



"The Summer Camp helps me feel like I am free from life for a moment. It feels like freedom because I'm doing something I like. I'm going outside and exploring and learning new things about the outside world that I never was taught in school. It feels like a break from reality. When I'm at camp I feel at peace. Although many of my interests have changed over the years, my love for The Summer Camp has not." - Emilia M.

## President's letter

Dear Friends,

As 2023 comes to a close, I am buoyed by thoughts of The Summer Camp. The Summer Camp provides a nurturing, safe environment where every camper, staff member and volunteer feels valued, respected and celebrated for their individual contributions to our community. Inclusivity, acceptance and compassion are the essence of our camp philosophy.

The unique perspectives and diverse backgrounds of our camp population inspire us to design activities and celebrations that foster acceptance. Our campers, staff and volunteers bring their own special talents, interests and passions to share with our camp community. Together, we learn, grow and thrive in an environment that embraces our collective differences.

As a valuable member of our camp family, I hope you join me in feeling pride in our mission and our success. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to The Summer Camp!

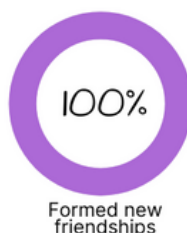
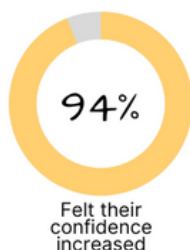
Warmly,

Liz Gruber  
President

"At The Summer Camp I get to have fun and learn many things. Camp makes me feel free and brave. I get out of my comfort zone and do things I can't do at home. I also learned I can live without my phone for 10 days!"

-Emily, 2023 Summer Camper

## 2023 Camper Outcomes\*



\*Data collected through end of session parent/guardian survey

## From the Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

I am excited to share some of our favorite highlights from our 2023 season! As you may remember, in 2022, we sadly lost a dear friend and longtime staff member, Amanda Wogaman-Hunt. Amanda was a vibrant soul who spread joy and positivity to everyone around her. Thanks to the Wogaman family's generosity, we established the "Amanda Dock" as a special place for campers and friends to honor her memory. This vibrantly painted dock floats as a tribute to Amanda's legacy, offering inspiration to us all. Complete with a waterslide, the Amanda Dock promotes courage, laughter and the creation of treasured memories for countless campers for years to come.

In 2023, we reintroduced our all-camp day trips! Each session, our campers explored Mt. Blue State Park and Readfield Beach on Maranacook Lake. These outings allowed campers to discover the natural wonders beyond our campsite while strengthening their camp friendships.

As part of our commitment to nurturing leadership and community, we reinstated our volunteerism activity in our Leadership Training, Counselor-in-Training, and Junior Counselor programs. Summer Campers partnered with the Maine Island Trail Association for a beachside clean-up on Hog Island, situated off the coast of Maine. This experience was truly unforgettable for the campers as they contributed to environmental conservation efforts while enjoying their first-ever boat ride on the Atlantic Ocean! Campers ended the day glowing with confidence and pride.

Over the past few years, The Summer Camp has navigated significant changes, including a pandemic, a site relocation, and losing a cherished friend and mentor. Your steadfast support has been truly heartwarming. The dedication of our friends, supporters and partners is one-of-a-kind.

Thank you for being an integral part of The Summer Camp family! We are blessed to have such a robust and unwavering network committed to empowering girls from at-risk environments through transformative residential summer camp experiences.

Warmly,

*Tracy*

Tracy St. Onge-May  
Executive Director

Thank you  
everyone for making  
camp possible,  
it gives me a different  
perspective, which I am  
very grateful for.  
SO, -thank you!





## Introducing Logan!

Welcome Logan, our vibrant new year-round Assistant Camp Director and Outreach Coordinator! Joining the TSC family in 2022, Logan brings an infectious energy and passion for adventure. Logan's journey into the world of outdoor exploration began at a local summer camp in Maine, where she led young women through exhilarating wilderness adventures like hikes, canoe trips, and sea kayaking. This experience ignited a spark within her, prompting her to pursue a Master of Science in Experiential Education in Minnesota. Eager to share her knowledge, Logan returned to Portland, Maine, joining a non-profit organization dedicated to building stronger communities. We are honored that Logan, with her passion for helping girls and women through outdoor adventures, has joined The Summer Camp!



## Year Round Outreach Program

Since 2018, The Summer Camp has offered year-round support for TSC campers and alumna who are in high school and navigating the post-secondary education planning process. The majority of our campers are bravely embarking on this educational journey, determined to become first-generation college students! The goal of the Outreach program is to alleviate some of the stress and overwhelming feelings that often accompany this process and help each girl successfully complete high school and follow the educational path that helps her reach her full potential.

