



Hello Camp Lawrence Campers, Parents, Staff and Friends:

To say that this summer was amazing would be a huge understatement. Faced with a number of uncommon challenges that normally don't occur during a single summer, Camp Lawrence, once again, provided campers a summer of excitement, learning, and vast amounts of laughter and fun. But, let's look at the summer as it developed...

Camp began a week later than usual. That was both a blessing and an unexpected challenge. Just prior to my arrival at camp on May 1<sup>st</sup>, a late ice storm and high winds hit the Lakes Region. Although no major damaged occurred at camp, a number of buildings were slightly damaged, a good number of trees fell, and to put it mildly, camp was a mess. Coupled with that "wonderful" beginning, I had very few work volunteers to help clean up the mess until late May and early June. However, a few great weekend volunteers (**Wyley & Suellen Robinson, Suzie Scarpulla, and Ben & Norman Abbott**) turned out to be my heroes. Along with a few pre-camp staff (**Steve Call and Sam Dahlstedt**), these early workers began to transform camp into something that we know to be Camp Lawrence.

This summer, as has occurred from time to time during the past decade, I was faced with young veteran staff assuming new leadership roles. Among them were **Luke Bryden** as Program Director, **Tim Tuveson** as our Aquatics Director, **Dominique Laberge** as the C.I.T. Director, and 3 new Unit Heads (**Steve Harding, Alex Thorn and Sam Dahlstedt**). We were also blessed with some very capable returning leadership staff (**Steve Call, Andrew Scaplen, Lois Wachsmuth and Jim DeMott**). All in all, the entire staff was a joy to have, and they, once again, proved that Camp Lawrence staff are positive role models for our campers. From a great Staff Training Week to the final program event on the final night of camp, it was a staff that followed our standard of "Campers come first."

Aside from the program side of camp, we were challenged to put forth a wonderful homecoming for our alumni on August 5<sup>th</sup>, to help celebrate our Centennial, which was capped off by the induction of **Debbie Parker** (Director of Camp Nokomis) into our Hall of Fame. It was a true joy to have her become an inductee and to have her finally recognized for the many, many wonderful things she has done to help Camp Lawrence be such a positive experience for so many young (and older) guys over the years.

Two days after our Centennial event, we were faced with an ACA (American Camp Association) recertification visit. This occurs every three summers and is a time where we can show off how good we are, or how bad we have become. I am happy to report that the former prevailed. We had an outstanding visit. I want to thank the entire staff for all their very hard work and to let them know how impressed the ACA visitors were at the great job you are doing. Finally, we once again did very well with the annual unannounced health inspection from the State of New Hampshire. Now, back to the things you campers are really interested in...

As you know, we bought three new canoes this past summer, the start to a re-energized canoeing program. It is my intention to add three more canoes this coming summer. Also, I hope to purchase some more kayaks, which you have requested. I hope to turn the second tennis court into a “volleyball court” while upgrading the remaining tennis court. Lastly, it is time that we get new ping pong tables. It is my hope to get at least three, which will be located in the Lodge. This way, ping pong can be a rainy day activity, and I won’t have to battle the “winds” while defeating my opponents also. By the way, this past summer was certainly a lot of fun for me in the area of ping pong. My final record for the summer (for all the hundreds who care....not) was 104 wins, with 13 losses. Having new ping pong tables will be both a joy and a sadness in that I will miss the “dead spots,” tables cracks etc. that have only enhanced our ability to play the game.

Our new “shower building” was a great success. I know this to be true because I have not received any loads of “Bear Island” soil from parents. Now I have to figure a way to keep you guys away from those 30 minute showers.

The activities and “special programs” that **Luke Bryden** and the staff planned were so much fun. It was endless activity that was tons and tons of fun. Once again, during the “Orange and Gray” contest, it came down to the war canoe race, which was neck and neck for a short period of time. I am saddened that “Grey” once again won, but I have been secretly planning on how to bring victory back to “Orange.” “Orange” will not be put down any longer!

July 4<sup>th</sup> was great fun and was capped off by an all-camp social with Camp Nokomis. No broken floors this year! The international staff re-enacted the Battle of Lexington at morning line-up. It’s no wonder they lost the war, but it was entertaining!

The Olympics was an enormous success. From Friday night’s Tableaux to the exciting final events, everyone had a great time. Congratulations to Team Sweden for winning the gold medal.

52 campers have expressed an interest in next summer’s C.I.T. Program. I mailed applications to everyone who expressed an interest. The application is not an acceptance into the program but rather an indication to me whether you are still interested. Just as a reminder, 16-year olds are given priority but not to the exclusion of qualified 15-year olds. This is a challenging process because some very good candidates will not be accepted. I have only 10-12 positions available, so there will be disappointments. Once I have received the applications, I will coordinate with my leadership staff prior to making the final decisions. I hope to have the process completed by early December.

I have reviewed the camper questionnaires that you completed last summer. From all accounts, the vast majority of you had an outstanding time and plan to return to camp this summer. If you are planning to return and have not yet registered, I encourage you not to delay too long and risk the possibility of not being able to get into the session of your choice. Also, Camp Lawrence is a wonderful place to bring a buddy.

Finally, I want to wish you a happy Thanksgiving. The leaves are finally beginning to turn colors, even here in Texas. Look for the great pictures that are included in next year’s calendar. They are sure to bring back some wonderful memories of one of the best summers in the last 100 years, and you were a part of it!!

David C. Hetherly  
Director, Camp Lawrence