



# THE IROQUOIS SPRINGS TIMES

**WINTER EDITION 2015**

P.O Box 20126 | Dix Hills | NY 11746  
P: 631.462.2550 | [www.iroquoissprings.com](http://www.iroquoissprings.com)

## ★ A NOTE FROM MARK AND LAURA ★

It was great seeing everyone at the Camp Reunion on December 7th. It was clear we had our best turnout ever, having people travel far and wide to get there and be together, as well as a few surprise guest staff members who couldn't stay away from as far away as Canada. We always ask ourselves... how great it is to be able to experience all the "camp energy" again...so many of us together again in one place just having a great time, and reliving the memories and re-kindling the bonds and friendships that exist "only at camp". There really is nothing like the spirit and energy the Iroquois Springs gang can create....it truly is contagious. We are all so lucky! Somehow the "magic" we create together carries us all throughout the entire year, and keeps us all connected in such a special and unique way.

When we returned home from the reunion, we ran to watch the 2014 video yearbook, popped some popcorn and sat together and watched what was another terrific summer together. Our eyes opened wide and our smiles filled our faces as we watched and reflected on all we accomplished together in 2014. It was amazing to watch and see all the things that happened each day; to watch friendships form, activities flourish; the staff who cares for us, and the spirit that grows daily is what it really is all about.

### What a great summer!

We also took a breath and looked back at what has been FOURTEEN incredible years of Iroquois Springs, since we bought the camp. It is hard to believe how quickly the time has passed. We have seen so many of our campers and staff grow up before our eyes. We are so proud of Iroquois Springs, fourteen years later.

Iroquois Springs has become an amazing community of campers and staff who respect and care about one another and look forward to returning to Rock Hill each summer more than almost anything else. Our reputation of taking great care of our campers and providing an incredible experience with our mature, well-trained staff has been unsurpassed. This is no small feat, and it happened because we have had the most wonderful camp families and staff members out there, who have believed in what Iroquois Springs is all about – **Thank you!**

Most importantly, camp is about the people, and we are so proud of our campers, who have really grown in so many other ways, they are more self-confident, they are better friends, or better siblings or better children, and they are better people because the camp experience helps them to develop themselves and take risks in a warm, supportive, caring environment with staff that is there for their challenges and triumphs. What a great fourteen years it has been and we cannot wait for the next 20 to see where it all goes! Thanks for being a part of it!

**Let the countdown begin - summer will be here before we know it!**



*With Love, Mark & Laura*





# BOYS SIDE STUFF WITH JOSH

Iroquois Springs is who I am and who you are. Iroquois Springs is not just a camp or piece of land in Rock Hill, New York. It is a way of life, a way to think and a way to live. My family and I spent our winter break in Florida and it felt like we were in Rock Hill. Granted, there are no oceans or palm trees at camp but there are plenty of happy, polite and caring campers and families. Not a day went by, and I mean it, that we did not bump into an Iroquois Springs family. From the airport in NY to restaurants in Florida we were greeted with hugs, smiles, great memories and wonderful stories from campers and their families. I remember

learning in school that the sun never set on the British Empire. This empire was so vast that no matter where or what time it was, somewhere in the world the sun was shining on it. Well, fast-forward a few centuries and the saying now goes, the sun never sets on Iroquois Springs.

Most adults who work in schools or camp take a vacation to get away from the children that they work with. In all honesty, it was so heartwarming for me to see so many current and former Iroquois Springs campers so far away from our oasis in Rock Hill. You were all so polite and seemed so happy to relive, even for a quick moment, your favorite camp memory or story. Many of you were so thoughtful to ask how your counselors were doing and if they would be back. Watching everyone in a non-camp environment using the lessons that you learned in camp ensures that the **Boys Side Brotherhood Bond** is strong and can never be extinguished. This positive vibe was felt at the reunion as well. We had the majority of our campers there along with a few counselors who travelled many hours to attend. Our bond was represented at the reunion and continues to grow as you read this.

