



Camp Equinunk & Blue Ridge

The Leader in Children's Camping Since 1920



Getting Ready For Summer 2005

We hope everyone is well and your entire family is getting excited about the coming summer at Camps Equinunk and Blue Ridge. As we prepare together for the summer of 2005, please make note of the following:



1. Please feel free to contact Sheryl or Richie if you have any questions concerning your child(ren). You can contact Caralyne, our office manager, directly for all other administrative questions that arise now and during the summer.



2. Camp starts on SUNDAY, JUNE 26th. Directions for meeting camp buses will be mailed in the next notice.



3. We will only accept trunks and duffels delivered by NEW MILLENIUM TRUCKING or TEAM TRUCKING (for Florida families). They are fully licensed and pick up at your home and the baggage will be placed directly into your child's bunk. Florida Trucking pick ups will be early June and New Millennium Trucking picks up on June 16th and 17th in order to enable our staff to unpack for the children during orientation.



4. Our bus company will not permit duffels or luggage on or under the bus in the storage compartments. These items must be shipped by our camp trucking company. Children are permitted ONE (1) CARRY-ON, AIRLINE SIZE BAG ON THE BUS. EXCEPTION: Since many of our campers participate in hockey programs throughout the month of June, hockey equipment in appropriate storage bags will be permitted in the under-storage compartment of the bus.



5. Reminder: Please adhere to the uniform and clothing list that was enclosed in the last mailing. Shirts should be Red and Grey for Equinunk; Blue, Grey and White for Blue Ridge. Please: let's keep our camp environment simple and natural. All inappropriate or extra clothing will be returned home. **Please also remember no plastic drawers are allowed at camp.**



6. Please be sure to return your child's Health Forms that were included in our last mailing. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE HAVE A SIGNED FORM FOR EACH CHILD BY MAY 20TH TO INSURE PROPER MEDICAL TREATMENT. YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO BOARD THE BUS IF OUR OFFICE HAS NOT RECEIVED YOUR HEALTH FORMS.



7. It is important that you take your child to the dentist for an examination and that all dental work is completed before camp begins.



8. Bunk 1.com provides summer website services that enable you to stay in touch all summer long. See the full page enclosure to get started today.



9. We are not responsible for baggage, clothing, radios, cameras, sporting goods, laundry, etc., sent or brought to camp that may be damaged, lost or stolen, either during transit or while at camp. Secure yourself against the above by getting coverage under a broad personal effects floater policy. This coverage is available through AM Skier and you can find the information and necessary forms through our website.



10. Please review Birthday, Golf and Horseback Riding options and return tear-off if applicable.



11. The next mailing at the beginning of June will include Camp Updates, Staff News, Bunk Assignments, Telephone Calling Schedules and Bus Departure times.



12. All correspondence after June 10th should be mailed to camp. The camp mailing address is:

CAMP EQUINUNK-CAMP BLUE RIDGE
R.R. #1, Box 74
Equinunk, PA 18417
(570) 224-4121

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2005 Important Dates:

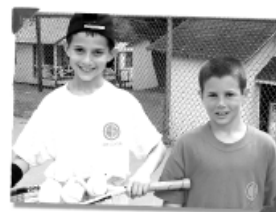
New Parent Meeting
Tuesday, May 3rd, 2005

New Camper Bowling
Sunday, June 5th, 2005

Start of Camp
Sunday, June 26th, 2005

Visiting Day
Saturday, July 16th, 2005

End of Camp
Sunday, August 14th, 2005



Welcome New Campers

A warm welcome to the following new campers who were not featured in the last edition of the CE/CBR Buzzer!

Camp Blue Ridge Welcomes....

Sarah Waxman
Miranda Fyfe
Erin Blankstein

Julie May
Shannon Knutson
Bianca Cavacini

Camp Equinunk Welcomes....

Myles Dworkin
Perry Lehrhoff
Andrew Garbus
Jimmy Jun

Aaron Katz
Julian Herrera
Matthew Gerstenfeld
Sam Roberts



A Senior Letter by Michael Greenwald

(Near the end of each summer senior group head, Bernie Strauss, asks the upper senior boys to write down their feelings - this letter was selected and read at the banquet.)

Dear Bernie,

Ever since I can remember, people have been telling me about camp. At every family gathering, without fail, my great-uncle Marty would sit down next to me and ask me when I was finally going to become a part of Equinunk. I often just shrugged and replied simply, "I'm not ready." But Marty persisted, for there is no one who loves camp more than Marty. He loved every aspect of camp, and shared his stories with me in an effort to teach me about the greatness of Equinunk. He would tell me about tribes, a tradition that has remained in camp since its founding. He would tell me about the brotherhood in Equinunk, how everyone is like a family and how the friendships formulated there are stronger than any place else. He would tell me about Color War, and how the upper senior's heroically lead the camp into a three day battle that concludes the summer. But I never truly understood why Marty loved camp so much. That's how camp is. Impossible to describe with mere words. Impossible for some to comprehend if they've never spent a summer there. The paradise that Marty described seemed so frightening to an emotional kid who had trouble making friends and couldn't imagine not seeing his parents for two months.

