

Vol. 94 No. 2 Holiday Issue

"I miss the sights, sounds & smells of camp"

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T IS FOR TOWANDA

Camp Towanda is very lucky to have Jason Charney on our Senior Staff. A father, a teacher, an incredible Group Leader, and a wonderful friend to so many! "Charney" addressed camp last summer during one of our weekly shabbos services.

There comes a time in a person's life when a parent or guardian makes a life-altering choice for them. For some it occurs around eight or nine years old, for others it may even be 11 or twelve years old, but for me it was at 43. It took a while, but I now consider myself one of the fortunate few who get to be a part of something special: part of *Camp Towanda*. I never had the opportunity to attend camp as a child; my parents were not able to provide me with this amazing gift. As a result, I had no idea what an incredible experience I was missing out on.

From the moment my family and I set foot on the *Camp Towanda* property, four years ago, we knew we were somewhere special. The smiling faces everywhere, the classic rock music, and the smell of the campfire all added to the aura of camp. Speaking to campers and counselors, and hearing Mitch and Stephanie speak from their hearts about this intangible "feeling" at Towanda, we knew we had found our home.

I'm not quite sure if, as a child, you are able to fully appreciate the opportunity you have in front of you here at Towanda, but as an adult, I can try to explain it to you. When you are older, you will look back upon your experiences here at Towanda and you will remember all the great times you had.

If you are lucky enough to become a counselor, you will have the ability to share those experiences with new campers.

Even if you are not a counselor, you will share the stories with your friends, and one day, maybe even with your own children. They will all sit quietly, riveted to your every word as you tell them about the legendary shoot out win in the Cadet soccer Wayne County semi-finals, or the amazing three-point buzzer-beater your counselor made in the All-Star hoops game. You will tell about getting caught in the rain at the Montage Mountain as a Deb or Dillie or Jet or Cadet, only to see the sky clear up, leading to the best ever water park trip. You will smile ear to ear as you talk about the time you were able to overcome your fears as you scaled the climbing wall and zipped together with your amazing counselor as all of your fellow group-mates cheered you on.

You will attempt to explain the deafening cheers in the dining hall, trying to get Mitch to "shake his booty," and of course, you will describe in full detail, the best ever Olympic breaks of each and every summer you are here. The stories will go on forever, lasting generations, as we all are a special part of Towanda History.

I always love to hear former Towanda campers tell stories of their days here at Towanda; it is awesome to see them come up, right where I am standing, and tell about how they were lucky enough to "grow-up" here. I am able to offer a different view, one of an adult who may not be growing up here at camp, but one who is definitely growing here at Camp Towanda. As an adult, I get to watch you all form childhood bonds that will last well past the time you reach my age.

This past summer, during the Alumni BBQ, I saw old friends, I mean really old friends meeting back at their favorite place in the

world, *Camp Towanda*. The excitement for them was as real today as it was ten, twenty, even forty or more years ago. There is magic here, and we are all a part of it.

As a father of four children, all of whom are here at Towanda, I get to see how these bonds continue through the school year, and how they grow stronger every day. During the school year, because of Towanda, what used to be called my old man music is now referred to as "camp music." Playing Frisbee is now a fun choice, not something to do because you lost electronics for the day. Clearing your place at the table is done without me asking, not because my kids were told to do it. Asking a friend to go out and play takes the place of mom or dad arranging a play-date. Because of Towanda, my family has extended to all parts of the world, and I will always be happy in a vale of pine and birch trees, in Honesdale, PA.

Anyone can find a piece of land with a lake, bunks, an art barn, and a field house to call a camp, but it is the people that make it magical. So thank you to Mitch and Stephanie, Bob and Amy, the Peltons and Neff, but most of all, thank you to the kids and counselors that make Towanda the place my family and I will always call home. I look forward to seeing you all back here at camp for the summer of 2016!

Charrey

What We Hear From The Mansion Porch!!!



Congratulations to Alex Phillips Penziner and Matt Penziner (that's right they met at camp, yet they were the last to know—LOL!!!!) on the birth of their daughter, Maya...Lindsay & Tyler Bisk found a 2.5 pound Kit-Kat bar; meanwhile Jodi Hodge "Fabrizio" Evans sent us a pix from Australia of a make your own Kit-Kat Studio and also Ari Citrin made great use of his Halloween Kit-Kats (see all 3 pix)...Congratulations to FSD Tomas Rais on the birth of his daughter...And at school, Marni Schwarz (Dorm '21) shared these Thanksgiving thoughts: "This year I went to sleep away camp for the first time. In my group there were 30 girls.



