

The Huckonian



A publication for alumni and friends

Fall 2023

The Thoughts of the Summer

by Grace Schofield Potts

The summer of 2023 continued a cherished tradition at our camp - the Thoughts from the Leader of the Day. Every morning after breakfast, the campers linked arms as they walked from breakfast to the Lodge and found their spot under the shade of the pines around the flagpole. Before learning their daily instructionals or hearing about a dress-up lunch, campers listened to Thoughts from the Leader of the Day. Counselors used these talks to share reflections and lessons from their Huckins summers; they are a source of wisdom and inspiration. Reflecting on the 56 thoughts of the summer of 2023, a common theme emerges - the incredible magic of what Huckins offers: a safe atmosphere for play, self-discovery and an opportunity to make friends and pursue new adventures.

In the Thoughts from the Leader of Day, we found not just inspiration, but a roadmap to personal growth that transcends the boundaries of camp and enriches our lives in profound ways.

As the sun set on the summer of 2023 and the campers and counselors returned home, their hearts were filled with memories, newfound skills, and a belief that they can



conquer the world. The Thoughts of the summer will continue to inspire and propel campers into a world where they feel capable of growth and confident in new things. My wish for all of us is that we reflect on the moments of self-discovery, resilience, and adventure from our time at camp and find new ways to incorporate these lessons into our lives at home.

Have a Nellie day!

Today won't mark the first or last time you sing [camp] songs, swim in the lake, hug the friends around you or feel the camp magic. Whether you return next session, next summer, years down the road, or only in spirit, today, your Huckins journey has already started and is far from over. - **Tierney Hennegan, MidDiv Counselor**

Never fear what might happen, fear what might not. Try all the things. Because who knows you might just end up having the best summer of your life. - **Elsa Fhager, International Counselor**

There is beauty in the consistency of this place. Through all of our new adventures and discoveries of silver friends, secret spots and new activities we didn't know we'd love so much, you can always count on camp's "constants" to ground you when you're feeling overwhelmed... While there is no other year the same as 2023 at Huckins camp, some things thankfully never change. - **Ava Shulman, W Counselor**

A good friend of mine shared this quote with me "Stay close to people who feel like sunshine." Here at camp, being constantly surrounded by campers, peers and best friends, I without a doubt can say that I feel this sunshine every day. Not just the sun that shines over the lake, but the sunshine that is embodied in every individual here at camp. - **Fiona Rooney, MidDiv Counselor**

Camp is a place where everything feels like a little bit more. I breathe a little deeper, sing a little louder and laugh (a lot) more. When I look at the sky at night, I see hundreds more stars than I ever see at home. - **Jess Franks, W Counselor**

I urge you to find at least one thing that makes camp special to you. One thing that you will be able to think back on when you are back at home, something rugged, wholesome and true. All it takes is one thing, one song, one smile, one person, one thing that can always make you feel certain." - **Lucia Dwyer, SD Counselor**

A note from the Executive Director

Greetings from the shores of beautiful Lake Ossipee! As the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisper, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible summer we've had at Camp Huckins and our joyful family, school, and women's wellness programs.

Summer at Camp Huckins 2023 was nothing short of extraordinary. There was a lightness and joy that filled our days that the rain could not dampen! The addition to the Dining Hall allowed the entire camp to be together under one roof for the first time since 2019 and made it easier to navigate to a salad bar or to one of the newly renovated bathrooms. We welcomed campers and staff from near and far, and together we created lasting memories that will be cherished for a lifetime.

Our dedicated staff worked tirelessly to ensure that every camper felt supported, encouraged, and empowered to embrace new challenges. From tower jumps to capers and lip-syncs, our campers played, laughed, and learned valuable life skills. The expanded swim lanes were re-oriented, giving the Huckins swim team space to prepare for the meets (of which we were undefeated!) AND creating new opportunities for campers and staff to jump and dive into the lake. We witnessed countless "firsts" and watched as our campers grew in confidence, resilience, and character. It was truly a summer to remember.

But the magic didn't stop when the summer camp ended. Our joyful family and adult programs have been a resounding success, offering all the opportunity to experience the magic of camp together. Whether it's a week, a weekend, or a day of adventure, we have loved creating opportunities for these special groups to make their own special memories at Huckins. A big Alamen to the volunteers that helped us make these programs possible!