At the end of our trip to Florida we planned on heading up to Rock Hill for our New Year celebration. We were fortunate to spend New Year's Eve in camp and a few days following as well. Walking around camp in the freezing cold was amazing and walking on the frozen lake was even cooler. As great as it was...there is nothing like seeing Boys Side full of happy campers, hearing the bouncing of basketballs and the kicking of soccer balls during the summer. I walked through many of your cabins and relived some of the laughs that we all had. I stood at the flagpole and thought about your flags and how much they meant to your cabins. While walking past the divisional campfire pits I thought in only a few short months the fires will be roaring and the campfire songs will be sung. Oh how lucky we are!

Enjoy all that this New Year will bring you and don't forget to always stay positive and polite. Please remember and appreciate the fact that Iroquois Springs is where we go over the summer but realize Iroquois Springs is something that we feel and live by every day.

See you in the summer or somewhere before, I wish everyone nothing but health, happiness and smiles in 2015. **Josh**

## EVERYTHING CAMPER

We are thrilled to announce that our new clothing outfitter is **Everything Camper!** We know you are going to love the new styles they offer and great camp gear that will be available for all of our camp families. Make sure to check-out their website at [www.everythingcamper.com](http://www.everythingcamper.com) to get a complete **packing list** for the summer and **book an appointment** at one of their many "roadshows" where campers can try on gear, see the latest styles and place orders for all kinds of great camp items!

### Everything Camper Roadshow Dates:

February 14 & 15:	Boca Raton, Florida
February 21 - 24:	New York City Showroom
February 26 - March 1:	Brookville, New York
March 7 & 8:	White Plains (Westchester)
March 14 & 15:	Fort Lee, New Jersey
March 21:	Bethesda, Maryland
March 22:	Philadelphia, PA
March 28 & 29:	West Orange, New Jersey
April 6 - 13:	New York City Showroom
April 18 & 19:	Plainview, New York

(New York City showroom appointments are also available when Roadshow schedule concludes)

**NEW WEBSITE AND PROMOTIONAL VIDEO**

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**Make sure to check-out our BRAND NEW website featuring all new videos, an amazing virtual tour and great new photography that truly captures the essence of Iroquois Springs!**

## GIRLS SIDE GAB *With Rosie*

Wow – It is cold out there. Happy New Year everyone! We are getting a little bit closer to summer 2015 and I cannot be more excited. It was great seeing everyone at the camp reunion. Everyone just seems a little bit older, a bit more mature – everyone is growing up so quickly and making me so very proud. Over the vacation we went to Florida where we bumped into so many Iroquois Springs families and then we broke in the New Year at camp. What more could we ask for? The friendships you develop at camp are priceless and are like no other. We chose to spend New Years Eve and the rest of our vacation with our camp family. We could not be happier and Olivia and Tyler had a blast.

I was so happy to see so many of you reconnect with your camp friends during the camp reunion. There were a number of sleepovers, parties and gatherings the whole weekend. I saw pictures on Facebook and Instagram that made me smile. Especially the pictures that **included everyone** – the pictures that made me think this is what camp is all about. I thought to myself that these girls may not have been friends in the “real world” – however, the “camp world” brought them together. That made me proud!!!! Some of you live miles away and still included each other that weekend. Some of you had the entire bunk over and no one was left out. That made me proud. Ladies, remember when we post things on Instagram and Facebook – **Let's think before we click** – Make sure someone's feelings are not going to be hurt. I never expect a bigger bunk to be able to coordinate a sleepover at one person's house – however; I do expect everyone to be included in some way during the weekend. Just remind yourselves that it is much easier to be nice than to be mean. I know sometimes logistics make things difficult – I just want to know that you tried. Everyone will feel better that way :)

I know, at times, that friendships can begin to hit turbulence and that happens. Let's not be the cause of it. We, as girls, need to make a commitment to stop judging and start listening and empathizing. Once we feel empowered we could stand up for ourselves and for others. Let's celebrate our differences and look for the good in each other. That is what makes Iroquois Springs so special. We have campers that are **NICE** – we treat each other fairly, and we make sure not to put others down...lets keep it that way. I always tell parents that their daughter will leave camp feeling better about herself and about the friendships she has made at camp. Help me with my mission not only in the summer but throughout the school year. I am so proud of each and every one of you. I miss you when we aren't together and I cannot wait to see your faces at line-up in just a few months. Continue to practice the skills we discuss all summer. Think before you click!! Be careful what you put on social media. Lets remember to stick together regardless of what obstacles come in our way.