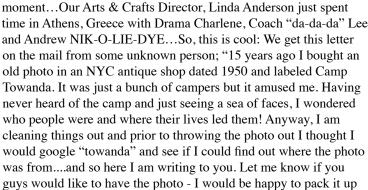




10 of them were in my bunk. Those girls helped me through challenging times, such as the first day, homesickness, my phone call home, visiting day, and finally, the last day of camp. All of those times they helped me by saying "It's ok you will see your family soon." Some of them are now my best friends. I am thankful that I am able to go to camp"...Naomi Goldstein is a professor at Drexel University and runs a juvenile justice research and



reform lab for the Department of Psychology and recently traveled to Argentina...Lloyd Danzig recently met up with his counselor, Wade Rugg, while he is studying Computer Science at Columbia...Hank Azaria can be seen on TV's *Ray Donavan* and Michael Novick's cousin recently interviewed Hank at CitiField......Former Drama Tony Prather misses camp and plans to be back with his family in 2 years...Lee Taylor (1960-67) says he enjoys staying in touch via our social media and Towanda Times...Judgie Neil Ross shares an August, 1974 issue of "TheTowander-er", the predecessor of *The Towanda Times* (see pix)...Aunt Jo sends her love to her CT family...Club 2007's Eric Ostern says he wishes he could return...Congratulations to Emma Leipsner who worked on a very impressive English Language Arts PowerPoint presentation; the assignment was to identify a defining moment in your life and make a "video" presentation about that moment. Emma chose her Olympiad





and send it your way - thought it might be fun to have somewhere there on site; see pix of Ryan Forman (Club '21 & 2nd generation son of Lauren Eckstein-Forman, our Communications Director)...Shout outs from Debbie

Slotnick Miron and brother Mark...C'mon, this is better than Facebook, send us your news, updates, gossip and milestones; get them in the next issue!

In Memoriam

We regret to inform our camp family of the passing of Roz Stockfeder, wife of Murray Stockfeder, Boys Head Counselor (1973 – 1983), mother of Margie Stockfeder Arkin (Dorm, 1978, CC, Blue Scientists) and Steven Stockfeder (Club, 1983, CC, Blue Mariners).

Roz could always be seen around Camp Towanda helping where needed. She was the unofficial "Camp Mom" for Boys' Camp during those years. The Camp Towanda Family expresses their deepest sympathy to The Stockfeder's.

ATTENTION ALUMNI

Have great old camp photos? send in your #tbt's to

jared@camptowanda.com

for your chance to be featured on the official Camp Towanda instagram!



LUCKY STRIKE REUNION

The annual New York Area Reunion did not disappoint!

Dating back to old school reunions at Sportsworld in Paramus, NJ to our brief stint at Space Odyssey in Englewood, NJ and in most recent years at LUCKY STRIKE in West Nyack, NY, this year's reunion continued the tradition of "Controlled Excitement and Chaos" that we all look forward to every year!

Hundreds of campers, parents and a few handfuls of staff and alumni make for a crazy 2 ½ hours of "camp fun"...or at least as much as it can be off the hallowed soil of Towanda! Instagram photo booth pix, cold pizza (now that's camp), sandwiches and gluten free options (didn't have that at Sportsworld) along with Friday Nite Flix highlights, bowling, billiards and other games helped make this year's event "good, crazy, fun"!

For the first timer it can be a bit overwhelming; for the returnee, it's a great chance to see their "Towanda peeps"! Everyone left with a goody bag and the countdown continues! Those of you who signed in...check out your penmanship!

Next stop—The Florida Beach Party on December 26th

(see directions and info in this issue and in your CampMinder Forms & Documents section)





On a very clear, starry late, late night on August 5th, 2015 at 3:30 AM, a secret crew met at the White Rock to assemble an incredibly realistic large 16-foot tall pyramid.

By 4:30 AM, the pyramid was sealed and ready; the camels were greeted and fed on the dirt road. At 5:00 AM, when the sunrise started to glisten, the soon-to-be honored Generals met at their designated camel!