As we reflect on the summer and look forward to the fall, we're reminded of the incredible community that makes Camp Huckins so special. You have played a crucial role in shaping the legacy of camp, and we're grateful for your ongoing support.

I want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has made this summer and fall season a success. It's the unwavering support of our alumni, families, volunteers, and friends that allows Camp Huckins to continue providing life-changing experiences for generations to come.

Thank you for being a part of the Camp Huckins family, and we look forward to sharing more adventures with you in the future. Here's to the Huckins spirit that lives in all of us!

Warmest wishes,



Heather Kiley



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It is the mission of the Carroll County YMCA through its many programs, to strengthen the Spirit, Mind, and Body of youth, families, and communities. We strive to provide an honest, respectful and caring atmosphere where each person can grow to realize their full potential.

Leadership Campers Giving Back

By Alisson "Borowski" Kolodner

Before this past summer began, I was in a brainstorming session about what we could do to bring more leadership and service opportunities to the W program. We came up with lots of great ideas, many of which we implemented this summer and others we will work into the program in the coming years. One thing that we all felt very passionate about was having the Leadership campers do some form of service that would have a lasting impact on the Huckins community as a whole, something that these W's could point to years from now and say, "I helped build that." I have spent the last three years personally renovating our very old house and so the idea of being able to physically build something really appealed to me, and, if I'm being honest, I wish I had picked up woodworking tools long before I reached my 40s.

We have always had the Leadership Pavilion as a gathering space, but there is something about sitting in the round, under the stars and with a fire, that brings a group together and we aren't able to do that in the Pavilion. Thus, our Ring of Fire concept was born. The goal was to dig a large fire pit and then build two layers of benches so that the entire division, Ws and CITs, could sit around the fire together. After some research and a quick trip to Belknap to view their divisional fire pits, I drew up the plans and sent the lumber cut list to our amazing maintenance team.

Once our W teams got to work, I could not BELIEVE how fast the project moved — these teens were truly incredible.



Digging out the pit, gathering giant rocks, moving the lumber, making small adjustments, moving the lumber again, and then using drills to put it all together. Some days we worked in the sunshine, others it was rainier than you have ever seen. One day, while we were digging a trench for a water line across the road (that's right, the Ws were using pickaxes!) it rained over three inches in an hour. And it was not warm outside. Not once, in this entire project, did I hear a single person complain. They were champions, and they learned a few things about building with wood and using tools that they never had before. As a group we problem-solved, we laughed, we encouraged each other, we danced in the rain, and it was awesome.

One night after a final vespers for the session, emotions were running high. As we got back to the division, some of the W counselors lit a fire and another one grabbed their ukulele. That night all of the Ws sat together under the stars,

around the fire and they sang the night away; it was truly a camp magic moment, and they built it themselves.

Xo,
Borowski

P.S. Stay tuned for the next project! The August Ws started building a giant fire ring (that might just be magic) and seating for THE WHOLE CAMP. To be completed in the summer of 2024!



Women's Wellness Weekend

By Abby Brown and Melissa Bane

This September, along with 50 other Huckins women, we attended Women's Wellness Weekend. Before arriving, we felt the same anticipation as change days decades before. "What cabin will I be in?" "Which of my friends, counselors, and campers will be there?" "What will be 'new' at camp?" The drive into camp, the unpacking and making of beds, the hugs and squeals and laughs, and the new friendly faces were all like they were during the summers of our youth.

The weekend provided a truly unique experience because it let us go back in time and experience camp as campers again. We tried new activities and cheered each other on. We shot some arrows at archery, swam to the island, sang camp songs on a pontoon boat ride, canoed down Black Brook, and learned to play pickleball. We relaxed together at the craft shop while making bracelets, gimp hangers, and painting tiles. And all of it came back like muscle memory. Someone would say the name of an old camp song and we'd hear ourselves



saying, "Oh I don't know that song," and then immediately find ourselves singing right along remembering every lyric. We wandered nostalgically around camp, division by division, entering the cabins of our youth, knowing exactly where to find our names on the wall.