Wait until you see the new girls HC, it looks great; I am so excited. Camp was beautiful in the winter, however, it was just too quiet for me. I missed the noise that happens on girls side. I miss line-up, bunk talks and Jenna's jokes. I miss music over the loud speaker, hearing Tara fitness early in the morning and reveille. I miss it all. **I live ten months for two!!**

I hope that everyone is having a great school year. I hope that you enjoyed your vacation and are already counting the days until we are back together in 12775. I am excited to continue our traditions, sing our songs and be together again.



For those of you that are coming to camp for the first time - CONGRATS and welcome to girls side. Get ready for the summer of your life. In our next newlster I will share with you all the exciting new and old things we have planned for 2015.

**Work hard and be nice!!** *Rosie*

## CAMPER REFLECTIONS

When one of our very own Iroquois Springs campers was presented with the task of creating a poem for her Craft of Language class, here is what she came up with, pretty impressive!

*Written By: Olivia – Camper,  
Summers 2011 - 2015*

I know camaraderie.  
I know happiness and shining sunshine.  
I know campfires burning.  
I know cleaning.  
I know meaningless arguments, and forgiveness.  
Camp is an experience.

I know blue and gold spirit.  
I know newcomers and familiar faces.  
I know forever lasting friendships.  
I know fun activities all day long.  
I know sunscreen and evil sunburns.  
Camp is an experience.

I know history and amazing traditions.  
I know sports.  
I know cooking tasty foods.  
I know opportunities.  
I know visiting day, and deliciously eaten candy.  
Camp is an experience.

Camp, I know the opportunities you give me for a great summer.  
I know you by the laugh, the cries, and bonds.  
I know camp, but I don't know lonely summers.



# Notes from BUBBA'S CLIPBOARD

It always so great to see so many people at the camp reunion and be able to talk camp for a few hours.

The turnout to the event was simply amazing and we heard so many great stories and memories of the summer gone by. Hopefully you are all making good use of your new Iroquois Springs beanies and keeping warm this winter as we countdown to another awesome summer together.

**At the top of so many campers mind, the question of, "who is coming back, will my counselor be back this summer?"** Well, as always, here is a list of staff that have already said "yes" to returning this summer to share another amazing experience with you in 12775:

Jason Abfier	Andrew "Neesb" Cowan	Kat "Wearable Arts" Johnson	Benjamin Peck
Shawna Adler	Jose A. Velez "Tony" Cruz	Jordana Karger	Olivia Picklo
Derreck Arroyo Alicea	Drew Dalton	Elizabeth Katz	Kim Piselli
Nicholas Almanza	Rebecca Davidson	Toby "Rock Band" Keays	Donna "Hobbyville" Poole
Brooke Arnold	Jacob "Tennis" Davies	Sean Kelly	Giles "Waterski" O'Driscoll
Timothy "Soccer" Assante	Kelsey Day	Bridget Kennedy	Ciaran Quigley
Rebecca Barsby	Bethany "Boo" Dickinson	Jens Kerkhof	Claire Rosenberg
Alex Beauchamp	Gabor Erdi-Krausz	Ron "Coach K" Kestenbaum	Gary "Gazza" Ross
Melanie Bergstedt	Gina Ethe	Marilee Klaschka	Jamie Saslaw
Owen Betteridge	Rhia Evans	Alyssa Kopf	Harry Sheldon
Richard Blackburn	Warren "Wazza" Famiglietti	Eduardo Luna	Karen Shelton
Diana Blank	Blane Ferguson	Ellen Mager	Leah "Aquatics" Sider
Josh Bogard	Andres Ferrer	Robyn Martin	Andrea Spector
Rosanne Bogard	Evan Fischer	Nicole McDonough	Perri Spector
Elaine Bottomley	Amanda Flynn	Jessica McDonough	Tyler Starkey
Viviane "Tennis" Brett	Yve "Camp Mom" Fouladi	Tim McGinnis	Jack Staub
Lori "Cooking" Bright	Michael "Midge" Francis	Anna Medina	Ashley "A & C" Stuewe
Sarah Bush	Dylan Frand	Matthew Memming	Noah Tickle
Mark "OA" Campbell	Lindsay Goldberg	Fred Miller	Eugene Titus
Sydney Carus	Gaby Narvaez	Marlon "Swagwitz" Mitchell	Aniko Tonka
Jeff "Baseball" Caspi	Emma Goodman	Itzel Momox Cuatrecatel	Attila Toth
Angelo Castelonina	Carl "Basketball" Graham	Matthew Morris	Robin Wenczl
Geraldine Catania	Tara "Fitness" Hartman	Drew "Drew Ru" Morrison	Larry "Lah" Wilensky
John Champlain	Benjamin Hatton	Roland Nagy	Evan Williams
Kevin Chason	Richard "Snappy" Henderson	Lisa Nichols	Rebecca Wilson
Sydney Chason	Michael "LAX" Hofmeister	Claudia Noguera	Joey Yazell
Chadd "Baseball" Clifford	Jakob Hunter	Matthew Orfinger	Robert Young
Chelsey Cohen	Erin Johnson	Hadley Parker	Tammy "Tours" Zornberg

