

THE TOWANDA TIMES

OUR 92ND YEAR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CAMP TOWANDA, HONESDALE PA



For Boys & Girls - Established 1923
Nestled in Northeastern Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains
Owners & Directors: Mitch and Stephanie Reiter

Winter Address: 4 York Court, New City, NY, 10956-1148
Tel: 845-639-4582 Fax: 845-638-2194
Summer Address: 700 Niles Pond Rd., Honesdale, PA 18431-6537
Tel: 570-253-3266 Fax: 570-253-6334
Web Site: www.camptowanda.com E-mail: info@camptowanda.com



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Vol. 92 No. 8

"Livin' 10-4-2!"

©2014 Summer

WE DID SO MUCH MORE IN 20-1-4!

When we reflect on the Summer of 2014, it's amazing to remember all the incredible things we did, accomplished and experienced. This year was extra special, as all of camp joined in celebrating Mitch and Stephanie's 25th summer as owners/directors of Camp Towanda! It is hard to believe it was only seven short weeks ago that all of the campers returned to their summer home. We have packed so much into this short time, that we each walk away with a lifetime of memories that will pull us back and keep us connected.

Camp Towanda is a very special place where it doesn't take long for new friends to be walking hand in hand and old friends to forget the long winter months that separate us. Each of you probably have an enormous box filled with memories of every summer spent at Towanda. Carry that box carefully. Open it often to remind yourself of the games you've played, the people you've met and the times you've spent here. There are few places left where everyone is unplugged, speaks face to face, and the currency of life is happiness. Where smiles are free and laughter is abundant.

It may seem like the journey for Deb or Jet to Dorm or Club is a long one, but ask any Dorm girl or Club boy and they will tell you it flies by. It doesn't take long to move from sitting in the first row to sitting in the back, which is why we encourage you to slow down, don't sweat the small stuff and take it all in. Treasure every bump in the windy dirt road as you head home, because it will also be the road that brings you back to Camp Towanda for the summer of 2015.



Summer Recap *by Andrew Rowan*

Another fantastic summer is unfortunately coming to a close. From the first day to the very last, there were so many great activities and traditions. We saw the return of Dippin' Dots, which brought a smile to everyone's face. In daily activities, the specialists in all departments helped campers (and even counselors) learn new skills and improve on old ones. "I've loved teaching everyone this summer and it's great to see how much everyone has grown in just 7 weeks," says Elie from soccer. As reported by the Towanda Sports Center's head anchor, Coach Lee, all of our teams played their hardest in all inter-camp games and they did a great job. So many traditions such as Airbands, Girls' Sing, Friday Night Services, FNF, Unique Entertainment, Towanda Open, Gold Rush, and the Counselor Hunt happened this year and I think everyone had an amazing time participating in all of them.

This summer also saw a CT first! Maria and Juan became the first Spanish Presidents of Camp! Congrats to them both and they did a great job!

The 2014 Olympics was so much fun, but still competitive. From Breakout on the basketball court, to Rope Burning, and Apache (with only an 11 second difference between Red and Blue), everyone played their hardest and cheered on their teams. Over all the Blue Ski Patrol came out on top. The Boys' Head counselor Bob calls this summer "the best yet!" For the next 10 months we'll remember the summer of 2014 fondly and think about all the great friends and memories we made.

I'll leave you thinking about the summer of 2014 with this quote from Stephen Elwell, "this summer was like a rollercoaster. It had ups and downs, twists and turns but you always come out smiling and wanting to go again!"



GOLD RUSH

by Morgan Schachter

I am telling you about Gold Rush 2014. We hunted down the gold (aka painted rocks), avoided the water guns and bid at the auction for awesome prizes like early showers or a playdate with camp kids. It was fun but challenging to find the painted rocks. We picked up every rock even though we didn't know if the rocks were going to be worth negative or positive points. I had fun working hard with Girls' Bunk 3!



Fort Night

by Jamie Strauss & Hanna Torine

We are going to tell you about Fort Night. Fort Night is when you make your bunk into anything you want. For example, fashion shows, restaurants, toy stores and more. After you dress up your bunk, judges come around and look at your bunk. You perform a skit and the judges judge each and every bunk's skit. The next day the judges announce the winner of Fort Night. We hope we win!

WAYNE COUNTY FAIR

The Wayne County Fair is always a big hit with Towanda campers and counselors! This year did not disappoint! There were giant bananas to be won, blooming onions to be enjoyed and endless rides! The Root Beer Mug Club continues to grow! Apparently it was a lot of fun!



