



Birch Pond Beacon

December 2011

netopsummercamp.com

Casco, Maine

Netop remains “unplugged”

As today’s youth spend more and more time tethered to electronics – smart phones, iPods, Xbox or HDTV – Netop remains an electronics-free environment. At camp, kids focus on outdoor play, learning how to communicate with others and enjoying nature. Recent studies have shown that children ages 8-18 are spending half as much time outdoors as they did 20 years ago, devoting a whopping average of 7.5 hours per day in front of electronic media. The consequences include health problems, higher rates of obesity and attention disorders, and a lack of understanding and love of the environment. The issue has even prompted Congress to act, as the Healthy Kids Outdoors Act was just introduced in November. The goal is to help Americans, especially kids, connect with a healthy, active, outdoor lifestyle. Netop is very much in sync with this effort. Campers adapt quickly to their “electronic holiday” at Netop and thrive in the unplugged environment.



Birch Pond is still the ultimate natural setting in which to play, fish, talk and enjoy nature

2011 Four Spokes Awards

Congratulations to the campers who most exemplified the “four spokes” in 2011:

- Mental* – leadership, responsibility, judgment
- Social* – friendships, empathy, teamwork
- Physical* – sportsmanship, skills, fitness
- Spiritual* – values, character, community impact

	<u>Session I</u>	<u>Session II</u>
Mental	Chet Asher	Tyler Macdonald
Social	Patrick Nininger	Ayman Mohammad
Physical	Tyler Macdonald	Graham Grieve
Spiritual	Jake Griffin	Matias Sancho



Matt McNabb leads campers in a basketball class, a popular morning activity choice

2012 camp season dates

Session I:	6/24 – 7/18	3.5 weeks
Session II:	7/19 – 8/4	2.5 weeks
Full Season:	6/24 – 8/4	6 weeks

Plus: “Starter” sessions (12 days)
6/24 – 7/5 or 7/7 – 7/18

Creative crafts

Netop's craft house (the "Taj") has become a hot spot for all sorts of inspiring craft projects. Campers can sign up for crafts as a morning activity period. Popular leather projects include belts, wallets, bookmarks, wrist bands and guitar straps. Typically, these projects involve creating and stamping a design into the leather item, applying a stain finish and stitching or lacing the edges. For the wood projects, campers often make custom plaques using a natural slice of pine or basswood. Using a special wood pen, campers burn their design onto the wood surface and then complete the project with a stain or finish. Campers are also able to make great clocks from these projects through use of a clock-making kit.



2011 Facts & Figures

- 142 campers attended Netop in 2011
- 17 states and 4 countries (U.S., Spain, France, Canada) were represented
- 46 dedicated people worked on the Netop staff
- 21 tents are now in place, scattered throughout the pine grove
- 75% of eligible campers returned from the previous year
- 85% of campers rated their 2011 Netop experience as "awesome"
- 95% of campers were completely or mostly satisfied with the food
- 20 mountain, hiking and water trips were taken out of camp across all age groups
- 5 Special Days were held in 2011, including July 4th, Kelpor Day, HoliDay, Klondike Day and Carnival Night
- 26 inter-camp games were played in a variety of sports
- 49 great days were enjoyed at Netop!

New facility improvements

It was another big year for facilities projects at Netop. Key additions included:

- Full size gaga court
- Sand volleyball court
- Resurfaced tennis courts
- 3 new tents
- New collegiate style soccer goals
- All new sunfish sails
- New trail beyond "3 Rocks"
- Enhanced archery range
- Expanded fitness area
- Re-modeled Lodge guest bathroom



Campers and staff gather at the new sand volleyball court for a game of Nukem

A major renovation is planned for the kitchen in 2012. Improvements will include a walk-in cooler/freezer, dishwashing equipment and additional food prep equipment. Capital contributions are welcome for this important project. Please contact us for more details.

Alumni Flashback



Matt Caras, Ed Salo and Steve Buehler served as the "Kangaroo Court" on Klondike Day, handing out fines and ensuring justice; circa 1975



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