This year, four TSC alumni are first-year college students! All joined us this summer and are role models for our younger campers who are currently setting goals for their futures, including 17 campers who are Juniors and Seniors just beginning this transition. Logan Thompson, Assistant Director and Outreach Coordinator, offers guidance and help, working to ensure that each camper has the resources for educational success!



Above: 2023 Summer Campers focus on their future during college tours!



"Camp is important to me because every time I make new friends. I love going back each year to see the people I love. Camp has such a nice environment. I love the people and the energy there. I'm grateful that I can go back every year."  
~ Aliyah, 2023 Summer Camper

## Summer Camp Friendships

The American Camp Association research finds that friendships formed at summer camp often extend beyond their time at camp and last years, if not a lifetime. Friendships created at The Summer Camp are no exception.

We are excited to encourage and foster camp friendships! Each holiday season, we mail a pen-pal kit to each camper and staff. A highlight among campers and parents, each kit includes paper, postcards, pens, envelopes, stamps, stickers and samples of how to write a friendly letter and address envelopes and postcards.

Camp friendships are monumental for all campers, including those who cannot share their mailing addresses. In those cases, we include them in the pen pal kit activity and have their letters sent directly to The Summer Camp, which we then forward to the camper.



## Upcoming TSC Camper Gatherings



The Summer Camp is hosting camper reunions throughout the Northeast!

December 2023: New York City (Big Apple Circus)

January 2024: Providence, RI (Ice skating)

February 2024: Brattleboro, VT (ice skating)

March 2024: Maine (indoor pool party)

**Below: Campers reconnect at TSC gatherings in Rhode Island and Maine in winter 2023**





## STEM Activities at TSC



Our talented woodworking volunteers guided TSC campers in building their own individual wooden sailboats! Campers glowed with confidence as they shared stories about using power tools for the first time! Another highlight was taking the sailboats to the waterfront to discover which boat would sail the farthest. Sailboat building fostered creativity and teamwork with a touch of friendly competition.

## Can you ID Invasive Plant Species? TSC Staff & Campers Can!

Lovejoy Pond's Plant Patrol volunteers led an engaging hands-on plant identification activity to help our summer campers and staff prevent invasive species from encroaching on beautiful Lovejoy Pond or other bodies of water.

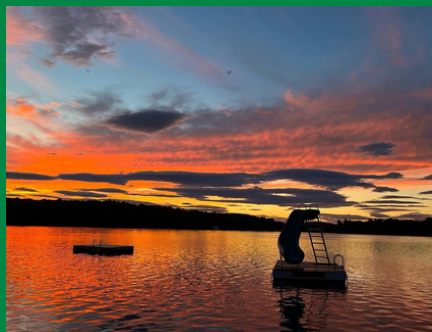


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## Camp Candids...





the summer camp

**Winter Address:**

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info@thesummercamp.org


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177 North Wayne Road  
Readfield, ME 04355  
(207) 685-4407


**Visit us on the web:**


[www.thesummercamp.org](http://www.thesummercamp.org)

**Follow us on social media** 😊

 The Summer Camp for Girls

 thesummercampforgirls

 @thesummercamp

 The Summer Camp

## You Make Camp Possible!

Summer Campers are eagerly anticipating the start of summer 2024. Your incredible support helps us offer free residential summer camp experiences to girls who would otherwise not be afforded the opportunity. Your contribution, large or small, helps provide 300 girls with full camperships to attend The Summer Camp for 10 or more days. Camperships include transportation to and from The Summer Camp, clothing, footwear, sleeping bags or other necessities that campers may not have. We eliminate all barriers that keep girls from economically challenged households from experiencing the lifelong benefits of attending residential summer camp.

Supporting The Summer Campers is easy! Scan the QR code or contact Jessy Stacy, Development Manager at [jessy@thesummercamp.org](mailto:jessy@thesummercamp.org) or call (207) 647-5278 to learn more!

Scan to  
support TSC



## Our Mission

The Summer Camp is a nonprofit, residential summer camp for urban and rural girls, ages 7-18, from low-income and foster homes. We provide an inclusive, supportive and safe environment in which campers explore fun, challenging and educational experiences, learn from positive role models, and have the opportunity to build skills for life year after year. We stand against discrimination and celebrate the diversity of our campers and staff. Donor support provides full camperships for each girl every summer.