While this list is quite impressive on it's own, it will certainly grow as some of our staff who are still on the "maybe" list solidify plans and arrange for their summer to be spent in Rock Hill.

**By the looks of it, we are going to have another stellar group of staff for the summer of 2015!** **BUBBA**

Don't forget to check us out on...



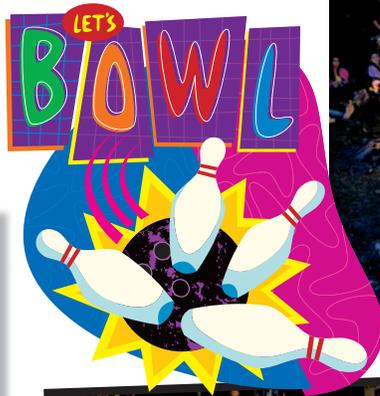
# THIS SUMMER AT CAMP

**COASTAL**  
LONG ISLAND  
**SOCCER**

**Dorney Park**  
& Wildwater Kingdom

**TODDYAHNEY**  
music & entertainment

mountain  
creek  
waterpark



CAMPFIRE



BRAD  
HENDERSON

The  
**Castle**  
Fun Center



**CARNIVAL**



**project morry**  
OUR YOUTH • OUR COMMUNITY • OUR FUTURE



**Fireworks**





# THE WINTER ARROW CLUE



Well, no one has sent in the correct answer yet to this clue, so here we go again!

In each issue of the Iroquois Springs Times we will present a new clue to the “Winter Arrow’s” location. Unlike in Color Week, the “Winter Arrow” can be ANYWHERE in Camp – indoors or outdoors, areas both in bounds and off limits. Use your creativity and imagination...you can even search without a counselor!!!

The first Girls Side and Boys Side campers to correctly name the exact location of the “Winter Arrow” will win a prize for their bunk next summer. Remember to give a detailed description of why you think the “Winter Arrow” is there when you respond.

Send your answers to: [summers@iroquoissprings.com](mailto:summers@iroquoissprings.com) and make sure to include your first and last name in the email.

## Here is Clue #1:

Once upon a time. Yet Again.  
Cadence and Cascade walk to the rhythm of a song all their own  
After 45 pirouettes of the tick and the tock, they arrived back where they started from  
Home, a drink, they see their reflection. Peace for a while.  
They have found their city of gold that lies in the deep distance of each of our heart’s desires.

## Here is Clue #2:

And Cadence and Cascade walk again amongst the season of the children. There is a magic to their laughter and their happiness in this wonderful land that even a journey through the ghost woods couldn’t make fade away. Cascade worried that too much laughter may leave those beautiful young voices ragged and frayed, but it never seemed to matter. And their song remained the same.

Home again. A drink, they see their reflection. Peace for a while.

Somewhere, not far away, a Tori Amos album was playing. If you listen closely, maybe you can recognize music from “Scarlet’s Walk”, or maybe the sounds of “Unrepentant Geraldines” .....