Evenings were spent talking by the campfire with gourmet s'mores and square dancing in the lodge. In true Huckins fashion, the enthusiasm during square dancing rivaled that of College Day and the caller had to ask his band to play louder. We danced and laughed and sang. No matter the activity or time of day, everyone was ALL IN. The Huckins camp spirit was alive and well. In a time in life filled with so much change, being able to return and experience the constant that is Huckins is truly a gift. It was a weekend of memories, laughter, play, and connection with other Huckins women - and was exactly the "wellness" we were looking for.

We hope to see you all again in 2024 from September 13th to 15th.



Building Our Local Community



During the month of September, Huckins hosted five school groups consisting of over 375 students from across Carroll County and the Mount Washington Valley. These teambuilding days have long been a staple in the Huckins post-season programming and are part of our commitment to serving our local communities. Groups visited Camp and engaged in large and small group activities focused on connecting students as the academic year kicked off. The programs consisted of ropes course elements and group activities that focused on collaboration, problem-solving, communication, and the promotion of team and leadership skills. Huckins staff tactfully facilitated students in establishing group goals, directed students through challenges, and provided opportunities for reflection throughout. Our hope is that these experiences will serve as a stepping stone as students return to school and will support continued growth throughout the year. If you are interested in learning more about our community-based programs, please reach out to Katie Miressi, Community Programs Coordinator at katie@camphuckins.org.

Alumni Volunteer Weekends

Alumni to all the volunteers who helped to open and close camp during our Alumni Volunteer Weekends. This group of volunteers (right) helped install the swim area and launch all boats in June, as well as set up and prepare the Craftshop with supplies for the summer.



To round out the season, alums (left) returned to organize the Craftshop to prepare it for kayak and paddleboard storage, built railings on the W cabin porches, removed all boats from the water for winterization, pulled out all swim floats and boat docks to store on the Small Crafts beach, and stacked wood undercover. Whew!

Mark your calendars to participate in Alumni Volunteer Weekends in 2024!

The Legacy Society

On the afternoon of August 24, 2023, members of the Legacy Society came together for a luncheon in the Lodge. They reminisced about their Huckins days, toured the grounds to see the newest updates, and learned more about the Lodge renovation that will include the “The Hutch” — the Jody Hutchinson Skelton Alumni Library. From the Sports Complex to the new swim lanes, the members could see that while there continue to be changes to the facility, the heart of Camp stays forever true.



Legacy Society members are individuals who have chosen to include Camp Huckins in their planned giving. This can be done through a bequest in a will, a gift of stock, real estate, other assets, a beneficiary designation or an IRA, 401K or other retirement plan, a life insurance beneficiary designation, or by including Huckins as the recipient of memorial gifts “in lieu of flowers.” Please contact Heather Kiley, Executive Director, at heather@camphuckins.org to find out how you can include Huckins in your estate plans.

A Day in the Life...

By Joel Weeman

My alarm is set for 5:30 AM, but anywhere between 4:30 and 5:00 my eyes are open as my brain starts to consider the day ahead. Did I order that steak for banquet? Is the farm delivering today, or is that tomorrow? Are there enough cucumbers if it is tomorrow? Who is off today, and how does that affect the day? Is it going to be a cookout or a cook-in? Suddenly, sleep is a memory as the adrenaline starts to flow. Coffee isn't even necessary. A quick nod to the sleeping dogs as I slip out of our cabin for the short commute to the kitchen. Most mornings include a pause to admire the glassy lake and the outline of the ever-present waterfront floats and lines while dawn peaks over the horizon. A short moment of gratitude for this peaceful vista, the call of the loons that seem to never sleep, the cool lake breeze, and the fleeting quiet.

I am in the kitchen by 5:40. The indomitable Ginny has already done ten laps turning on ovens and the dishwasher, checking temperatures, and starting coffee. We exchange quiet hellos and maybe a brief discourse on the weather before jumping to the task at hand. In just over two hours, 500 hungry campers and staff will arrive. Our first cook, Spencer, arrives at 6:00 to start helping with flipping pancakes or eggs. Not a morning person by nature, yet six days a week he stoically appears ready and willing for whatever we throw at him.