At 5:46 AM, the Generals, their entourage and camels began their simultaneous approach to boys' and girls' campus. With everything and everyone in place, at precisely 6:00 AM, the stranger than normal reveille re-mix that included *Walk Like an Egyptian* and *Is There Anybody Out There* played over the PA system.

Campers and staff popped out of their beds, peered out their windows, meandered onto their porches; some dazed, some confused, some confounded, perplexed, baffled and bewildered and yet, some ready, eager and good to go! What they saw were real live camels, Generals dressed in costume as Egyptians, camel herders and snake charmers walking and being escorted through campus with the camels.

Everyone followed the caravan towards the White Rock where they came upon the great pyramid. As everyone congregated on the basketball court more Generals busted out of the pyramid revealing the team banners. Head Judgies Bob Miller and Amy Miller blasted he air horns signifying the start of Olympics 2015

with The Red Snake Charmers and Blue Pharaohs!

Then we had breakfast!





A friend for Casper????

As Casper, The Camp Dog, approaches his 11th birthday, he invites the Towarda Family to send in name suggestions just in case there is a "generation canine transition".

After all, when Casper became heir apparent after 14-Year old Taxi, he appreciated the transition!

Casper says "Don't worry, I'm still good, I'm not going anywhere. I still go crazy when it comes to a good lawn mower, leaf blower or stray chicken (or goat)!".

Some dog name suggestions so far:

Yogi
 Taylor Haber The Dog

HeyGoatWanda

Send your suggestions to mitch@camptowanda.com

Editor's Note: It is not clear when another dog will join the Towanda Family;

we're just barking up a tree right now!



WOC AROUND THE CLOCK

Our year round Winter Office Crew (affectionately known as "The W.O.C") is working from our new office in Demarest, NJ, in full preparation mode for next summer!

Since you will be working with, speaking to and calling upon The W.O.C. in the off-season, we want to refresh you on who's who:

MARK ZIDES (You've probably heard of the great and mighty "Z" already) - Operations Director

Known as the guru of the camping industry, Z has been part of Towanda for 19 years, taking care of all the backroom logistics. Essentially, we have no problems... we have Z!

LAUREN ECKSTEIN FORMAN (former camper, counselor, and Olympics general) - Communications Director Lauren has joined our winter team full-time. In addition to her Social Media, Website and Blog duties, Lauren is now the Parent Liaison for enrolled families and Supervisor of the W.O.C.. Lauren keeps us all on our toes, social media savvy and the best in our field, while communicating and appropriately getting the word of Towanda out there. 13 years at camp.

SHARI CRONE- Tour Director

Shari now joins us in the off season, too! Welcoming new families to Camp Towanda and making plans with them to visit this summer. With the insight of a concerned parent and the experience of being on our Senior Staff, Shari's spirit, knowledge of camp, approachability and stamina makes her a great New Families Liaison. 3 years at camp.

MIKE NOTARANGELO (Everyone knows him as Mike The Plumber) - Head Caretaker

MTP lives and loves every blade of grass on camp. It is his home year-round and he takes great pride in the maintenance, care and new projects and works closely with the W.O.C. team and Mitch. 7 Years at camp.

JONATHAN PENNER (aka. Penner) - Finance Manager

After stepping in this summer to help out in the office with EVERYTHING, Penner returns to his role in accounting, bookkeeping, contracts and payments. He also is quick to jump on the lawn tractor or power up the leaf vacuum. 6 Years at camp.

JARED REITER (born and raised at camp) - Hospitality & Safety Manager

Jared is our Head Tour Guide and resident Lego Master. He is also in charge of our staff relations, working closely with the returning staff and alumni staff that help make our camp family so strong. Jared is also the camp's Certified Safety Director, Certified SafeServe Food Manager and is completing his Master's in Camp Administration. He is certainly not afraid to get down and dirty; helping with many of the onsite projects at camp. 27 years at camp.

MATT MILLER (of the 4th generation Towarda Millers) - Operations Manager

Matt works closely with Z in our laundry, kitchen, transportation, and baggage departments. In addition, Matt assists by fine-tuning special events for the summer program and takes the lead in our Staff Recruiting, Orientation and ACA Standards Accreditation process. 24 years at camp.

ERICA GULLIVER (aka Erica Media) - Head of Media

You all know Erica well during the summer, as she is in charge of our Media Team, capturing all the photos and creating memorable Friday Nite Flix. She works with us in the off-season on the Towarda Times, event promotion, graphic design and new videos. 10 years at camp.

