



# Birch Pond Beacon

December 2009

Casco, Maine

## Campers explore wilderness

The trip program at Netop has become a popular favorite among many campers. This past summer, campers ventured out on several Maine and NH wilderness trips ranging from 1-3 days in length. The trips enable campers to experience amazing mountain vistas, challenging hikes and winding rivers, which are among the most beautiful in the country. Campers learn teamwork, camping skills and how to adapt to changing conditions. Most of all, they love the campfires and making 'smores!



Seniors enjoy the views at Acadia Nat'l Park

Among the favorite trips are: Mt. Washington climb, Baldface Mountain hike, Saco River, Crooked River & Sebago Lake, Acadia National Park and the senior beach trip. The sand cliffs along the Saco River still offer the most thrilling form of natural entertainment found anywhere. Trip leaders David Daddio and Mike Griffin are already plotting a fun and adventurous set of trip plans for 2010. With some cooperation from the weather,

we expect our best summer of wilderness trips yet!



Intermediates follow the twisting Crooked River

## New 10-day session offered

Beginning in 2010, Netop will offer a 10-day "starter" option for new campers, ages 8-10. This session will focus on giving new young campers the opportunity to get a taste of camp while gaining confidence and learning some independence. Of course, all campers (ages 8-15) may enroll for any of the other sessions offered.

### 2010 camp season dates:

6/27 – 7/21	3.5 weeks
7/22 – 8/7	2.5 weeks
7/22 – 7/31	10-day "starter" option*
6/27 – 7/31	5 weeks
6/27 – 8/7	6 weeks

\*10-day option for new campers only, ages 8-10

Volunteer work weekend: June 17-20

**Our Core Values: Relationships, Empathy, Balance, Respect, Personal Growth**

## Film activity shines at Netop

Thanks to the creative genius of Alex Colby (senior at Bowdoin College), Netop's film-making activity was a big hit in 2009. After the debut of "Where the Heck is Netop?" in 2008, Alex helped campers create a full range of short videos at Netop, a sampling of which can be viewed on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/netopsummercamp> Look for the special effects on the *FilmFest Intro* or the *Rubik'sCube* video, produced by Owen Morgan. Plus, catch the action in *Pirates*, on the high seas of Birch Pond.



*These campers seem to enjoy the camera!*

## 2009 Survey Results

We liked the feedback from our annual post-season survey. Highlights included:

- 89% of campers rated their Netop experience as "awesome"
- 85% expect to return in 2010
- 98% were "completely" or "mostly" satisfied with the food at camp

When asked "what are your favorite things about Netop?" campers said:

- "trips, food, people, games...everything"
- "the community feeling"
- "everybody is loving everybody; food was awesome; programs were fantastic"
- "the camp is amazing; I wouldn't change a thing"
- "Netop is such an inclusive place where there is something for everyone"
- "chillin' with friends, inter-camp games, tribal games and Klondike Day"
- "homey atmosphere and relaxed, but fun daily schedule; plus, trips are awesome!"

## Lodge renovations underway

A series of improvements and renovations has begun on the main Lodge at Netop. Plans include a new front entrance, new roof, expanded office, upgraded electrical service, bathroom upgrades and expanded camp kitchen. Work will be accomplished in phases over the next two years. We are grateful for the many financial contributions from alumni and Netop families to help make this project possible. To learn more about how you can help, please visit our website at [www.netopsummercamp.com](http://www.netopsummercamp.com) and read about the Lodge Restoration Campaign.



*Lodge sketch by Tommy Bagley, Netop staff*

## Alumni Flashback: 1975

*Excerpt from the Birch Pond Beacon in 1975:*

**Do you remember?** Birch Boys, victories by our Green Wave archery and tennis teams, SCUBA diving, "Gusto", Liberg's belts in crafts, Captain Nemo, Violet's cinnamon buns and homemade donuts, the Slick-mobile, K-Day and Carnival, Jaws in Birch Pond, lacrosse victories over Camp Cedar, special minibike trips, Ma Keel's birthday party, Yogi's campfires and the CNCA, Hermit attacks, "Luigi", O.T.L., bonfires at Bailey Island, "Hissssssssss", Casco Day, Indian campfire...

*Distinguished staff from 1975*