By 7:15, the rest of the staff arrives with various forms of morning greetings, some mumbled, some exuberant. A joyous, "Wakey! Wakey!" from Ginny as they file in to wash hands and don aprons signals that the day has truly begun and it's time to run. Wolf, our Dining Hall manager, gets the menu and any allergen information from me and prepares the Dining Hall for the impending onslaught. Wolf runs miles every meal filling cereals, yogurts and salad bars, in addition to managing cart girls, CIT capers, and waitresses. She is the smiling, fun-loving, Huckins-to-the-core face of our kitchen team.

At 7:30 when cart girls arrive to eat, breakfast is cooked and mostly plattered. The focus shifts to dishes, lunch, dinner, and prep for meals in the coming days. Some meals are started

days before we actually serve them. Often, we are thinking and prepping three to four days beyond the meal that is currently being devoured.

Our huge dry erase board that serves as the prep list is the brain of the kitchen. It is an extension of my brain and an ever-evolving document of the day's progress. The mantra is always, "What's Next?" I am constantly consulting and updating it throughout the day, and it has become the hub of this busy operation. A place where I can write notes to myself or others, a place for impromptu artwork, a place to gather after the meal to discuss the plan or check in about the day's schedule.

At 8:30, Ola, the last piece of our kitchen leadership team arrives with a huge smile and a ringing "Morning!" Her first stop is the prep list. In her second summer here, Ola was asked to step into big shoes and her love of good food, chef instincts, unflappable nature and ability to say "No!" has made her a vital part of our team. She is sorely missed on her day off.

By 9:00 AM, the team has cleaned every last plate, bowl, cup, spoon, fork and knife. The kitchen is swept and mopped, and they are off to eat breakfast and have a break. A quick bite for the team of chefs and on to the list.

The rest of the morning is a blur and a race against the clock to get through the list, put away deliveries, keep up

with the dishes, answer the phone, check in with Mark about weather or the program directors about supplies or schedule and myriad other things that pull me away from my cutting board and knives.

11:15 and the crew is back to find their name on the board and hope they don't have to prepare the salad bars! Lunch comes and goes in a whirlwind of food and crazy costumes, singing, feathers and dishes, mountains of dishes. By 2:00 PM, the kitchen is clean and quiet again and now coffee is very necessary! If the day has gone according to plan, I am out the door with some iced espresso for a short respite. Some days, it is shorter than others, but always a perfect chance to recharge for the last push of the day.

Between 3:00 and 3:30 I am back in the kitchen. Flush with the wonderful motivation of caffeine, it is another race to push through dinner. With Ginny and Spencer done for the day, it's the Ola and Joel show. Not a minute can be squandered. The rest of the team returns at 4:15 PM with murmured prayers to the salad bar gods. 6 o'clock dinner goes out. 7 o'clock the kitchen is shiny again. Amazing. The team rushes out to catch the Conway bus or lingers to eat ice cream and chat.

After dinner is my chance to place orders for the days ahead, consult the menu for any changes I am feeling or that are necessary due to delivery discrepancies and write the new list for tomorrow. A few deep breaths of peace in the dark kitchen and day is done.

There is a certain comfort in the warm glow of the kitchen at the end of a long day. The stainless-steel equipment gleams in the few remaining lights. The freshly mopped floor shines. The whole place seems to sigh and know it, too, will have a few hours rest before we do it all again but also

What ever happened to... Alison Hale?

My first summer at Camp Huckins was in 1961 when I was eight years old. My last was as staff Division Leader in the Junior Division in 1975. I was at Huckins for 12 of those 15 years. Although I loved being a camper, I really loved being a Junior Division leader and CIT trainer. Huckins helped both me and my daughter to become who we are today in several ways. One of the most significant moments was when I first walked onto Mount Holyoke College. It reminded me so much of Huckins that I knew right then and there that that was where I was going to college. My daughter followed in my footsteps.

After Mount Holyoke, I moved to New York City, where I earned both my master's and doctoral degrees in flute performance. I won an opportunity to make my Carnegie Hall debut and have also performed at the Lincoln Center,



the White House, the Royal Albert Hall in London, and the Doges Palace in Venice.

