

North Country Camps Newsletter



North Country Camps 100th Year - A Recap



The new year began with our spirited annual camper reunion at Chelsea Piers in New York City. We hosted over 120 campers, parents and staff at the skating rink. Fond summer stories, a slide show, and the camp spirit warmed everyone on a cold winter day.

We had a full camp this summer with a total of 164 children. Many were the second or third generation to attend camp. Impressively, 25% of our enrollment consisted of new campers. One highlight of the summer included the construction of a dramatic, versatile new climbing wall and giant's ladder, which was later paired with new low ropes course elements built by this year's workgroup.



While familiar activities continue to excite and challenge our campers each week, inventive new activities are always being tried out, including “Trip Food Iron Chef” and miniature golf in the Cubs’ Den. Many memorable hiking and paddling trips occurred throughout the summer, and this year saw two freshly minted 46ers from Lincoln and four from Whip.



Newer (or resurrected) trips included hiking Fordway Mountain (of the Whippoorwill Mountain Club), backpacking along the Northville-Placid trail, hiking various slides in the High Peaks and paddling Lake Lila (resulting in one camper’s completion of her quest to visit each of the lakes and rivers listed on the paddling chart). Campers also spent the night in the new lean-to on Pinnacle, which had been built by previous workgroups. A mid-season performance of “Annie” was followed by the County Fair and mixed square dance.

Traditional end-of-summer activities continued with the racing of the Chief’s Cup and the Farrington Cup, the horse show, a Pinewood Derby and camper-counselor switch day. This year’s Final Banquet themes were “Viking Raid” (Lincoln) and “Camp Trips” (Whippoorwill), highlighting the dramatic skits, creative décor, and delicious food of both camps.

100th Year Celebrations

In 2019, North Country Camps celebrated its 100th summer. Over the course of a century, Lincoln and Whippoorwill have drawn together children and families, connecting them with each other and the Adirondacks. Our camp community now includes thousands of bold pioneers spread across the globe.

To celebrate this remarkable landmark — and the people who have helped shepherd camp to the present and into the future — we hosted a dinner on April 6 at the Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY. Dubbed *100 Years of Stewardship*, the evening saw 150 camp alums and family mingle, dine, sing (including Pete and Jan leading us in a song (lyrics below)), watch a slide show (of course!), and bid on many camp-related items in a silent auction. All went home with hearts warmed and heads full of rich Augur Lake memories, confident that the NCC Foundation will continue to sustain Camp’s vital and unique mission.



2020 Staff Recruiting

Outstanding staff members make NCC summers special. We’re always looking for energetic, talented counselors, section heads, trip leaders and kitchen staff. If you have friends or family members who might be interested in working at camp, please share this [link](#) with them and have them contact Kate or Doug.

2020 Ice-Out Contest

While we in the Camp community always think of Augur Lake as warm and inviting all summer long, it does freeze hard for December into April (and sometimes May), often up to 2 feet thick. You could drive a truck across it. We invite all of you to participate in the 2020 NCC Augur Lake Ice-Out Contest. Send your guess of Ice-Out Day to Doug and Kate (directors@northcountrycamps.com) by March 1, 2020. The winner(s) will receive a bag of NCC swag. Last year the ice went out on April 13.



Pete and Jan's Special Rendition at Hackley of "It Aint'a Gonna Rain No More"

Oh it aint'a gonna rain no more no more,
It aint'a gonna rain no more,
How the heck gonna wash my neck,
If it aint'a rain no more!?

This gathering is really great,
It's all been pretty nifty!
You've made us both feel young again,
As though we're not quite fifty.

So thanks to you, both old and young,
You all are sure the best!
The camps we love are in your hands,
For this we're truly blessed!

August 23-25 was a big weekend with almost 200 alums, families, campers, and staff gathering for a Summer Celebration on the Whip Field. The main event was a grand local farm-to-table dinner under a festive party tent with a favorite North Country bluegrass band and dancing. Throughout the weekend, attendees explored the North Country with hiking, biking, paddling, and other local activities.