This team above works very closely together to get things done and support our camp families (no matter their title)! We hope you will agree this is a pretty sweet crew for our *Sweet Summer of 2016*!



Celebrating 27 Years as Camp Towarda Owners and Directors and 94 Years of Great Towarda Traditions.

Camp Towanda Winter Address PO Box 12 Demarest NJ 07627 USA Year Round Phone Number: 570-253-3266



As many of you know, Mitch is president of this national organization that provides underprivileged children the opportunity to experience the advantage and edge of sleep away camp. SCOPE funds camperships at non-profit residential camps (thusly, helping the camps, too) and following through with college support.

Many Towanda campers, staff, parents, alumni and friends have contributed time, energy and money to SCOPE. Some efforts include events and sales during the summer, volunteering at off-season fundraiser events, creating school events that support, Mitzvah projects and business contributions.

Our Dorm, Club, LIT and CITs are involved in the SCOPE Junior Leadership Council.

And Jared Reiter is on the Young Leaders Board!

Shout out to Evan Seiden for organizing a Bake Sale at his school that netted \$350.00 and www.MitzvahMarket.com, Modell's Sporting Goods and all of our camper volunteers at recent events (Allie Chaiken, Evan Seiden, Josh Merlin, Huggie, Jake Weinstein and Sydney Levy).

Check out **SCOPEUSA.ORG** for the latest events for all ages.

We are looking for volunteers for the April 5 Benefit Dinner at the Conrad Hotel in Manhattan (where we will officially welcome Towanda Alumni Hank Azaria to the Honorary Board)! ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AND SUPPORT! THIS FUN EVENING!

To our Floridian Families; SCOPE is currently looking for an adult to head up our SouthEast Chapter; please contact Mitch if you are interested. This is a great opportunity!

SCOPE currently has chapters in New York, Chicago, South Florida, Texas and we are always looking to expand (Anyone for New England or West Coast?).

There are other ways to #SupportScope, including starting a SCOPE fundraiser in your own community. Visit their website to learn more!



CAMP AND GIVING

With the holiday gift-giving season upon us, we thought it was fitting to recognize what we believe is the greatest gift a parent can give a child...it can't be wrapped, it can't be opened, it can only be experienced...because it is the gift of CAMP. Our campers tell us repeatedly throughout the summer how thankful they are. During our weekly Friday Night Services, we take time to reflect, appreciate and value all that camp gives us. When parents send us (and are surprised by) letters of gratitude that they receive from their camper, we remind them how much of our program is about appreciating how lucky we are to have the privilege of camp.

Camp Towanda is proud to support and be involved with many philanthropic organizations. We teach, demonstrate and encourage our campers and staff about the importance of giving back, being involved and caring. There are several opportunities during camp and throughout the year for our families to get involved, including the Foundation Fighting Blindness Vision Walk, Project Morry Swim-a-Thon, Walk-a-Thon and Basketball-a-Thons, and SCOPE (Summer Camp Opportunities Promote Education). At Camp Towanda, giving back is so important to the fabric of our camp and culture and as a result, campers gain an even deeper appreciation for their own experiences.

We want to share some other ways that you and your camper can share the gift of camp and some of the causes we support at Towanda. In addition to SCOPE...

Morry's Camp

In the summer we swim laps and shoot hoops to help send kids to camp. You can also support this organization year-round through their <u>website</u> and winter events and auctions. Congratulations To Janine and Stephen Rosen (Stephen is Alum) on bidding and winning The Morry's Camp online tuition bid. Twelve camps (including Towanda) donated a camper tuition to help raise funds for Project Morry. Of all the camps and bidders; The Rosen's won!

We are very proud of their genorosirty and support!

Vision Walk

You can still purchase a Vision Walk T-Shirt designed by our LITs of 2015 and proceeds go to Foundation Fighting Blindness. Send a \$25 check to Camp Towarda. The Spring, 2016 VisionWalk date has not yet been announced...but get your shirt ready!

And thank you to all our camp families that donated during our *Holiday Food Drive* at the NY Area Reunion!

Coming in the next issue of The Towarda Times will be information on our very own Towarda Campership Fund!

Together we can share the gift of camp and pay it forward!



EVERYTHING CAMPER



EVERYTHING CAMPER is the official outfitter for the Camp Towanda uniform and packing list. It's never too early!