I met my husband, Chris Chapman, in 1981. We were married in 1982 and moved into his family home in Brattleboro, Vermont in 1985. Our two children were born in 1986 and 1989. I am now the proud grandmother of two grandsons, have played second flute in the Portland Symphony Orchestra for 40 years, and have taught flute at six colleges, including Mount Holyoke and Bennington, where I still teach.

Alison has played with the Portland Symphony Orchestra for 40 years.



Alison Hale with Kathy Sawyer at Camp for Jody's Last Candlelight

I have enjoyed reconnecting with Huckins through Covid Zoom get-togethers and Jody's various farewell events. I spend part of each summer at Huckins in my mind, if not in person.

Sneak Peek!

Our Spring 2024 Huckonian will focus on this Huckins alum... can you guess who it is?



shine with a bit of pride in a day's work. I've spent many intense days in this kitchen and have come to regard it almost as a friend or co-worker. We don't converse, but I have been known to say goodnight or thank you as I leave. I suppose it wouldn't surprise anyone who loves Huckins and has spent much time here to find that even the kitchen holds a little bit of that magic. A little of that Huckins enchantment that flows around this place. So, I would like to think it hears and accepts my thanks.

I, too, sigh and yawn and feel some sense of accomplishment because even though this day will repeat itself again and again, some days more smoothly than others, today has been conquered. The many hungry bellies are full...until tomorrow.

ENIKO'S EGGPLANT CREAM

A creamy eggplant dip that is amazing with tortilla chips, pita chips, veggie sticks, or even just spread on toast. This recipe is adapted from a recipe shared with me by one of our international staff members years ago. Eniko wanted to share one of her favorite recipes from her grandmother, which has been my favorite since.

Ingredients:

2 eggplants, whole
2/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon butter
1 small onion, diced
1-2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 tablespoons sour cream
Juice of 1 Lemon
2 teaspoons fresh oregano, chopped
1 teaspoon fresh thyme
1 tablespoon chives, thinly sliced
Sea salt and black pepper

Directions:

1. Bake the eggplants in a 375-degree oven or alternately grill over a hot fire until the skin turns black and the insides turn juicy. When the eggplant appears to deflate, it is ready.
2. While eggplant is cooking, sauté onion and garlic in butter with a pinch of salt over medium heat until soft. Transfer to a large mixing bowl.
3. Allow eggplants to cool slightly and remove the skin while still hot.
4. Add flesh to the mixing bowl and mash until smooth. Next add the sour cream, lemon juice and herbs.
5. Add salt and pepper to taste.
6. Mix until all ingredients are well incorporated.
7. Refrigerate for 30 minutes to an hour to allow the dip to tighten up and the flavors to come together.

All About the Alumni ...



Anna Williams and **Sarah Cook** were roommates together at James Madison University. The two were in the same cabin for four years and now have been college roommates for two years in a row!



Jody Skelton, Olivia Trauntvein, Nate Trauntvein, and Helen Pelletier together volunteering for the YMCA National Service project in Dupree, South Dakota.



(Left to Right) **Jenna Dalton, Abbey "MQ" MacQuarrie, Lynn Burke, Gene Miller, Ali Beaver, Audrey James, and Leah Howard** went to Naxos, Greece in June to celebrate 10 years of friendship. They affectionately called the trip their "Double Huck of Friendship!"



Susan (O'Hare) McBarnet (97) co-founded a research-based playroom design firm, Wild Child, with a fellow Huckins alumna, **Cassie (Priest) Albergotti**. They started Wild Child in Charlotte, NC and recently expanded to Westport, CT! Together, they create unique and engaging play spaces that spark imagination, get kids moving, and keep them off screens!



Sandy (Shaefer) Shultz's daughter, Grace, reports that her mom has had a mission in Honduras for over 20 years after first serving there in the Peace Corps. The mission, named Sandy In Honduras, provides the means for medical attention for thousands of Honduran families.

Kate Fournier and her husband Jeff were nominated for a James Beard award. Kate is participating in the Women Entrepreneurial Leadership Program through the James Beard Foundation and is committed to supporting local food sources.