FAVORITE RECIPE FROM

Kitchen Stadium

## Chex Cookie Pizza

### Ingredients

- 4 Cups Rice Chex Cereal
- 1/3 Cup Granulated Sugar
- 1/3 Cup Packed Brown Sugar
- 1/3 Cup Peanut Butter
- 1/4 Cup Butter or Margarine, Softened
- 1 Teaspoon Vanilla
- 1 Egg, Beaten
- 2 Cups Miniature Marshmallows
- 1/4 Cup Miniature Semisweet Chocolate Chips
- 2 Tablespoons Coarsely Chopped Honey-Roasted Peanuts (optional)
- 2 Rolls, Fruit Roll-Ups Chewy Fruit Snack, Unwrapped & Torn into Pieces

### Directions

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Place cereal in Ziploc food-storage plastic bag; seal bag and crush with rolling pin or meat mallet.
2. In large bowl, mix sugars, peanut butter, butter, vanilla and egg. Stir in crushed cereal. Spread in ungreased 12-inch pizza pan.
3. Bake 12 minutes. Sprinkle evenly with marshmallows to within 1 inch of edge. Bake 5 minutes longer or until marshmallows are light golden brown. Sprinkle chocolate chips, peanuts and fruit snack pieces over marshmallows to look like pizza toppings. Cool completely on cooling rack. Cut into 16 wedges. Store tightly covered.



# REUNION RE-CAP

WOW, maybe the best turnout we have ever had! The pictures here really tell the true story of campers and staff reuniting and having the chance to be with their "camp family" for just a few hours during the winter. Another incredible reunion filled with happy faces and great stories. Thanks to everyone who made the journey from near and far to be with us and relive camp while we enjoyed the excitement of Fun Fuzion.





# TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

We wanted to remind you that our Parent Dashboard has many features for families needing quick and easy camp information such as the ability to:

- Print statements
- Add a new credit card
- Make a payment online

- View & print invoices
- View current, as well as past invoices
- Schedule Phone Calls (available in the spring)
- View daily pictures and videos (Camp Today)
- Email your camper
- Complete required forms

We hope this technology continues to make your experience an easy one. Should you have any questions at all, just call and ask, we are always available to help!

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ROCK HILL

Neither snow, rain, cold, sleet or wet conditions will stop our crew who are busy at work in 12775 building a brand new kitchen and renovating part of the dining room. It's not easy being outside everyday in freezing conditions and building this new structure from the ground up, but that's what our talented crew is up to and they are truly doing a remarkable job!

While the new kitchen is going to really help our operation and continue to allow us to provide great camp food with lots of different selections at all of our meals, the dining room is going to have some additional space for seating and food service, making it even more comfortable to eat our meals together. We are certain that you are all going to welcome this renovation and hope that this will continue to help provide an exceptional dining experience for everyone at camp.

Of course, if that was not a tall enough order on its own, we are always improving and making sure we stay on top, so what else do we have in store for you? With the lake always a popular activity area for campers each activity period, we have purchased a new jet ski to continue teaching water-skiing, wakeboarding, knee boarding and more in addition to another Aqua Playground inflatable. We know the lake and water-ski program will continue to be popular choices amongst all of our campers!

As you know, we take great pride in our facility and our program, and we know that these new additions are going to really be a welcomed change for our campers! Make sure to keep an eye out for more improvements as we start to countdown to another fantastic summer together.



## WELCOME

We are thrilled to welcome the following new campers to the Iroquois Springs Family (since our last newsletter)

- |                   |                        |                     |                      |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| • Hannah Lowitz   | New Rochelle, NY       | • Shayna Sefret     | Baltimore, MD        |
| • Sophie Lowitz   | New Rochelle, NY       | • Caley Navins      | Ardsley, NY          |
| • Jack Levy       | Upper Saddle River, NJ | • Madeline Brabants | Croton on Hudson, NY |
| • Ariel Berkman   | Cortlandt Manor, NY    | • Jordyn Meisner    | Melville, NY         |
| • Sean Miller     | Dobbs Ferry, NY        | • Reese Meisner     | Melville, NY         |
| • Arlo Nemerson   | Baltimore, MD          | • Dylan D'Giff      | Dix Hills, NY        |
| • Mabel Maguire   | Chappaqua, NY          | • Sophia Warren     | Bellmore, NY         |
| • Aidan Rigberg   | Studio City, CA        | • Aimee Yang        | Mt. Kisco, NY        |
| • Samantha Loube  | Rockville, MD          | • Mallory Liffman   | Bethesda, MD         |
| • Isaac Putterman | Chappaqua, NY          | • Alison Chertoff   | Old Bethpage, NY     |
| • Lilly Dreyer    | Hillsdale, NJ          |                     |                      |