The last event was the 46er Weekend on September 28-29. We thought it appropriate that our final celebration mark our connection to the mountains. Over 70 alums congregated in the Adirondacks with a goal of collectively climbing all 46 High Peaks over those two days. Mission accomplished! You can see those photos, along with photos from the other 100th anniversary events, on the Foundation website [here](#).



2020 Old-Timers' Weekend

At the end of the upcoming summer, we'll be hosting an 'Old-Timers' Weekend' at North Country Camps, from the evening of August 21st through lunch on August 23rd. It's a great opportunity to stay at camp, enjoy some activities, reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. It's also a great way for alums to introduce your families to Lincoln and Whippoorwill! And, the food is fantastic! Registration will open this Spring, via our website and we'll send out notifications at that time. These events do generally fill up. Hope to see you there!



Foundation Update

With the creation of the North Country Camps Foundation (NCCF), we have a board of directors comprised of alumni dedicated to the continuation of the Gucker family philosophy and the NCC experience. NCCF now owns and operates Lincoln and Whippoorwill. We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation eligible for tax-deductible contributions.

When NCCF was created, we adopted the following mission statement:

"The purpose of the North Country Camps is to offer campers and their counselors an extended opportunity to live together simply in safe, healthy, cheerful, and yet challenging outdoor surroundings. We believe in introducing children to a camp community where they have a say in what takes place, where life is dynamic and purposeful, yet unhurried, where they can develop skills at their own pace, where they can find their own style and self-worth without excessive competitive tension, where adventure is real, yet carefully supervised, and where learning is the result of participation. We are eager to sharpen children's awareness of the wilderness environment and to work with them in finding sensible ways to preserve it."

NCCF's core responsibility is to sustain and enhance this Camp experience. We are also exploring other avenues to bring our extended community to the North Country to further enjoy and support this special place. Several of our 100th Anniversary celebrations already achieved that goal.

We've had three committees hard at work over the last year. The 100th Anniversary Committee planned all our celebrations. The Programs Committee has been evaluating off-season program opportunities and what requirements might apply. The Alumni Committee has been working on alumni outreach and supporting camper recruiting efforts. If you'd like to get involved please contact Barry Needleman (bneedleman@comcast.net).

NCCF had a successful first year financially. Camper fees covered all the costs of operations. Prior to the transition we actually exceeded our goal in the initial fundraising campaign. We used a portion of the donated funds to complete the transition, and also to make some strategic investments after the May 2018 storm damaged trees, cabins and the ropes course. As a 501(c)(3) entity, NCCF's financial information is publically available. If you would like to learn more, please contact us.

Finally, in 2020 we will be launching a multi-year capital campaign designed to raise funds for large infrastructure projects at both camps. This effort will look beyond normal building upkeep and replacement and instead focus on major projects we hope to accomplish in the coming years. We'll be sharing the details soon but if you'd like to learn more now, please contact Barry (bneedleman@comcast.net)

NCCF Board Members

Anda Adams
Emily Byrne
Betsy Ginsberg
Megan Kashner
Bob Livingston
Elaine Mizer
Barry Needleman, Chair
Brian Ruder
Kenny Widmann

2020 Alumni Work Weekend

This June, we'll hold our third annual alumni work weekend at North Country Camps. It's a fun chance to give back to NCC by joining the "Pre-Pre Camp Crew" and working on a project to benefit camp's infrastructure. This year, we'll hold the work weekend on June 6 and 7. Our main project will be putting a new coat of paint on the horse barn, but there will be other important tasks as well. We'll announce signups for this weekend in the early Spring, via social media and our website.