Amanda Bernasconi (01) started a local nonprofit called FYR Boston to bring fitness and wellness programming to youth.

Bethany (Landry) Williard (01) is now the Associate Executive Director at the Spears Y in Greensboro, NC after working 19 years full-time at the Y.

Emily Parker was honored by American Camping Association New England with the Bette Bussel Distinguished Service Award. Emily retired in January 2023 from Nobels Day Camp in Dedham, MA where she served as Director for 19 years. Some of our Huckins Leadership Staff were at the conference where she received the award and made sure to give a big Huckins cheer!

Charlotte and Mei Podvojsky toured Elon University and ran into their previous counselor, **Abby Wright!**

IN MEMORIAM

Joanne Pransky, a camper in the late 1960's and early 70's, passed away in May of 2023. She will be remembered for her great sense of humor, her amazing laugh, and her love of camp. Known as the "First Robotic Psychiatrist", Joanne was a pioneer in the field of social robotics and was an expert on the human-robot relationship, as well as an advocate for women in robotics. She will be dearly missed by her Huckins friends.

Welcome to the Huckins family!

Weddings and Babies



Breezy (Dwyer) Knudsen (19) welcomed son Simon to join big sister Jane in May 2023.



Luca Chiamulera was born on November 23, 2022, to **Alicia (Barrows) Chiamulera (07)**.



Conway Thomas Tornabene was born on August 6, 2023, to **Erin "Pupps" Kenison (06)**.



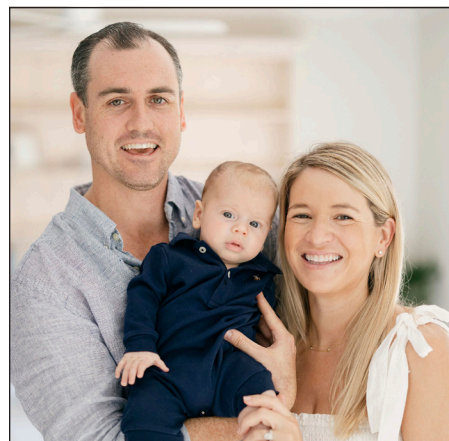
Sarah (Riley) Silva (12) welcomed her third baby girl in May. Madison Riley Silva joins big sisters Amelia (5) and Gracie (3).



Julia Messier (10) married Derek Stemple on October 30, 2022.



Christina Matulis (08) married Gus Gleason on July 1, 2023, in Bristol, Rhode Island. By her side as maid of honor was Huckins alum **Livie Cohn**.



Melissa (Mullery) Williams (12) welcomed her first child with husband Ryan Williams. Their son Callan 'Cal' Brian Williams was born December 15, 2022, in Jupiter, FL.



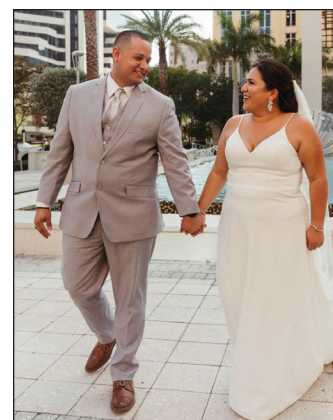
Amy (Shackford) Miressi (07) and **Katie Miressi** got married at camp by **Jody Skelton**. Soon after, Amy and Katie had a baby girl named Josephine Ann Miressi. Future Huckins girl pictured with her grandmother, another Huckins alum, **Karen Shackford**.



Liv (McQuade) Norman (09) married Jack Norman in York, Maine in September. There were many Huckins alums in attendance to celebrate.



Melissa (Eberly) DeCataldo (11) welcomed baby girl Isabel on January 1, 2023.



Nina Tringali (13) married Carlos Rios on May 12, 2023, in Miami, FL.

From Huckins to Peace Corps

By Rachel Damery

Many previous campers and counselors continued on the path to serve in the Peace Corps in their young adult lives. After speaking with Judy May (80), Hannah Finch (09), Rachel Damery, and Julia Maxwell, they all shared the common thread of gaining leadership skills, independence, resilience, and confidence from their time at camp. Read more about Rachel Damery's experience below.

