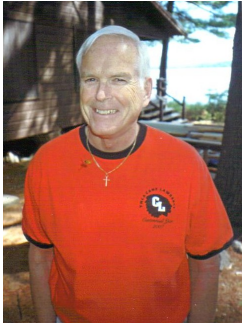




Camp Lawrence Chatter

October 2010



NOTES from the CAMP DIRECTOR...To say that this was a fabulous summer is to put it mildly. Yes, we were blessed with terrific weather, and I can't remember when we have had a summer without at least one day of a "rainy day program," but this was the summer. Sure, we had a little rain, but it never lasted very long. That makes up for the summer for 2009, when we had a lot of rain and very cool weather. Okay, enough of "what you see is what you get" weather forecasts.

What truly made this summer a remarkable one was the staff. Except for Matt Corsetti, my Associate Director, the entire leadership staff was new to their positions. David Righter (Program Director), Danny Ladd (Aquatics Director), Stephen Ball (Ropes Director), Sam Dorward (C.I.T. Director), Tim Chatfield (Outcamping and Staff Development Director), and our Unit Heads (Ben Abbott, David Nader and Tom Slater) were just plain fantastic. All these guys came to camp for you, the campers. They were focused the entire summer, they planned their programs well, and displayed the type of energy that makes a camp great. Just as important as having a wonderful leadership team, are the counselors and other support staff. Special thanks to Adam McCaffrey, Sam

Dahlstedt, Nate Atwater, Andrew Griffin, David Spears, Alex Dorson, David Leith, Jon Abbott, and Kyle DeRiemer. Our 2nd Year C.I.T.s were also fantastic: Phil Rapoza-Rosario, Connor Davidson, James McLean, Ethan Anderson, Nelson Parness, Parker Pyle, Mitchell Ball, Jake Silver, Sean Reckert, and Michael Galletti. Finally, special recognition to our 1st Year C.I.T.s for all their hard work and devotion to camp: Emilien Henrotte, Danny Dignan, Guido Areces, Andrew Gartley, Merritt Losert, Connor Droof, Sean Bradley, Matt Wentzel, Nick Harper, Henry Wu, Jake Parker, and Tyler Green. You are the backbone of camp and you are very much appreciated.

So, before I get to the happenings of this summer program wise, let me first lay the ground work of the things that happened on the non program front. First, our new kitchen became active the week prior to staff training. It is an absolute marvel, and according to the "state inspector," who makes an unannounced appearance during the camp operation, it is "very, very impressive!" I think that having Brent Kern back as our lead chef, and having two other cooks for the entire summer, really helped for a smooth operation and quality food preparation. Even our international support staff loved operating our "nuclear" dish washer. It not only met the minimum 180 degree rinse cycle, but actually hit 195 degrees on a regular basis. We finally built four new ping pong tables for the main area, and they actually made it through the summer in pretty good shape. A number on large trees were lowered, which are now providing me with some heat in our fire place in the dining hall.....yes, it's early October and I am still at camp!!! We rebuilt the "Bull Pen" up at the tennis court.... a little bit wider and a little bit longer! Under the guidance of Sam Dorward, the 1st year C.I.T.s built a volleyball court, which was highly used during both boys camp and family camp. Sam made sure that we had 5 inches of sand as a foundation. Great work guys!! Finally, The American Camp Association made their visit to camp for our Re-accreditation. This takes place every three years. It is a very thorough visit and includes over 260 ACA standards, which must be met. I am pleased to say that once again, our camp was rated "Outstanding." So much work and time goes into the preparation of this very important visit, and I want to thank the entire staff for their truly magnificent effort. The ACA visitors were truly impressed with our camp.

The programs this summer were the best. Our 4th of July firework display, which was okayed by the Meredith Police (I think we were the only ones on the lake with an approved firework permit) was spectacular. I hear through the grapevine that even some of the Camp Nokomis campers and staff were watching! Okay, do you honestly think that Debbie Parker would let that happen.....no way! Our Casino Night was a lot of fun. The Orange and Grey contest was, once again brought home in victory by the Orange Team. Once again, the Orange Team (as in the team I am always on) sailed in to victory. As always, it was a very exciting special program. The third session special program was also outstanding. David Righter came up with the new idea of having a program "Zombie Apocalypse." This was a wild program with the camp being divided into four sections to ward off the Zombies. I can further state that the noise in the dining hall outdid that which is usually created during the Orange and Grey contest. It was a blast! The fourth session held the traditional Olympics, which is always exciting and fun. Jamaica took the Gold, with Vatican City taking home the Silver.

Before I end this Chatter, I want to say that at the end of every session, I witnessed many a sad camper face as they boarded the Bear to head home. I know for sure that most, and I mean most, of this season's campers had a wonderful time. Many of you, both campers and staff, gained much during this past summer in self confidence, maturity, and self esteem. That is the Camp Lawrence "experience," to grow in positive ways, be a valued member of your school and community, and long to get back to camp for the next summer. Speaking of that latter point, camp registrations are now underway, so don't put off registering and maybe missing out on the session you want to get into. All four sessions offer something special and all are packed with challenge and fun.

Finally, I want to thank our nurses, Lauren Romanuskas, Linda Espinosa, and Nita Kim for keeping our camp safe and healthy. Thanks to Bryce Keeler, our Maintenance Manager, for keeping things going and flowing, and to Lois Wachsmuth, who does so many behind the scene things that keep camp organized and efficient.

So, as the wind blows and the leaves fall, know that "All Is Well!"

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Check our website for newsletters: www.mvymcacamps.org

DON'T FORGET:

Registration for the 2011 summer began on
September 15, 2010.

Sessions are filling up, so
call the Camp Office before it's too late!