# HAPPY Birthday

## January

- 1 Sara Tesser
- 2 Alec Ash
- 2 Julia Coughlin
- 2 Breanna Keller
- 2 Gavin Keller
- 3 Spencer Carus
- 3 Evan Simon
- 3 Chloe Verch
- 4 Max Kaplan
- 4 Jonathan Kopf
- 5 Gabriel Golombek
- 6 Hannah Byrnes
- 9 Carly Orent
- 10 Zachary Schiffman
- 11 Peter Feinberg
- 11 Zachary Kam
- 12 Daniella Friedman
- 12 Hannah Lowitz
- 12 Sophie Lowitz
- 13 Brandon Nimberger
- 14 Sophia Warren
- 14 Samantha Zaintz
- 15 Max Decker
- 16 Leah Pearl
- 17 Brittany Davis
- 18 Josh Carus
- 18 Casey Peacock
- 18 Lauren Peacock
- 18 Rebecca Wallenstein
- 19 Joshua Buxbaum
- 19 Madeline Drucker
- 19 Jennifer Kaplan
- 19 Chloe Panes
- 20 Danielle Feldman
- 20 Kylie Warsaw
- 21 Spencer Shinrod
- 24 Jacob DeAlto
- 24 Samantha Einiger
- 24 Celia Ginzburg
- 24 Amanda Wiseltier
- 26 Lola Berger
- 26 Ruby Berger
- 26 Brian Pfeffer
- 27 Lauren Fialkow
- 29 Dean Koenig
- 29 Jackie Pollack
- 30 Samantha Atlas
- 30 Julia Zarkower

## February

- 1 Hannah Fouladi
- 2 Jonah Mazer
- 2 Maren Shapero
- 3 Zachary Blicksilver
- 3 Mia Ginzburg
- 3 Garrett Gold
- 3 Benjamin Schriever
- 4 Arlo Nemerson
- 5 Joshua Cohn
- 6 Scarlett Ames
- 8 Nicole Rosenzweig
- 9 Riley Bordetsky
- 9 Rachel Brenner
- 9 Jenna Kraus
- 9 Dylan Shapiro
- 9 Maya Theodoros
- 10 Ryan Grossman
- 10 Phillip Lederman
- 11 Isabella Iorii
- 12 Carson Beida
- 12 Sammi Rubinstein
- 13 Ross Brenner
- 14 Emily Staub
- 15 Emma Blancher
- 15 Lauren Rosenberg
- 16 Morgan Gross
- 16 Ella Kaminsky
- 16 Jake Lamazor
- 18 Zev Hartman
- 18 Halie Jasinover
- 19 Seth Marcus
- 20 Ben Tankel
- 24 Jake Bash
- 25 Jessie Baker
- 25 Justin Weiss
- 26 Jonathan Givre
- 26 Sammie Spector
- 27 Matthew Newfield
- 27 Brooke Wallenstein
- 27 Rachel Wallenstein
- 28 Anya Kornfeld
- 28 Emma Kornfeld

## March

- 3 Lucy Rubin
- 4 Carly Brensilber
- 4 Max Lasky
- 6 Bruce Dittelman
- 6 Sarah Milner
- 6 Sam Parsons
- 7 Hannah Barr
- 7 Aiden Levy
- 7 Josh Radin
- 7 Zachary Zwerling
- 9 Dara Alperstein
- 9 Adam Golden
- 9 Mia Gottlieb
- 10 Olivia Ethe
- 11 Jessica Ostroff
- 13 Jordan Gold
- 13 Luke Lamazor
- 14 Adam Robinson
- 15 Alison Meyer
- 16 Dylan Bretschneider
- 17 Sarah Nomdedeu
- 18 Blake Feldman
- 18 Sofia Goldbaum
- 19 Jesse Sattler
- 21 Ali Koster
- 23 Kate Klaschka
- 25 Jake Noah
- 27 Polina Baranova
- 27 Evan Plotkin
- 27 Alexandra Sachs
- 28 Ava Kleinberg
- 29 Lara Bamberger
- 29 Nicole Newfield
- 30 Olivia Pletter
- 31 Ariel Berkman
- 31 Jordyn Lieberman
- 31 Mabel Maguire



# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

## The Value of Quality Instruction at Camp

At Iroquois Springs, we pride ourselves on providing your children with a fun, safe environment for them to develop life skills, such as **independence** and **confidence**, to build strong relationships with both friends and role models, and to engage in a variety of activities that challenge them cognitively and physically.

As a camp we are passionate about giving children the opportunity to engage in diverse activities, which is why we offer everything from soccer and basketball, to ceramics and woodworking, to fencing, rock band, and digital media. No matter the activity area, our focus is on providing children with the highest quality instruction.

Our program philosophy has always focused on **participation and skill development** while having fun. To this end, we feel it is important for children to participate in every activity camp has to offer, which we achieve through the balance of three bunk-assigned periods each morning and an afternoon of two camper-selected electives. Thus the children have an enriching, well-rounded camp experience that allows them to have a great time playing, creating, and exploring in many different activities. To maximize their experiences, we have become more intentional and focused on the quality of the instruction in the activities that we offer so the children have the opportunity to improve existing skills or learn new ones.

What does quality instruction mean in our program areas? It is having the appropriate balance of play and instruction, age and skill appropriate drills/projects, and the ability to keep the program area evolving and fresh with new and creative ideas. While our activity specialists may be great players or practitioners in their chosen specialty, this doesn't always easily transfer into being a great coach or instructor. Thus during our staff training and throughout the camp season, we work closely with our activity specialists to teach and coach them to consider and use these factors when they are planning their drills/projects prior to the campers arrival.

What does quality instruction look like in our program areas? It looks like 13-year-old boys gathering around the **You Build It** specialist, as he introduces the Marble Tube project. A project that involves collaboration, problem solving, and creativity to build a structure using everyday household products that will allow a marble to navigate from the top to the bottom. It is a fun, challenging project that engages the campers cognitively and kinesthetically, but one that looks different when introduced to 13-year-olds and 10-year-olds. While the older boys are allowed more independence, the younger boys would be provided more detailed parameters and extra **hands-on assistance from the instructor**, so that not only are they learning, but succeeding.

It also looks like 9-year-old girls at tennis, after a fun engaging warm-up, practicing their forehand shots using small-handled, light rackets, playing on a smaller court with mini-nets, and using large, soft tennis balls. All of these age-specific tools and strategies are in place to help the children succeed in the goal of improving hand-eye coordination through the forehand shot, and because they are in place the probability of success improves. **Success means confidence and enthusiasm boosts**, which can be seen as the girls cheer for each other and get high-fives from the instructors.

With the direction and guidance of our activity directors and program team, similar results can be witnessed throughout activity areas in camp: campers, guided by activity specialists and supported by cabin specialists, engaged in developmentally-appropriate skill-based learning that allows them to achieve and grow while having the times of their lives with their best friends. There is no doubt that this is the true value of the camp experience at Iroquois Springs.

**Summer 2015 is shaping up to be filled with counselors with great character ready to be the difference makers in your children's lives.**

Ryan Bafaloukos, Blane Ferguson & Olivia Picklo proudly wearing staff shirts at the top of Camelback Mountain - Phoenix, AZ.





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## Dates to Remember

- Spring Mailing - Monday, February 2nd
- Tri-State Camp Conference - Monday, March 16th to Thursday, (Office Closed) March 19th
- Camper Forms Due - Wednesday, April 15th
- Office Opens in Rock Hill - Thursday, May 14th
- New Family Orientation - Sunday, May 17th
- Area Pick-up for IS Baggage Service - Sunday, June 21st
- Opening Day - Saturday, June 27th
- Visiting Day - Saturday, July 11th
- Session #1 Ends - Friday, July 17th
- Session #2 Begins - Saturday, July 18th
- Campers Return Home - Friday, August 7th