I spent 2013-2015 serving in the Peace Corps as a Community Health Educator, and throughout my experience, I found myself reaching back to my time at camp in a number of ways. In many respects, the first few months of service felt a bit like camp; in my case, I traveled over and spent the first three months in training every day with a group of 55 people. The camp experience really lends itself to learning to make fast friends and finding ways to connect with people. Peace Corps training is rigorous, tiring, and brings new experiences daily; while that's amplified compared to the experience of being at camp, I think my years spent at Huckins equipped me with a toolkit that can be employed in new and challenging situations.

After you complete Peace Corps training, you officially get sworn in as a volunteer and sent to where you'll be posted to live and work for two years, often on your own in that location or maybe with one other volunteer nearby. I was in a small village in northern Cameroon, where I got by speaking French (though the primary language in the northern part of the country is a West African language called Fulfulde), and where the culture is largely rooted in Islam. Every day was a new learning experience — figuring out how to communicate, how to get food and water, what the norms were, how to best do my job, etc. — and it was amazing and exciting and difficult and exhausting some days all at once. I found myself leaning on things I picked up at camp in both good times and challenging times. I spent a lot of my time working with and getting to know the kids in my village, and my time spent on staff at Huckins certainly lent itself to playing games with and knowing how to relate to a group of kids. My front porch was a daily hub for kids to come and play board games or borrow a soccer ball or just hang out. From them, I learned a lot — they were sort of a lifeline for me for finding out where I could get basic

Hannah Finch pictured with fellow teachers from her time in the Peace Corps in Ecuador. Hannah shared how her experiences at camp helped her feel prepared to talk with anyone in any situation.



Rachel Damery with some of the many children she worked with in Cameroon, West Africa.

necessities like water or food, who to talk to if I needed something fixed or some clothes made, and countless other little daily ins and outs of small village life. My experiences at camp really helped me to connect with those kids and we learned a lot from one another.

I was also lucky to be very close to my landlord and his family, who became like my own family, but being away from home for so long is inevitably difficult. My mom bravely made it over for a visit during my service, but aside from that I didn't see my family for the entire 27 months I was in Cameroon, and we spoke on the phone only occasionally, when I had service and was able to charge my phone. Having spent 12 years at camp, I felt prepared to deal with homesickness myself and to console other volunteers who felt homesick as well. It's a normal part of being away from home, and more so when everything is just a little bit harder than you're used to — you don't speak the language as well as you'd like, you're on your own, your work projects are entirely dependent on your own self-motivation, your resources for everyday life are quite limited — it can become daunting. But knowing that homesickness passes, and you can get through it and find ways to make the best of unfamiliar circumstances and find connection with others is something I certainly attribute to the years I spent at camp.

I think Peace Corps service in many ways is a natural fit for people who have spent time at Huckins. It's a place that instills confidence in one's ability to be independent, think creatively, make meaningful connections, and rise to meet challenges. I'd encourage anyone who wants to have a perspective-shifting experience to consider Peace Corps service or any other service organization like City Year or

Americorps. As an international development organization, Peace Corps has its limitations and flaws in its model, but it's really effective in facilitating cultural exchange and understanding. I learned so much from my time in Cameroon, a place I likely never would've otherwise visited or known much about. It feels a world away now, but much like my 12 years spent at camp, I carry that experience with me on a daily basis, and it shapes how I see and move through the world. I think it's so important to get outside our comfort zones and have those kinds of experiences, and I know my time at Huckins left me with a sense of confidence that I could adapt to a new environment and foster those connections that help us learn from one another.



Julia Maxwell with her host family in Guinea, West Africa. Julia has drawn upon her time at Huckins in many ways. Most significantly, she shared how camp helped her become more resilient, learning new skills and participating in different experiences.



Judy Snow May in Mali, West Africa, getting water to drink. Judy shared how the girls in Mali spent a significant amount of time getting water for their families each day, often missing school because their families needed their help. From her time at Huckins and in the Peace Corps, Judy expressed the profound strength she saw from the women around her.

Young Alumni Committee

Announcing this year's Young Alumni Committee (YAC)! Founded in 2020, the YAC strives to build and engage a community of young alums* who will grow in their support of Huckins as partners, advocates, and investors, as well as develop a network of support among generations of Huckonians. Please keep an eye out for YAC events and initiatives this year!