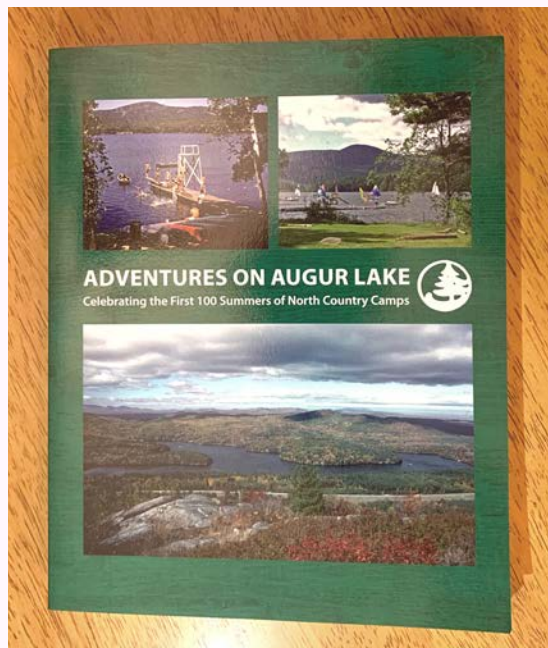
Introducing New Families to Camp

Connecting with friends of current camp families is our best recruiting tool. Each year, Doug and Kate host a series of home-based open houses. We've started scheduling open houses for the 2020 season in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Boston, Washington DC and several other locations. If you know families who might be interested in learning about camp, please encourage them to attend one of these events. If you'd like to host an open house in your home or help someone else in your area to host, please contact Kate and Doug (directors@northcountrycamps.com).

"Adventures on Augur Lake"

Pete Gucker, with help from several alums, has assembled and published "Adventures on Augur Lake" – a book illuminating the first century of the North Country Camps. Told through the keen eyes and poignant, funny personal memories of dozens of alumni of camp's 100 summers, "Adventures" is a true labor of love and an instant portal to your NCC experience, regardless of when you were at camp. As many reviewers have shared, the book is a "gorgeous" "treasure," and "a wonderful and heartfelt compilation of NCC's history." It's an excellent keepsake or gift!

You can order your copy (signed by Pete!) by sending a \$30 check to North Country Camps - Attn: Book, 395 Frontage Road, Keeseville, NY 12944. You may also use PayPal (contact directors@northcountrycamps.com for account information).



NCC in the Media

Prior to the opening of our 100th summer, North Country Public Television produced a special feature story on NCC's milestone anniversary which you can find on the North Country Camps Foundation website.

"Our camp is a marvelous opportunity for kids to learn what it's like to live in a small community where everybody has a word in what's going on and where kids get to make their own choices," says Pete, capturing the unique NCC experience for an Adirondack Explorer article about the economic and social benefits of summer camps in the region. You can view that article [here](#).



NCCF's Initial Supporters

Prior to the transition, NCCF set an ambitious goal of raising sufficient funds to ensure the new foundation would begin operating in a sound financial position. Thanks to the dedicated group of alumni listed below, we surpassed our fundraising target. Their generosity helped secure the success of NCC well into the future.

Dan Abramson	Glenn Howard
Anda Adams and Bob Pape	Keith Johnson
Jeffrey and Beatrice Altman	Alan and Gail Landauer
Lawrence and Joan Altman	Lynn and Bob Livingston
Art Amler	Lloyd Lowy and Susan Elbe
Barbara Appel	Robert and Elaine Martin
The Blum Family	The McConnell Family Foundation
Boehm Family Foundation	Barry and Ruth Needleman
Tom and Trudy Calabrese	Alex Rawson
Alison Cayne	Allan Rosenwald
Lisa Danzig and Franklin Minerva	Ginny and Brian Ruder
Catrina and Jim Drotleff	Wendy and Steve Shalen
John Falk	Michael Silber
The Feidelson Family	Roberta Silman
Josh Fidler	Hank Sondheimer
Jim Frauenthal	Neal Sondheimer
Sally and Einar Gall	Dirk Sonneborn
Jack Gordon	Jim Sonneborn
Jim Goulder	John Squire
William Gratz	Tom Sternberg
Jonathan and Lynne Greer	The Unger Family
The Matthew L. Greer Children's Foundation	Rob Vogel and Bonnie Malkin
Will and Jo'Ann Hartshorn	Sue and Ed Wachenheim
Heidecorn Family Foundation	Susan L. West
Jane and Eric Herzog	Sharon Zane and Gregory Macosko
Orin Hoffman	Robert E. (Bob/Robby) Zaret
Barbara and Jeff Hoffman	

Since launching NCCF, many others have made financial contributions. We greatly appreciate their support. If you would like to contribute, or learn about planned giving opportunities, please visit our [website](#).