The 2016 Packing List is now on Campminder (CLICK HERE FOR DIRECT LINK). We will be using Everything Camper again this summer as our Official Outfitter for our required uniformed items. A new addition to the list is the Camp Towanda Sweatshirt Blanket to cover the end of the beds (which will be up on their website in January- along with some other cool new items). To introduce this, Everything Camper and your pals at Camp Towanda are providing this required blanket as a free gift to all lower camp campers when they place their order by April 4th! The blanket is not required for Upper Camp campers (but you can purchase it if you wish—it is really nice). You can also start booking your appointment with Everything Camper during one of their upcoming roadshows. <u>Click here to visit their website</u>. This is especially helpful for 1st time families.

VIRTUAL TOWANDA

The new and improved Virtual Tour is here! It is the next best thing to being here! Take out your iPhone! Go to our website! Click on the 2nd slide that says: "Take The Virtual Tour!" After the Tour loads, Click on the little globe on the right side of the "Show Locations" green bar.

Switch to Landscape view,

Stand up, hold your phone in front of you and move to the left, right, up & down!

Touch yellow arrows to move to a new location! Have fun!

(Soon to be available straight from our APP)





NEW Master Builder Master Clinic

Coming this summer...

experience the LEGO Room like never before! Take part in the Master Builder Master Clinic and explore the LEGO universe while developing key STEM (that's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) skills!

> More Details in January about this and all of our Master Clinics.

Birthdays are now listed on the Official Camp Towanda Facebook page and on the Camp Towanda App!



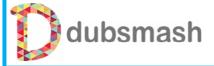
OFF-SEASON AIRBAI

Share your Towanda pride every month on Dubsmash with the #towandasmash challenge!

This month's Dubsmash challenge is a Towanda original created by some talented Friends of Camp (FOC) called 'Oh Camp Towanda'! Search "Oh Camp Towanda" in the Dubsmash APP. There will be a new Towanda-themed

Dubsmash challenge each month- stay tuned!

Share ur dubsmash videos using #towandasmash"





FLORIDA BEACH PARTY

Everyone's welcome to join the fun: campers (old & new), staff, parents, alumni, friends, prospective campers and their families. If you'll be heading south for the holidays, we'd love to see you!!

Bring lotion, camera & towel! Rain or Shine, we will be there.

Saturday Dec. 26, 2015 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM Spanish River Park, Pavilion #1, Boca Raton, Florida.

DIRECTIONS: Spanish River Park is on A1A in Boca Raton, between Spanish River Blvd. and Palmetto Park Rd. Enter the park, follow the HOT PINK Towanda ARROWS to Pavilion #1. Park, gather your gear, go through tunnel to beach, lay down stuff and say 'Hi!'

Lunch provided! Sandwiches, chips, drinks! RSVP by December 17 to matt@camptowanda.com



NEW CAMPER GROUP "SCOOP"

for all new for 2016 campers and their parents! Sunday Jan. 10, 2016, 1 PM Sharp 'til 3 PM at the Fort Lee, NJ DoubleTree on Rt 4 East. Please RSVP Today!

matt@camptowanda.com

Directions will be mailed January 5th



Stephanie Reiter's Book Club!

Homesick and Happy by Michael Thompson

At Our New Winter Office in Demarest NJ!

January 26, 2016

Please RSVP by January 15



Mitch and Stephanie will host this evening with

Bob Ditter, our consulting child behavioral specialist and staff trainer.

At The DoubleTree in Fort Lee (same location as Group Scoop)

Wednesday February 3, 2016 7:30 -8:45 PM



This is an extraordinary opportunity to speak with Bob Ditter. He is the nationally renown, recognized and revered camp industry child behavioral and staff training consultant. *Camp Towanda* is one of a handful of camps that Bob works extremely close with. Although aimed primarily to our first year parents, we welcome all *Camp Towanda* parents to this special evening.

Please RSVP by January 25, 2016 matt@camptowanda.com



Towanda Podcasts

Unable to attend an event? Several events throughout the year will be available as videos/podcasts!

Look for our Podcast Icon to know which events!

More details coming soon!



(at The Mansion!!!)

Girls Weekend - Saturday January 16, 2016 Boys Weekend - Saturday January 23, 2016

Snow, sledding, frozen Ghost, toboggan, ice fishing and campfire in the middle of frozen Sunset Lake, sleeping bags in front of the Mansion Fireplace and a lot s'more!