Molly Badger
Maggie Bland
Amy Brennan, Co-Chair
Mia Christenson
Jenna Dalton
Molly Denning
Jess Franks
Julia Himmelberger

Audrey James, Co-Chair
Annie (Colbert) Kazarnovsky
Jessie (Felber) Kiefaber
Morgan Maradian
Christine (Weeks) Moore
Rebecca Raslowsky
Grace Smith
Emma Swanick

**While all Huckonians are young at heart, this committee focuses engagement efforts among alumni under 35. To learn about ways to get involved, please email Amy Brennan brennana023@gmail.com or Audrey James at aejames09@gmail.com.*

The Huckins Fund!

Why is a gift to the Huckins Fund so important?

The Huckins Fund is Camp's Annual Fund which provides flexible resources for camp to use toward our greatest needs. Gifts to the Huckins Fund help with yearly operating costs, staff training, financial aid for campers, community programs, and facilities upkeep, as well as to chocolate chip pudding, stand-up paddle boards, gimp in the Craft Shop, and candles at Candlelight. Huckins Fund dollars help bridge the gap between the camp's tuition and the actual cost of providing a Huckins experience.

Please consider supporting the Huckins Fund with your gift this year. All gifts made by December 31 will be recognized in the Annual Report. Thank you for your consideration and ALAMEN to our generous donors.

Mother/Son Weekend 2023

Mother/Son weekend was the perfect way to kick off the 2023 camp season! The first of the season rugged Island Swimmers, Sharpshooters setting the bar at the Archery Range, and the most heartwarming Vespers we could have asked for. Join us June 7th-9th for Mother/Son in 2024!



Above: All the Mother/Son participants

Top left: Hucksters

Bottom left: Double Hucksters

Staff Family Day 2023

We were thrilled to have Staff Family Day return to camp this past summer! Families joined for a day filled with laughter and a chance to connect with their staff member's home away from home. Families had the opportunity to jump off the tower, sail, sing on the tables, and engage in other fun-filled activities that bring us all together.



Family Camp 2023

It is always a joy to have generations of Family Campers in August. Mark your calendars for Family Camp in 2024 for August 19th-23rd.



Junior Division



Middler Division



Senior Division



Leadership Division



Family Camp Hucksters: Five Year (left), Ten Year (center) and 35 Year (right)

Family Camp Candlelight

Labor Day Family Camp 2023

Labor Day Family Campers made the most of every minute. We look forward to spending the holiday weekend with you all again from August 30th to September 2nd.



Junior Division



Middler Division



Senior Division



Leadership Division



Labor Day Family Camp Double Hucksters



Labor Day Family Camp Double Hucksters

Mother/Daughter Weekend 2023

There are so many special memories to be made at Mother/Daughter Weekend. Families from all over the world helped comprise our largest island swim to date – over 200! Daughters planned and executed Vespers and the brave moms followed them off of the tower over and over again. We look forward to seeing you all in 2024 on September 6th–8th.



Junior Division



Middler Division



Senior Division



Leadership Division



Hucksters



Hucksters



Double Hucksters

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17 Camp Huckins Road
Freedom NH 03836-4403



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@Carroll County YMCA Camp
Huckins



@ymcacamphuckins

YMCA Camp Huckins

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2024 SEASON

May 31–June 2 Alumni Weekend
June 7–June 9 Mother/Son Weekend
June 11–June 16 Early Bird Week
June 16–June 23 Staff Week
June 23–July 6 1st Session
July 7–July 20 2nd Session
July 21–August 3 3rd Session
August 4–August 17 4th Session
August 19–August 23 Family Camp Week
August 30–September 2 Labor Day Family Camp
September 6–September 8 Mother/Daughter Weekend
September 13–September 15 Women's Wellness
September 27–September 29 Fall Alumni Work Weekend

Get your Nellie Gear!

The online camp store will be open from
November 8th until November 22nd.

Check out the camp classics, as well as
some new items! Orders will be shipped
to arrive for the holiday season.

www.camphuckinsshop.com



Questions? store@camphuckins.org