My family finally forced me into camp as a junior. My memories of that initial year are a blur. I remember the pain and tears caused by homesickness, counselors sitting with me during free play because I was too shy to make friends with kids in my group, and simply having a tough time in the bunk. Just look at how far I've come Bernie, due to the guidance of people in camp. In the words of Russell Blaymore, my upper senior color war chief, camp truly does breed fine young men. Today, I'm still quiet, but I'm so much more outgoing. I'm happier and have more friends than ever, I owe that all to Equinunk. During something as stupid as the Gemz concert, I was dancing and enjoying myself, something I couldn't have done five years ago. At home shyness no longer restrains me from having a conversation with someone I've never met. In everything I do, I'm more confident and comfortable with myself. It's incredible to think that camp has done all that for me, but it really has.

The most wonderful thing about camp is its sense of timelessness. Marty's death hit me really hard, harder than I think even my parents realize. I was worried that with his death, camp would turn for the worse, and some of the traditions would be lost. But years after Marty passed away, camp is still the same. Marty is remembered, and his love for Equinunk and its traditions remain. No matter what happens outside of camp, it still manages to retain the values that make it great. That is why camp is so special; because I'm always accepted there, always part of a family there, and because Marty remains alive there, within the continuation of his traditions.

I just experienced the greatest three and a half days of my life. Everyone says upper senior color war is something else, but I couldn't even have imagined it. I'll remember every moment: from cheering on the sophomores during their ten point games to playing a ridiculous amount of time in The Game to crying after getting the last out in softball.

Blaymore was the best chief I ever had. He really is a psycho. But color war was truly amazing because of us. The upper seniors. This entire year was incredible because we came together as a group, and the camp benefited from that. I benefited from that. Last night I seriously considered sleeping in bunk 32. In the beginning of the summer, I would have never believed that I could become that close with people in another bunk. I'm so happy our group came together, because now I can honestly say I had the best summer of my life.

I'm sitting on the porch of Marty's house, thinking about him, and the end of my camping career. The most depressing part about the end of camp is the fact that my best friend could get on his bus in two days, and I may never see him again. I don't want that to happen. To every upper senior of 2004 and every camper in Equinunk, come back to this place, even if it's just to visit for a day. I know I'll be back, and I hope to see everyone back here with me.

Love always,
Michael Greenwald
Upper Senior 2004
Son of Equinunk Forever

Staff Spotlight Shines On Kim Fyfe

We are delighted to welcome Kim Fyfe as our Tennis Director. Kim lives in Florida with her husband, son and daughter. We are thrilled that her daughter Miranda will be joining us as a camper this summer.

Kim graduated from Jacksonville State University where she played #2 singles and doubles for the Gamecocks. Upon graduation she became a U.S.P.T.A pro and has been fortunate enough to turn her love for tennis and teaching into a career that she loves. Kim has been teaching tennis in Boca Raton for 18 years. She has taught and developed junior

through adult players from recreational through tournament level. For the past eight years she has been at Boca Falls where she has created a very successful neighborhood tennis program. Kim is excited about directing the tennis program for Equinunk and Blue Ridge this summer and is looking forward to meeting all our campers and staff.



Summer @ Camp Blue Ridge

By: Daniele Rosenthal • PC 2005

Camp is an experience that you can't and won't ever forget. It's the time that you spend with your sisters, and getting to know yourself and the people around you. Blue Ridge is my "home away from home". Every summer I look forward to those amazing days that we spend in the sun. My personal favorite is obviously the greatly anticipated color war. Its not even color war itself, it's the break! Everyone always loves to try and guess what's going to happen, and how it's going to happen, but no one truly knows. It's what keeps you on your toes. I used to go in the shower with all my clothes on just in case I had to run out and meet some people in parachutes coming to the ground from over my head. When I was a sophomore I worshiped the PC's. I thought it was so cool the way they all looked so close to each other and they got to do so many cool things. They were lifeguards for one thing, which looked like so much fun because you got to hang out with the coolest guy on campus, Chuck, you got your own marble call, and you got to leave camp multiple times to have a girls night out! It's so much fun to have counselors that aren't your babysitters. Your counselors are like your best friends. They're always there for you to talk to. I've had my counselor since I was a sophomore, and I wouldn't chose anyone else I'd rather have sleep in the same room with me for 2 months.

Nothing is more special than the bond that you have with the girls in your bunk, or your group. Summer 2005 will be my 7th year at Camp Blue Ridge, and we are all closer than ever. In my bunk, with the exception of one girl, we've all come back, summer after summer, and we've all learned about each other, from each other, and about ourselves. I learned that cheerleading is not that easy, singing is not one of my high-points, and shaving with a disposable razor is just not meant to be. Things that are generally so normal when you're at home are so exciting when you're in camp. I mean, get real, at home do you have all your friends come over and look in your closet a week before you see a guy to decide what your wearing? That brings me to something else...socials! It's something that everyone looks forward to. The best part of socials isn't even the socials itself. It's choosing your outfit. Everyone who goes to camp knows how much fun it is to model a cute shirt and jeans and

get oo's and ahh's out of all your friends. Actually, to tell you the truth, I don't think I've ever worn my own clothes more than one time to a social! Usually someone will come up to me and say that they have an adorable shirt that would look so great on me, or I'll maybe need something that matches something I have, so I'll go through every bunk in camp until I find it. That's the cool thing, no ones afraid to ask for something, everyone's so open with each other.

For all you new campers: I know there will be times when you will be homesick and get a little upset, but just think about it, how many times do you get a huge sleepover with no parents there to bother you! I remember when I was little I was so excited to go to camp because my mom used to pick out what I wore and I wanted to pick out my own clothes. Just think of something you can do without your parents over the summer and how often you'll get to do this (not often!). You should also remember that you can turn to anyone; your friends will want you to be happy so you can turn to them, and your counselors are always there for you. Also, all of you guys get big sisters in the PC group, and you can talk to us anytime you want to. I'm sure anyone will be glad to help you.

I've been waiting seven years to be known as the great PC's, and I'm going to have the best time of my life. To most people PC summer is when you just wait for events like color war and tribes because those are when you get to lead the camp, but I realized that those things aren't what I am truly excited for. I know that I am excited for PC summer because I want to spend as much time with my best friends as I can. After this summer I hope I see them again, because I know a lot of them have other things to do, although their longing to go back to Blue Ridge is immense. Camp may only be two months, but the memories will last you a lifetime.

*"So take the photographs and still frames in your mind
Hang it on a shelf in good health and good time
Tattoos of memories and dead skin on trial
For what it's worth it was worth all the while"*

Winter Season Camp Scenes



From The Directors

A Great Lesson for the Boys and Girls of Summer

In literature, the Brooklyn Dodgers of the 1950's were anointed "The Boys of Summer" by author Roger Kahn. In American sociology, they were the Jackie Robinson Dodgers - the team that Robinson taught to adjust to the nation's changing race relations by the force of his competitive flame as the first African - American big leaguer. Jackie had the ability to transfer emotional energy in the clubhouse into the minds of men around him. Jackie had the rare ability to make those around him better athletes.



One of those men that Jackie touched and changed was teammate Carl Erskine, a right handed pitcher with an overhead curveball, who in 1953 had a 20-6 record and struck out 14 Yankees in a World Series Game. Erskine still answers to nickname "Oisk," as he was once baptized by a Brooklynese voice at Ebbets Field years earlier. As a young minor leaguer, Erskine pitched exceptionally well against the Dodgers in a spring training game. "It was every minor league kid's dream that someone would take note," Erskine wrote in a recent book entitled What I Learned From Jackie Robinson (McGraw Hill) "and fortunately for me it was the star Jackie Robinson." Erskine was amazed that Robinson took the time to seek him out to encourage and praise this scared minor leaguer. The impact of this gesture resonates mostly from the fact that Robinson didn't have to do it.

Over the years as Robinson's teammate Erskine learned, as he wrote, "that life is all about making life better for the next generation." The most important of Robinson's lessons for Erskine, the next generation would include his fourth child, Jimmy, who was born with Down Syndrome.

"America had some of the same social attitudes toward people with disabilities as it had toward race relations, Erskine wrote. Jackie made people look beyond race, inside their own souls, inside the depths of what made them human, and see the light." Erskine believed that Jackie

came into his life to teach him how to channel energy and anger toward what was happening around Jimmy and society's non acceptance of Down Syndrome and other birth defects.



Years later Jimmy has a real job working at Applebee's restaurant. They love him there one of the managers told Erskine "Carl, my whole staff interacts better when Jimmy is here. We couldn't run the place without Jimmy."

Jackie and Jimmy represent those who have changed our lives for the better. "We are a sensitive - more caring society - because of them. We enrich ourselves by not rejecting, but rather including those who are seemingly different, only to find out that we are all in need of being treated with dignity."



Treating others with dignity in a genuine and caring way is one of the values we strive for at Blue Ridge and Equinunk. We urge all of our campers, counselors and parents to embrace this culture..... to seek out someone..... to praise them..... to make their experience at Blue Ridge and Equinunk better. Be like Jackie and Jimmy and change a life for the better, even though you don't have to do this. This can't be taught in the classroom, it has to be done in real life - observed, felt, lived with and embraced.

We truly believe that many of the Girls and Boys of Summer at Blue Ridge and Equinunk in 2005 will make all of us better - a more caring camp - because of them.

Warmly,

Sheryl and Richie