Directions & packing list will be mailed Jan 6th!

C · A · M · P ·
TOWANDA

You should have already RSVP'd!

CHAT ROOM

January 20, 2016

New Campers, Returning Campers & Staff Instructions in CampMinder and will be emailed soon!

CALL FOR EMBROIDERY

Send us your shirt, top, jacket and we will embroider the camp logo on it at no charge! Send to NEW winter address by

March 1, 2016

SPECIAL T-ShIRTS!

- VisionWalk Team Towanda 2016 T-Shirts
- Exclusive Cheese, Milk & Pickle T-Shirts & Tank Tops \$25.00 each; contact:

jared@camptowanda.com



ANNUAL ALUMNI BBO.

SUNDAY July 24, 2016

(The day after Visiting Day) 11:00am - 3:00pm

→We will be opening time capsules from Dorm & Club 2006 and any earlier years not yet opened. ←

All alumni visiting is restricted to those age 21 or older.

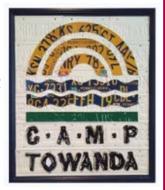
Those who are able to contribute to Olympics with Judgie and referee credentials are invited to inquire about availability.

WINTER CHALLENGE

CREATIVITY!!!

For the next issue of
The Towanda Times.....
Send us a picture of unusual
items used to create the CT logo!
Check out this logo made of
license plates!
Send pix to

media@camptowanda.com by January 31st



NEXT ISSUE:

- New Camper Welcome
- What's New At Camp
- College Connection

SKI TRIP

MEET & SKI AT ELK MOUNTAIN

Sunday Jan. 17, 2016 at Elk Mountain, Scranton, PA, (Martin Luther King Weekend) - not too far from camp (a good day trip, or stay close by) Call in advance, meet, ski and take a picture with JARED (jared@camptowanda.com)! Meet at Noon outside the main lodge by the big ski map. Get your photo taken for the Towanda Times!



VIDEO BONUS

Did you know the full Friday Nite Flix Highlights is available online? and the plays!? and Rope Burning!? and Girls' Sing!? and so much more!

Check out our VIMEO and YouTube channels.

Check it out at:

Camp Towanda Theater Productions - https://vimeo.com/channels/ctmusicals



Olympic Recap & Rope Burning https://vimeo.com/channels/ctolympics

Friday Nite Flix Highlights 2015 - https://vimeo.com/138042935

Dorm 2015 Alma Mater - https://vimeo.com/138138704

Girls' Sing 2015 -

https://vimeo.com/138100143

Camp Towanda YouTube -

https://www.youtube.com/user/camptowanda

Also Check out Andrew Rowan's Weather Report https://goo.gl/kfhsS1

LABOR DAY 7700 WEEKEND 2016

Parents, campers, alumni and your family and friends. Rent a bunk; enjoy activities, events, relaxation, food and entertainment;

all provided. This is a great way to end the summer!

If you are interested, please contact

mitch@camptowanda.com

September 2-5, 2016

Best Wishes for Happy Holídays & a Healthy New Year!!!

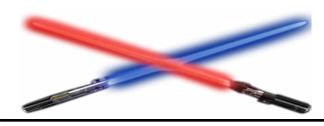


This Video Message will be active as of 12:05 AM on January 1st, 2016!

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU...



With the release of the latest Star Wars movie. don't forget to catch up on all the previous films, including Camp Towanda's own Junior Jedi 2015!



016 CAMP DATES

Florida Beach Party

New Camper Group Scoop

Senior Girls Sleepover

Meet & Ski at Elk Mtn

Senior Boys Sleepover

Stephanie's Book Club

Chat Room

Parent Reality Night

NYC VisionWalk

Flying Campers Arrival

First Day of Camp

S'More Tours

Visiting Day & Sibling Sleepover

Alumni BBQ

Last Day of Camp

Family & Friends Labor Day Weekend

December 26, 2015

January 10, 2016

January 16, 2016

January 17, 2016

January 23, 2016

January 26, 2016

January 20, 2016

February 3, 2016

Spring TBA 2016

June 24, 2016

June 25, 2016

July 9,16 & 31, 2016

July 23, 2016

July 24, 2016

August 12, 2016

September 2-5, 2016