5 Year Club President

A lesser known position at camp is the 5 Year Club President. However, this year one candidate brought the nomination process to unseen levels. Max Saltzman is honored to be the new President and earned the position in part because of his election speech, segments of which can be read below.

by Max Saltzman

When I stepped off the bus my Junior summer, all I wanted to do was to be able to one day tell my children that during my Camp Towanda career, I was the five-year club president. Now, with your help, I hope to be able to look forward to doing just that. After five long years of waiting, my name will hopefully be on the most important plaque at Camp Towanda!

Whats next for Max Saltzman? I'm going for the trifecta. I plan on winning the pumpkin carving contest, as well as lazy day mixed doubles. Later in life, if I'm lucky, I hope to be the first ever LIT to win lower camp girls' specialist of the week, as well as the Order of the Rainbow. That's right Lisa, I'm coming for you.

Some people care about getting seargeant, some care about lieutenant, and in some rare cases, some people care about getting CC. I have, and always will, prioritize the five-year club presidency before anything else. Thank you.



5 YEAR CLUB



TOWANDA SPORTSCENTER

Stay tuned to the Towanda Blog for Coach Lee's full recap of 2014 sports.

Yet another very successful season has come and gone at Camp Towanda, leaving us all asking the same question: where did the summer go? But this was a year of transition as we look to take Towanda sports to the next level. Towanda Sports Center is a new concept, with a fresh outlook. Its popularity has grown among campers and staff and its momentum seems to have begun a new surge of energy as Towanda sports – Along with the “real world of sports – is moving with the times. Towanda Sports Center wishes everyone a good winter, many happy thoughts and promises of a 2015 season that will raise the bar. To all our campers, families and staff, all the very best and see you in June.



WAYNE COUNTY CHAMPIONS

- Girls 6th Grade Tennis Singles - Allie Green
- Boys 10th/11th Grade Team Tennis Singles – Nicholas Modet
- Grade Tennis Mixed Doubles – Nicholas Modet & Marina Sagredo
- Girls 7th Grade Soccer
- Girls 5th Grade Basketball
- Boys 9th Grade Soccer
- Girls 5th Grade Soccer

TOWANDA TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

- Girls 7th Grade Basketball
- Boys 7th Grade Lacrosse
- Girls 7th Grade Soccer
- Boys 7th Grade Basketball
- Boys 9th Grade Flag Football



WAYNE COUNTY RUNNERS-UP

- Boys 8th Grade Team Tennis
- Boys 5th Grade Soccer
- Boys 9th Grade Lacrosse
- Girls 7th Grade Basketball
- Boys 7th Grade Lacrosse
- Girls 10th/11th Grade Softball
- Girls 10th/11th Grade Soccer

RENEGADE TOURNAMENT WINNERS

- Boys 4th Grade Basketball

INDIAN HEAD INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT WINNERS

- Boys 4th Grade Baseball

FAKE OUT!

Each year the Club boys plot to trick all of camp into believing that Breakout is really happening and this year they definitely had us fooled! Morning line up was interrupted by the Red Hyrda and the Blue Shield.

Generals were called but the Club yelled “Fake out!” before Camper Captains were announced. The next day, as the All Camp Play took their final bows, a message from the Capital appeared on screen and banners for the Blue Capital and Red District emerged from the darkness. The Generals were called...then male Camper Captains...then female Camper Captains! This had to be it! Olympics 2014! But, the Club, with the help of the Dorm, had us fooled! Fake out! Finally, just as everyone was about to receive all camp canteen, music thumped from main soccer where a blue faced DJ was spinning the beats. The record screeched to a halt and rock and roll took over the airwaves as a guitar wielding rockstar raced down the zip line!

Everything seemed so real but they had us all fooled.

Well done, Club Boys. FAKE OUT!



OLYMPICS 2014



Generals

Sam Kaplan
 Kyle Maynes
 Brandon Reiter

Camper Captains

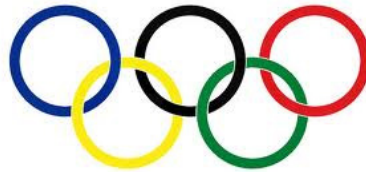
Gideon Abramowitz
 Evan Lapidus
 Jared Levy

Lieutenants

Griffin Lanel
 Cory Weintraub

Sergeants

Jake Cohen
 Jenna Kravitz
 Bari Yorke



Generals

Stephen Elwell
 Max Gold
 Brett Spivack

Camper Captains

Matt Epstein
 Zach Keller
 Evan Seiden

Lieutenants

Reed Blee
 Tyler Fein

Sergeants

Tyler Bolog
 Noah Seligson



DAY ONE Despite the snow that still covered the main basketball court the first morning of Olympics, it was a warm and sunny start to the Olympic Games. After raising the official Olympic flag, everyone took to the field and courts (except basketball which was still on snow delay) for the first day of competition. From flag football to softball and of course Ghost, the competition was tight. The first evening saw Tug-O-War take place on main soccer, followed by late night soccer and basketball. The Red Lifeguard ended the day in the lead but the Blue Ski Patrol were only a few points behind.

