

the Southwoods Way

Issue 121

Summer 2017

July 01, 2017

Welcome Home!

This past Sunday was filled with high fives, hugs and smiles as campers poured out of buses and vans. Full of excitement and energy, Group Leaders and Cabin Staff greeted their campers, giving tours and playing games while more and more campers continued to arrive at Southwoods.

Campers had a chance to meet their cabin mates and counselors, explore their bunks and connect with new and old friends! Each group played name games and engaged in introduction exercises for an awesome first day at camp!

Since Sunday we have sent our Upper Seniors to hike Cascade Mountain, we've gone on caving trips, skating trips and we've all taken our Skills Checks, and earned our swimming tags at the waterfront.

In addition to Trek Trips and Intercamps, we start our first full week of electives and bunk activities. After all the excitement of Week 1, we can't wait to see what adventures lie ahead in Week 2!



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GLOWED UP!

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After dinner, all the campers got “swagged out’ into their funky “Glow” shirts that they created during our Day of AWESOME! Additionally, some campers ‘Glowed Up’ by using neon face paint and added funky patterns and stripes to their outfits. Before the campers could go in to the dance they each had a bunk photo taken in their neon shirts.

As our campers entered the Rec Hall they were greeted by the magical effects of black lights and glow-in-the-dark decorations. Head staff started to throw glow sticks into the dance, just as the campers were excited to pick up the glow sticks the lights switched on and the air became a blur of blue, green and natural colors and screams of excitement broke out, Tribal had BROKEN! As everyone teamed up into their tribes the roars of Mohawk, Navajo and Iroquois filled the air...Tribal 2017 has officially begun!



The lights were turned back off and the hype of Tribal had everyone buzzing and dancing to their favorite songs such as “The Cha, Cha Slide”, “Cotton-Eyed Joe” and much more! The campers danced their way into the night, wishing the fun would never end, you could feel the excitement in the air and everyone couldn’t wait to see what fun was in store for the following day!

Staff Member of the Week:

This hand-on guy never shy’s away from an opportunity to help others, no matter if the task is big or small you can always rely on Jeremy. From helping staff and campers this guy always does it with a smile.

Full Name: Jeremy Stipano

Nickname: J-Man

Hometown: Fort Edward, NY

Role at Southwoods: Arts and Crafts Director

Years at Southwoods: 1 year

Favorite Camp Song: Hotter Than Hot

Favorite Events at Camp: Tribal Break



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A LETTER FROM ANDREA & SCOTT

Watching the transformation from when each of you, new and returning campers, took those first slow steps off the bus to now parading around camp with a confidence and an air of ownership, has been so fun. Equally as fun has been watching our staff go from nervous energy to directed and confident leadership. They have been amazing at getting to know everything about you and helping create that community feeling within each group. Now you are here and the fun in the sun has begun.

It makes us so proud, the way everyone has come together in the cabins and made new friends. We know it is not easy to be away from Mom and Dad for the first time or even for the 10th time. You all have been so good about working to help everyone at camp feel comfortable and at home. The proof of this is that our fuzzy box is overflowing with all the fuzzy nominations. What a great feeling of acceptance and an environment of understanding we have created. This truly is The Southwoods Way.

As far as the action at Camp goes, **Wow!!!!** Just think about everything that has already happened; Arrival Day, Welcome Show, Glow Party Tribal Break, Tribal Tug Of War, Lower Camp Air-band (how about those LIT's), Mountain Biking Trips, Caving Trips, Hiking Overnights, Canoe Overnights, Play Try Outs & Rehearsal, Day of Awesome, and an amazing Fireworks display. You did all that plus your regular daily schedule in just the first week. Can you imagine what is yet to come?????!

Last but not least, we want to say well done to our Upper Senior 2017 Tribal Chieftains. They have done a great job so far and really have been amazing with their organization and teamwork. This 20th Summer here at Southwoods is sure to be one for the record books!

Go Iroquois, Go Mohawk, Go Navajo, Go Southwoods!

Love ,

Andrea, Emma & Scot

Mission Statement:

Southwoods is committed to empowering people. Our goal is to build confidence and self esteem by reinforcing positive human values. We achieve that goal through cutting-edge programming implemented by a carefully selected and fully trained staff whose investment in children, like our own is unparalleled.

Campfire Conclusion

Campfire: Opening Night

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There is no better way to welcome our campers back after being apart for a while or to welcome new campers, than hosting an all camp campfire! On Sunday night, we met as an entire camp down at the campfire pit to sing songs, learn new cheers and enjoy being together in the same spot that has been used for campfires for the past 103 years.

As we welcomed back old friends and invited new campers and staff to join us in this rich tradition, we began to reminisce on our day and think about how much fun we will be having this summer!

As our Program team, Liz and Matt introduced our amazing staff who taught the new campers our favorite campfire songs and put on skits to help ease our campers into their first night of camp we enjoyed many performances. The Group Leaders performed their very own camp song to the song from 'Moana' and also had everyone laughing with their skit. They had everyone in fits of giggles! We also had a campfire classic from our Super Senior's, 'Little Cabin in the Woods'.

We saw songs performed by our Super Senior Leader's from Tess singing the "The Moose Song" to Chris singing his own camp song that had everyone swaying in time to the Reggae beat. His song was definitely a hit as you could hear the song continue to be sung the following couple of dinners.

Every campfire is unique, however opening night campfire is truly special as we celebrate those who continue to join us year after year. We honor those staff and campers rewarding them with our Longevity Awards, which are: Three-Year T-shirts, Five-Year Fleece Jackets, Eight-Year Blankets and Ten-Year Sweatshirts. After taking group pictures to commemorate the occasion, we had Cabin Specialist, Ellis Jones and Soccer Specialist Alex Gutrich play us out with classic sing-a-long songs like "Wagon Wheel" and "Wonderwall". It was an evening to remember!





CAMPER QUOTES

What Are You Most Looking Forward To This Summer?



Taylor Santich, LSG: "Being a senior and our group trip to Burlington"



Luke Ansty, LIB: "I'm looking forward to playing more lacrosse because I played it yesterday and it was really fun!"

Asher Moss, LIB: "I'm most looking forward to water-skiing, I just got my gold tag today. Also looking forward to kayaking when I go off for my over night stay"



Kate McTigue, LSG: "Going to Burlington and going Whitewater Rafting"



Zoe Rubin, LSG: "I am most looking forward to Whitewater rafting, it's where you get to ride in an inflatable raft on the Hudson River! It's going to be lit!"



VENTURING BELOW

I was so nervous at first, I didn't know what to expect. The cave was about a five-minute walk from where the van stopped. The cave started in the "Big Room" which allowed us to get used to our surroundings, then we went into the "Ice Cream Sandwich" we had to army crawl through this and it was a very tight squeeze, like if I were to try to sit up I would of bumped my head, there was like two inches between my head and the roof. There was also the "lemon squeeze", "nostril" and "goonie slide", the "goonie slide" was my favorite because it's like a slide, you get on your butt and use your hands and feet to slide down to the bottom. The cave was super muddy and dirty, lodes of us covered ourselves in mud like army stripes and face masks! After the cave we all got to go to Stewarts ice cream! Over all it was great fun and despite being nervous at first I really enjoyed caving!



Sofia Nossel
Upper Inter Girls
Cabin: Marcy



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THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS

