



CAMP ABNAKI

HERALD

A program of the Greater Burlington YMCA

Volume 110, Issue 3

www.campabnaki.org

Fall 2009

Summer Camp Dates 2010

Two Week Sessions:

Session I:

July 4-17

Session II:

July 18-31

Session III:

August 1-14

One Week Session:

Session A:

August 15-21

Minicamps:

Mini Camp I (age 6-9):

August 1-4

Mini Camp II (ages 8-11):

August 8-14

Operation Purple Camp

June 28-July 3

Announcing 2010 Program Dates

The snow may soon be falling, but it's time to start thinking about the warm days ahead in summer 2010! YMCA Camp Abnaki will be celebrating it's 110th summer, and we hope you will be joining us!

Next summer will see the return of an 8-week program, down from the 9 weeks in 2009, due to school schedules. The first week of camp this year will be our *Operation Purple* Camp week, June 27-July 3. This will be Camp Abnaki's 5th year hosting this program.

The main camp program will kick off July 4th, with the 2-week Session I, and conclude with the 1-week Session A on August 21. See the complete list of summer camp sessions in the sidebar.

The Counselor-in-Training program is also back for 2010, with two 5-week sessions for young men who have completed their sophomore year of high school. The first session will run from June 28-July 31. The second session will be July 18-August 21.

Building on the success of it's first year, Camp Abnaki will continue to offer day camp for boys ages 6-10. Day camp will be offered in 1-week sessions, Monday through Friday for all 8 weeks of camp.

2010 will also see the return of our popular Family Camping Programs. Family Camps will run on Memorial Day (May 28-31) and Labor Day (September 3-6). Our 2nd Mother and Child Camp will be September 17-19, and Father and Son Camp will be October 3-5. See the complete Family Camping Programs schedule on the next page.

YMCA Camp Abnaki is also pleased to announce that we have been able to raise camp fees a minimal amount in 2010. The camp fees will increase only \$20 per session next summer. This allows YMCA Camp Abnaki to remain amongst the most affordable boys resident camp options in the region—in some cases by as much as 50%!

Camp Abnaki Motto: "Help the Other Fellow"

Early Bird Registration Period

Starting November 1st, families can begin registering their sons for 2010 camp sessions. The Early Bird registration period is from November 1-December 31, 2009.

Why register during the Early Bird period? It can save your family money! Campers who are registered during this

period can choose to pay 2009 prices for 2010 camp! This represents a savings of \$20 per session.

All campers registering by December 31st will also receive a complimentary store item, which will be mailed with your confirmation packet.

There are two convenient ways to

register. You can register online at www.campabnaki.org, or via paper registration. Paper registration forms can be printed off the website, or contact the camp office to have one mailed to you.

See you this summer!

2009 Program Year in Review

By David Dustin, Program Director

This year at camp marked a year of transition for the Camp Abnaki Program. We hired 4 great new staff, including Casey Wolff as Sailing Coordinator, Tara O'Shea as Waterfront Director, Alexandra Arnold as Arts and Crafts Coordinator, and Philip Watson as Adventure Program Coordinator. This means that all of the positions in the Program Department were filled with new staff, something most people probably didn't notice because of how smooth the program ran this summer.

2009 saw the unveiling of the brand new Skipper Shack, complete with a camper classroom which was used for rainy day instruction. This new Shack formed the basis for many changes in safety rules and instruction for all of our classes, including swimming, kayaking, sailing, and windsurfing. The Shack was also perfectly timed for the arrival of our Waterfront Director, Tara O'Shea. Under her watch, the quality of waterfront activities rose with counselors focusing their instruction on specific objectives and goals. Campers seemed to be thoroughly enjoying their new waterfront...Look for more exciting growth in this area of camp for next year!

Another exciting addition to the program was Alexandra Arnold and the "Art

Barn." Alexandra's energy and experience helped transform that area of camp into a thriving den of creativity to which campers flocked each and every day. Classes such as "3-D Art," "Art with Alexandra," and a much-improved Pottery offering really enriched the general arts curriculum at camp. We hope to see Alexandra return for next summer!

The creativity flowed from more than just the Art Barn this year, with staff trying out many new evening programs and skill class offerings. This summer, we introduced Outdoor Cooking, Guard Start, and Adventure/Low Ropes to our skill classes. We also piloted the highly successful In-This year saw a great blend of new hits and old favorites as far as activities were concerned.

Overall, this year was an exciting one for the Camp Abnaki program, and next summer promises even more improvements and changes as I settle into year number 3 in the Program Director slot. Expect to see increased activity offerings, proficiency reports for your campers at the conclusion of skill classes, increased use of our low rope elements, better storage, new equipment for basketball and tennis, more trips potential, and much more. For now, enjoy the winter and we'll see you back next summer.

2010 Family Program Dates and Rates

Family Camp

Memorial Day:

May 28-31

Labor Day:

September 3-6

Fee:

Adults (16+): \$150

Children 5-15: \$85

Children under 5: Free

Max. Fee: \$495

Mother/Child Weekend

September 17-19

Father/Son Weekend

October 1-3

Fee:

Adults (16+): \$100

Children 5-15: \$60

Children under 5: Free

Max. Fee: \$195

Did You Know?

54% of campers in '09 had attended camp previously.

In 2009, Camp Abnaki had 58 staff from 7 states and 5 different countries.

Our Operation Purple Camp has grown from 48 campers in 2006 to 128 in '09.

Camp Abnaki had 5% more campers in 2009 than in 2008.

