### 5

Max Eisen

Jared Litt

Ella Cipriano

Milan Cohen

Ellie Conen

Peri Cooper

Naomi Gal

**Zoey Garver** 

Maia Glickman

Natalie Grodin

Skylar Gross

**Reese Grotas** 

Lilv Janowitz

Scarlett Kaminsky

**Reese Kirschenbaum** 

Skyler Fortucci



BOYS Matthew Aronesty

**James Aronstein** Ben Blank **Gianni Borriello** Josh Boyman Luke Breecker Sam Cohen Asher Depierro

BR

**GIRLS** 

Ashley Ackerman

Leah Anikstein

Jordyn Appell

Lily Becker

Emma Blank

**Riley Cagan** 

Sloan Ceslowitz



Drew Shatz **Tyler Sofer** Samuel Stahler Justin Steiner Noah Storch **Noah Tauber** Jacob Thompson Jordan Usdin **Gabriel Vermut** Asher Wallock **Gavin Weismer** Zac Witlieb Jake Yelner **Zachary Zaslow** 



Alexa Rinsky

Lila Rosen

Juliet Sandler Perri Schapiro Alex Schiff Eden Schiff **Riley Shalom** Ella Shansky Annie Sherman Parker Slivka Svlvie Stein Sienna Sultan Lily Tauber Ava Wargon Alexa Weisbach Jenna Rosenberg



TO OUR 2018 NEW CAMPERS!

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Our year round team is hard at work ensuring that next summer will exceed everyone's wildest expectations. Our staff recruiting is in full swing as we take multiple trips across the world looking for the right people who can positively impact both Equinunk and Blue Ridge. Our staffing process is extremely thorough to ensure all of our staff members meet the extremely high expectations we set for them. The camp calendar is looking better than ever as all of our favorite evening activity entertainers are returning in addition to some new acts that we believe will be a huge hit. We are excited to share all of the new things that you will come to love at Camps Equinunk and Blue Ridge!

# Fall Foliage Leaves Everyone Smiling



On Saturday, October 21st Camps Equinunk and Blue Ridge hosted over 250 people for our biennial Fall Foliage and Senior Overnight. As we say at CECBR, a good time was had by all! Fall was in the air – even at a balmy temperature of 72 degrees as families enjoyed a day of pumpkin picking, apple

cider, face painting, hay rides, and of course a classic CECBR BBQ. Everyone loved exploring the fall leaves around campus the colors were truly amazing and very different from the bright green we see over the summer! Campers and parents also enjoyed playing tennis, basketball, and baseball while others got creative with our fall photo booths! The famous "carnival goats" also made an appearance for the day and were quite entertaining! This year we had a special addition to the day as over 100 lucky campers were the first to try parts of our brand new CE Adventure Course. It was amazing to watch current and future campers conquer the elements with bravery and determination. We are so excited to open our new CE and CBR Adventure Courses for 2018!

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As we approach the halfway point to next summer, both Equinunk and Blue Ridge are almost unrecognizable when compared to how they look during the summer. The leaves are a completely different color, there are no campers around, but the one thing that remains is how powerful the culture and atmosphere is at Equinunk and Blue Ridge.



AND DON MARSHIT



Following the Fall Foliage day, 100 of our 2017 Seniors stayed on campus for their special overnight event. The seniors enjoyed the rest of the sunny afternoon and spent time catching up and taking pictures with their friends. After dinner – and of course some very loud cheering and singing, autumn campfires were underway with s'mores and camp songs. We ended the evening with a social at The Ridge and even with the cooler night-time temperatures, it felt like we were back at camp during the summer. The seniors are looking forward to another great summer at camp and can't wait to be back at camp again, the countdown has started!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Fall Foliage and The Senior Overnight. We loved experiencing the autumn with you up

at camp and hope it allowed you to fall in love with camp all over again! Another big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Thanksgiving Food Drive – thanks to you, local families in the Wayne County area will receive a generous donation of goods. Fall Foliage will be back in 2019!

