the past, and sparks giddy enthusiasm for what is about to be. You can almost hear the voices echoing from the council circle, and feel the floor vibrating in the eating lodge from enthusiastic Crazy Dinner foot stomping. The Basketball court and the A-field are ready for the games and interests groups that will fill the days with excitement. The loons at the waterfront are set to watch adventurers set sail, and the celebrators that will gather for carnival. Everything will be ready for you when you get here. All you have to do is show up, have fun, seek to be your best self, and enjoy making yet another summer at Merrowvista unforgettable. We'll see you soon, and until then, be safe, laugh loud, and keep inspiring others!

-Kris



Packing Reminders, Reminders, Reminders

Packing lists were emailed this year, if you have not received a packing list via email, you can go online to www.ayf.com, click on Summer Camps Merrowvista, then click on the top link that says Handbook and Forms, and packing lists and training schedules can be downloaded and printed off. If you would like another one sent to you, you can email Lauren Abrami at labrami@ayf.com

- Don't forget your crazy dinner and 50's dinner clothes and any other fun clothing items you want to bring.
- In-Camp campers, remember to bring musical instruments or props if you want to participate in the talent show!
- Four Trails campers, remember to start breaking in those hiking boots and training for your trips.
- Voyageur campers make sure you are in the process of getting your passports.

**Magnet
goes here**

Fridge Facts

Tips to Help You Get Ready for Camp!

All Campers:

- Look over the “What to bring” list, make sure everything you need is packed and accessible. Make a list of any items you may need from the camp store and make sure you buy them before your parents depart on Opening Day. Be sure to pack a few favorite “comfort” items to help you feel comfortable – a favorite stuffed animal or pillow. Envelopes with your home address already printed on them might help encourage a few letters home!
- Out of respect for camp’s policies, please do not bring anything on the “What not to bring” list. This includes food (we don’t to attract animals or insects), cell phones, mp3 players and other electronics.
- Complete all forms and return to Merrowvista prior to opening day. Campers, this will help leaders better prepare for your arrival. It allows them to read what your favorite interests are, what you’re most excited about for camp, and what you may be a bit nervous about. It also helps leaders know what they can do to help you be the most successful during your time at camp! Know that if you have any questions before camp, you can always feel free to call us!



Pioneer/Discoverer Campers:

- Set some goals that you would like to achieve while at camp-trying a new activity, making new friends, getting to the top of the climbing wall. Try setting one or two goals and sharing those goals with your parents before the summer starts.
- Practice your camp morning routine so you’re ready to start each day right! This includes making your bed, brushing your teeth, and keeping your personal belongings neat.
- Practice taking a shower on your own-make sure you can turn the shower on and get the water ready by yourself
- Practice your night routine-washing up, brushing teeth and getting ready for bed. If you normally read a book before you fall asleep, bring a few favorites.



Trailblazer Campers:

- If you have new hiking boots, make sure to break them in before coming to camp. Wear your boots for 30 minutes of activity a day for two weeks to adequately break them in.
- Set some goals that you would like to achieve while at camp-trying a new activity, making new friends, getting to the top of the climbing wall. Try setting one or two goals and sharing those goals with your parents before the summer



Four Trails Campers:

- If you have new hiking boots, make sure to break them in before coming to camp. Wear your boots for 30 minutes of activity a day for two weeks to adequately break them in.
- Start or continue with your training schedule so that you can feel physically prepared for the trips. Feeling physically prepared for trips will reduce anxiety as camp approaches. It also increases confidence, and reduces pre-trip jitters, both of which increase the fun. This also will help reduce inquiries.
- Set some goals you would like to achieve at camp-learn how to repair your own bike, feeling at “home” in the backcountry, or setting goals to accomplish more than you thought you could. Try to make one or two concrete goals and share them with your parents before coming to camp!
- Take some time to think about how the Four Fold Balanced Living philosophy of mental, physical, religious/spiritual, and social challenges and successes will develop in your trip.



We've tried to entertain ourselves in these long winter/spring months, but it's no use...
Some camp things are just more fun with campers



Knockout



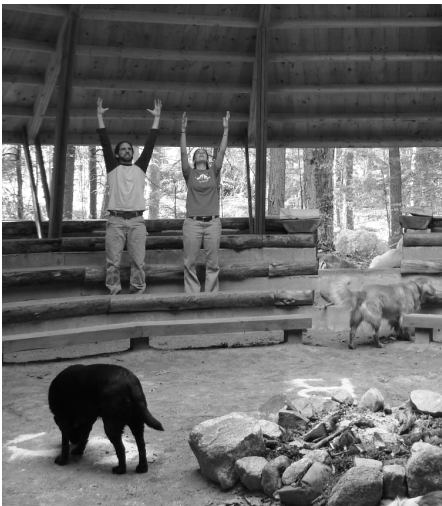
Crazy Dinner



Song Challenges



**Capture
the
Flag**



Council Fires



Talent Show



Tetherball

We cannot wait to see you all this summer...and then the fun and joy of camp can
really begin!!!



Merrowvista

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



Join us for the Annual Merrowvista Open House

Save the Date - May 16th

New and returning camp families, please join us for our Open House Saturday, May 16th from 1:00pm-4:00pm. Meet staff, tour the facility, and see a slide presentation to help you prepare for an awesome Merrowvista Summer!

For directions, questions and/or to RSVP please contact Lauren Abrami at labrami@ayf.com