2009 Camp Award Winners

2009 Honor Campers:

(awarded in each two week session who exemplify the character values of camp)

Mehkoa Village: Sam Strohbehn, Simon Wagg, Erik Weiss

Tamakwa Village: Joe Porter, Peter Huizunga, Joe Keating

Madewehsoos Village: Jack Kleinert, Fisher Wagg

Chippewadchu Village: Anthony Granai, Pierre De Pins, Sam Boardman

Staff Awards:

Spirit of Abnaki: Jeff Demas, Chippewadchu Village Director

Nice Guy: Chris Streb, Senior Counselor

Rookie of the Year: Alexandra Arnold, Arts & Crafts Program Coordinator, & Warren Rixon, Junior Counselor

From a Parent...

Dear Camp Abnaki,

I just wanted to let you know what a great time my son had at camp this summer. When we picked him up he said it was the best time ever, and since he's been home we've seen huge positive changes. Here are the notes I took during his first couple of days at home: happy, communicative, helpful- cooperative, patient, positive, contributing, calmer, self-control/knowledge, better loser (helped opponent).

So, whatever you're doing there, please keep it up! We have been so pleased with Abnaki over the years and hope he can continue to be a part of that. I have a true appreciation for all that's involved in making it work. Thanks again, and enjoy the rest of your summer.



The 2009 Camp Abnaki Lifeguard staff. Buddy up!

The Director's Corner

"Day is done, gone the sun, from the lake, from the hills, from the sky. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh".

The lyrics to the song Retreat. Many camps sing this song, as we do, to end evening programs or a campfire. No matter your religious denomination, the song allows campers and staff a moment to reflect on their day at camp. At Abnaki, we end each campfire by singing the song. Campers and staff stand, face the lake, and together we sing. As we finish, each one of us reflects upon our time at camp in our own way. Illuminated only by the fire, the face of each camper and staff member displays his or her range of emotions.

As we closed up camp for the winter last week, I stood at Bennington Point one more time with my family to reflect on our summer. The boys are all a year older, Jake and Will only inches from reaching the top of the climbing wall. Peter is kayaking all by himself and can now see over the dish room window :). And sadly, we said goodbye to our dog Holly in August at the young age of 14.

Tammy and I want to thank all the campers and staff that have made camp your home for part of the summer. You have helped make camp a better place and each of us heads home a better person, brother, or friend.

That is how we know "all is well".

~Jon Kuypers, Camp Director

Camp Abnaki on Facebook

Now there are more ways to stay connected to Camp Abnaki and the friends you've made at camp! Camp Abnaki is on Facebook, with two groups that people can join.

The first is the Camp Abnaki Alumni group. This group is where all former campers and staff can connect via Facebook. Share your memories of camp, reconnect with old friends, and find out what's happening at camp in 2010! This group is limited to former campers and staff who are at least 18 years old.

The second group is for current Camp Abnaki campers ages 14-17. This group is designed to help campers continue the friendships they make at camp. This group is moderated by the Camp Director and Assistant Camp Director, ensuring group topics meet the character values that run throughout the Camp Abnaki Mission and the YMCA.

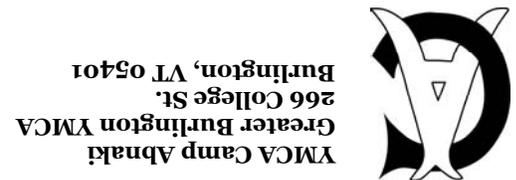
Joining the Camper group required written approval from a parent or guardian.

The permission form can be found on the Camp Abnaki website, and should be returned to the camp office. Camp Abnaki staff, other than the Director and Assistant Director, will not be part of this group. This is to encourage staff and campers to maintain the professional boundaries between camper and staff.

All of the YMCA Camp Abnaki Facebook groups will have updated information on goings on at camp, offer forums for suggestions and ideas about the camp program and policies, and notify members about upcoming camp events.

To find out more, contact the camp office, or find us on Facebook! See you in cyberspace!

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 82
Burlington, VT
05401



Help the Other Fellow Camp Abnaki Wish List:

1. Adult sized lacrosse sticks
2. Fishing poles
3. Plywood
4. Horseshoes
5. Guitars/musical instruments
6. Razor scooters
7. 2x4's
8. Baseballs
9. Hammocks
10. Trees
11. New laptop computer
12. Skateboard helmets
13. Dead climbing rope
14. Model rocket kits
15. TV/DVD player

Alumni Association News

Following up on the extremely successful skipper shack campaign of 2008, the Abnaki Alumni Association is excited for the fall/winter campaign of 2009. The goal of the Alumni Association is to replace all the current kayaks at camp and to increase the number of boats.

Kayaking has long been one of the most popular classes and cabin activities at Abnaki. Increasing the number of kayaks will allow more classes to be taught and more cabin groups to explore Lake Champlain together.

The magic number for this year's kayak campaign is 24 boats. Rhet Amos, the Property Manager of camp, has secured an outstanding price from Dick's Sporting Goods, which will allow us to purchase each

boat for \$250 dollars.

Any additional funds beyond the purchase of these new kayaks will be used for new paddles, life preservers, and racks to store the boats. The current fleet of boats have served their purpose well, but after over a decade of being capsized and dragged up and down the rocky shores of Lake Champlain, it is time for them to be replaced.

Our official kick-off party for this campaign will be at our fall alumni event on November 28th (Saturday after Thanksgiving).

If you would like to donate to this campaign, email Brad Calabro or Brian Roy at the Alumni Association at AbnakiAlumni@gmail.com.