DAY TWO The Girls hit the track in the morning racing through events including the marathon, potato shuffle, and relays. Both teams ran as fast as they could! During the afternoon, the boys jumped into the pool for the swim meet. The Olympic spirit was tangible at all events as both teams cheered on their team mates and supported their competitors. Following the final Shabbos Dinner of the summer, enjoyed in silent Olympic style, cumulative long jump took place around camp. By the end of the day the Blue Ski Patrol had taken the Olympic lead with a score of 1321 points, compared to Red's 1203 points.



DAY THREE During the morning of day three, the boys took their turn on track. The girls took to the pool for some laps and boating competition in the afternoon. The main event of day three was Rope Burning. Campers had spent the first two days of Olympics gathering the wood that would be used to build their fires higher, higher. The evening was perfect conditions for a tight Rope Burning competition with both the sun and the moon making an appearance. Fires were lit quickly but Red brought the heat and burnt both their ropes with a near record time of 11:29. The Blue team faced challenges but never gave up as not only their team, but the entire camp cheered for them. Finally, after 26 minutes and 18 seconds, their final rope burnt through. It was an intense competition.



DAY FOUR There are very few things as exciting at Camp Towanda as the running of the annual Apache Relay. Every camper is assigned a task and each task is as important as the next. From running laps, to popping balloons, the sunken canoe race and the challenging sail (this year with very little wind), and finally the water brigade; every member of the team is integral to succeeding in the Apache Relay. It was a close race with Red winning by only 11 seconds.



DAY FIVE The last day of Olympics was filled with a few final activities and preparations for Olympic Sing. Both teams transformed the Fieldhouse. The Blue team carried the Judgies away to a winter wonderland complete with ski slopes, hot chocolate and snow machines! The Red team brought the sunshine and beach into

the Fieldhouse, but watch out for sharks! The Red team literally entered from the belly of the beast, walking through the sharp teeth of a shark! Both teams sang with pride and enthusiasm. It was clear the judgies would need time to deliberate. While they did so, all of camp enjoyed a cold ice cream to help beat the heat! Finally, with only 100 points separating the teams, the Blue Ski Patrol were declared the winners of Olympics 2014!



Final Score Red Lifeguards 2823, Blue Ski Patrol 2923

OLYMPIC REVIEW!

Olympic and Breakout are events at Camp Towanda like no other! Every year campers and counselors look forward to the moment when *Is There Anybody Out There* plays and the real deal Olympics begins! This year Breakout included snowmobiles and a basketball court covered in snow! Here are a few camper accounts of just what happened that eventful winter(ish) night and the 5 Olympic days that followed!



by Emma Fetterman, Jessie Ostrow & Ava Weiss
2014 included #TBT Dippin' Dots for the first time in a few years and Mars vs. Venus, an event that hasn't happened in about 20 years! Then, at a sing-along, they played "Let it go", but everyone thought it was normal because everyone loves that song. Right after, a snowmobile drove through and everyone followed it to main basketball. It was covered in snow! Breakout 2014! Red Lifeguards vs Blue Ski Patrol! YAAAAA!

by Zachary Helperin
Watermelon Cantalope, Uh, Baby burn that rope! Wow, camp went by really fast and rope burning was one of the best events of Towanda 20-1-4! Red and Blue both cheered very hard. They both should get a pat on the back. It was great, but Blue lost Rope Burning. It took them longer than Red to burn their ropes but the whole team cheered all night! Wow! See you in 2015! Can't wait for it!

by Shelby Buckstein
It was Mars vs. Venus when Olympics broke out. A ski mobile came driving in and everybody chased it! Then the song played. Olympics for me was very fun. We did things like Newcomb, soccer, kickball, softball and basketball. We also had Apache. In Apache, my job was to run across the soccer field. Red won Apache! We also had Rope Burning which Red also won! I had a blast cheering on my team at sing. Even though Blue won Olympics, I still had the time of my Life!

by Adam Davis
The whirl of Snowmobiles, the banners came out! Red Lifeguards vs Blue Ski Patrol. The adrenaline rush of Apache; the scenery, the plaques! It's too big to describe. It doesn't matter who won because everybody is one Towanda team in the end. Team Purple!



It took an entire team of people to create the winter wonderland that ushered in this year's Olympic competition.

