



Birch Pond Beacon

February 2009

Casco, Maine

Excitement builds for 2009

Plans are underway for a great summer:

- New trips and more Saco sand cliffs
- 1st inter-camp ping pong tournament
- Another new game area in the Lodge
- Socials with nearby girls camps
- Performances by our rock bands
- New Counselor-in-Training (CIT) leadership program for 16 years olds
- New film & digital photo center
- Full slate of inter-camp athletic games
- Return of Kelpor & Klondike Days
- Perennial favorites: flour bombs, slip 'n slide, tribal games, 3-ball soccer, more!

More tents!



Three new tents this year will bring the total to 15

New website goes live

We are excited by the recent launch of the new Netop website. Watch some videos, read the latest and see Netop from every angle. Check it out and give us your feedback and suggestions. Address is still www.netopsummercamp.com

Informal time is just plain fun



At the start of each summer, the tetherball court is covered with new grass. It doesn't take long before non-stop foot traffic creates a perfect dirt circle.

A typical day at Netop provides a healthy balance of both structured activities and free time. During free time, campers engage in a wide range of activities – ping pong, fishing, tetherball, guitar, chess, Frisbee, cards, basketball and many others. It is a time when campers can play, be creative and build great friendships. Last summer, Alex Colby introduced a popular lawn game from Sweden, called Kubb. The game is a combination of bowling and horseshoes using wooden blocks. Netopers loved it!

Key dates in 2009

Volunteer work weekend – June 19-21
(Let us know if you would like to join the fun.)

Camp sessions:

1st session (3 weeks) – June 28 – July 18
2nd session (2 weeks) – July 19 – Aug 1
Full season (5 weeks) – June 28 – Aug 1



Snow blankets the Lodge (taken Feb 8, 2009)

Parents offer insights

Statistics indicate that time spent outdoors by U.S. children has declined by 50% in the last two decades. And, kids average 5.5 hours a day plugged into some kind of electronic medium. At Netop, our objective is to provide an outdoor experience where kids can grow and develop in all areas of life. We continue to receive a great deal of feedback from parents about their Netop experience, such as these recent comments:

"I believe Netop's goal setting had a TON to do with building their self confidence and has helped them really think about WHO they want to be as people."

"The self confidence he has gained at camp is invaluable. He is organized and putting forth his best effort. A lot has to do with you and camp so I cannot thank you enough."

"It wasn't just that the video was touching and funny and wonderful, but it showed the true essence of Netop...how barriers are broken, friendships are formed and character is strengthened."



Campers (and staff) enjoy "sleep late day", complete with full breakfast buffet and made-to-order omelettes by head chef, Jon Carlson

Counselor news

What's up with the counselors from 2008?

- Dave Daddio – working at Trust for Public Land; conserving land in VA, MD and WVA
- Tim Hallowell – starts job with government agency in Wash DC later this year
- Andrew Hallowell – learning Chinese in Beijing, China; junior at U. of Maryland
- Alex Colby & Alexi Thomakos – juniors at Bowdoin; won 48 hour Film Festival
- Tommy Hester – sophomore at Williams; playing baseball, singing in acapella group
- Geoff Hester – sophomore at W. Michigan University; enjoys leadership role at fraternity
- Paul Hawkins – sophomore at Colorado College; Environmental Policy major; skiing
- Scott Dittmore – sophomore at Canisius College; loves ROTC
- Silas Leavitt – 1st year at U. of St. Andrews in Scotland; training for yellow belt in jujitsu
- Colby Morgan – senior at Tabor; college selection near; played title role in Pippin
- Matt Noe – senior year; finalizing college choice; played soccer; explored Costa Rica
- Matt Taylor – senior at Upper Dublin; narrowing college choice; playing hoops

Alumni Corner



Who are these guys from 30 years ago? (and where did they get those shorts?)

Alumni connections – Looking at the 2008 and 2009 Netop rosters, there is a growing number of alumni dads (or uncles) with a camper or staff connection at Netop:

Jeff Asher, Bob Brown, Fred Coons, Scott Dittmore, Larry Gagne, Larry Gordon, Mike Griffin, Chris Hales, Brad Hall, Steve Hallowell, Tim Hester, Andy Hester, Bill Mebane, Rob McNabb, Hal Morgan, Will Peirce, Bob Phinney, Steve Rankin, George Stock, John Towle, Jim Walker, and Glenn Worgan