Big congrats to Mark Eichner, the recipient of this year's Big O Award!

Dorm Alma Mater 2014

Let Go by Tyrone Wells



Hold onto the memories of all we've been through
 I'll never forget, that's my promise to you
 Even when its all over, I'll stay true
 So thankful for each year that I've spent with you

It's still hard to see you go,
 Cause you mean everything to me.
 My sisters, my strength, my soul

Dorm 14 is meant to be
 Can't accept we're leaving now,
 Hand in hand through ups and downs,
 And I can't let go right now, Please don't go.

You're my home.
 Please don't go.
 I love you.



TOWANDA TWINS*

*Previously known as Towanda Clones

They say if you spend enough time with someone, you start to look like them!
 Well that definitely seems to be true at Camp! Check out all these Twins! Can you figure out who is who!?



1. _____
 2. _____



1. _____
 2. _____



1. _____
 2. _____



1. _____
 2. _____

Who's Who!?

Number 1 is the left and number 2 is the right!
 Can you figure out which goes where?

1. Amanda Merovitz & Eliza Garmise
2. Brenan Grossman & Matthew Dubin
3. Alex Klein & Carsyn Balter
4. Aiden Neidoff & Jonny Hamwee
5. Jacob Weisberger & Zachary Halperin
6. Hannah Frydman & Sophie Krejci
7. Samantha Goldberg & Dylan Rosen
8. Findley McRae & Shea Huberman & Jake Weiss



1. _____
 2. _____



1. _____
 2. _____



1. _____
 2. _____



1. _____
 2. _____

Eliza Garmise
 Brenan Grossman
 Carsyn Balter
 Jonny Hamwee
 Jacob Weisberger
 Sophie Krejci
 Samantha Goldberg
 Findley McRae

Amanda Merovitz
 Matthew Dubin
 Alex Klein
 Aiden Neidoff
 Zachary Halperin
 Hannah Frydman
 Dylan Rosen
 Jake Weiss

Shea Huberman

NEW CAMPER FALL FOLIAGE BBQ

Everyone is welcome at camp!
A great opportunity to enjoy the
changing colors of the leaves and
spend a day at camp!



Saturday

September 20, 2014

10:30am - 3:00pm

RSVP by September 15



Hosted by Dorm 2015



FLORIDA BEACH PARTY

Everyone's welcome to join the fun: campers (old & new), staff, parents, alumni, friends, prospective campers and their families. If you're heading south for the holidays, we'd love to see you!! Bring lotion, camera & towel! Rain or Shine, we will be there.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26, 2014

11:30 AM to 3:00 PM ish!

Spanish River Park, Pavillion #1

Lunch provided!

Sandwiches, chips, soda and water!

More Details Coming Soon!



NY/NJ AREA REUNION

10:30am - 1:00pm

Saturday November 22, 2014

Location to be
announced soon!

STAFF:

Let us know if you are returning for 2015!!!
If you want a copy of 2014 FNF Highlights, please send us an email with the correct mailing address. We'll mail it in December. Of course, you can also pick it up at the NY/NJ Reunion! Hope to see you there!

NEW CAMPER GROUP "SCOOP"



For all new for 2015 campers
and their parents!
Sunday Jan. 11, 2015,
1:00 PM Sharp 'til 3 PM
at the Fort Lee DoubleTree on
Rt 4 East.
Details will be mailed.
Please RSVP!

UNPLUGGED

*This poem is an ode to living the unplugged lifestyle
that we cherish so much at Camp Towanda.
As we re-enter life with technology at our fingertips, it's
good to remember WHY we love
the camp life so much!*

My alarm is a bugle from an old megaphone
Not a song I downloaded or a cool new ringtone

I wake up and look to my left and my right
Not to the table where my phone rests at night.

Surrounded by friends at the start of my day
Never thinking about what I missed while away.

My hands are free to walk arm in arm
We can all sing aloud to the same favorite song.

I don't miss my playlist, I now love the Grateful Dead
I live in the moment and don't look too far ahead.

At the table we talk and our hands are for eating
Unless we're banging on tables, chanting and cheering.

At rest hour we play games, but not the video kind,
It's a time to connect, relax and unwind.

We write letters not texts, we give thumbs up and we smile
We snap and we chat and our feelings last a while.

There's no FOMO at camp, cause you're a part of it all.
Your camp family is there to make sure you don't fall.

You talk face to face and don't speak in code,
No location tracking required, you're all on the same road.

It's quite a relief to be unplugged and free,
Wouldn't it be great if this is how life could always be.

It's amazing when we leave our devices behind,
The true meaning of connection is what we all find.