- Nicki





I hope everyone has settled into the comfortable routines of family home life, school, friends, sports and other personal interests. While I'm at home enjoying the fall weather and scenery, I often find myself listening to Sheryl in conversation with parents, campers and staff, which immediately takes me back to all the memories and highlights we shared together at camp. While I'm sure you have a fondness for your special moments, my favorite was watching a performance of a recent phenomenon, GleeBR, our camp's Glee Club.

How did this mash-up of singers and musicians, campers and adults, novices and experts, come of age to perform in front of "sold-out" audiences? Every performance was electric and got rave reviews, such as "OMG," "I can't believe how good they sound," "They're adorable," "Amazing," and mostly, "How can I join?"

It all started back in 2013 at the Blue Ridge Counselor Talent Show. All the performers were predictably great. Then, by complete surprise, an out-of-thisworld show-stopper finale by our CBR Theater and Musical Directors of the song "For Good" from the Broadway show "Wicked" .....a performance that changed my life for the better. It was that moment that made me realize I had to go beyond my comfort zone, take calculated risks, trust others and conquer two of my personal fears...singing on stage in front of the camp and swimming in Union Lake from Equinunk to Blue Ridge and back.

If you'd like, I'll tell you about the swimming experience another day, but for now, take your seats while I take you on a musical odyssey. The power of the "For Good" performance stayed with me all year, right up to my presentation on "Conquering Fears" at our Counselor Orientation prior to the summer of 2014. The theme of the talk emphasized the support we give one another, particularly during our most difficult moments as counselors. It was heartwarming to hear new staff and veterans share their experiences, frustrations, fears and their courageous efforts to transcend imposing circumstances. Suddenly, almost on cue, I was asked to describe my greatest fear. Without hesitation, I responded by saying how much I enjoyed public speaking, something I've done my entire life. However, I always wanted to sing publicly, particularly after the

"For Good" performance. You could hear a pin drop in the audience when I told them that as an example of facing one's greatest fear head-on, I would sing the song "You'll Never Walk Alone." Unknown to anyone, including Sheryl and Adam, during Orientation I was coached by our loving and genius musical director Chris Behan and rehearsed with singers and musicians from our counselor staff. Looking out at the packed amphitheater audience, I was too nervous to see any one person, only a sea of disbelieving faces who were holding their breath as their jaws were dropping. Fortunately, Chris was kneeling and smiling right in front of the stage. He led and I began the first lines of the famed anthem. I thought "not bad" and as Chris coached, I smiled and continued. Halfway through at a difficult high-note transition, I paused and said, "When you're in difficulty at camp, just as I am right now, your friends at Equinunk and Blue Ridge will be there to help you through, just as my friends are going to come out and help me finish." On cue, five musicians and singers came from backstage and joined me and together we brought down the house! The rest is history! In 2015 and '16 a few more singers and musicians joined the group and Chris coined the name GleeBR. Last Summer our numbers grew mightily representing every group in camp. It was easy to lose your fear, sing your heart out, when you're tucked arm in arm with people you love.

One of my greatest fears became my inspiration and a model for others to conquer their fears. I'm confident that as you go forward this fall, you can transcend any fear that you might have. I know that with the support of your parents, family and good friends, all you have to do is take a deep breath, smile and go "For Good."

For sure, you can count on your camp family when we all come together for the summer of 2018. You'll never walk alone at Equinunk and Blue Ridge.

Love, Richie P.S. Sing with GleeBR this summer. We'll all be waiting to harmonize with you!!

Can't wait to see you!



how fortunate I am to have a dream job at such a young age. I am looking forward to embracing both Equinunk and Blue Ridge's traditions in addition to helping improve an already great camp community.

What is your favorite camp quote: My favorite camp quote is "you can leave camp, but camp never seems to leave you". This quote stands out to me since I have seen firsthand just how much camp positively affects not just campers but

counselors as well!

**Favorite camp moment:** 

My favorite camp moment at Equinunk is without question the annual Sing competition. I think Sing beautifully displays the rich traditions and shows how much camp means to everyone who is there, I literally got goosebumps the first time I experienced Sing.

#### What is your favorite camp meal:

My favorite camp meal is hands down BBQ, you can't go wrong with a good burger or hot dog.

What is your favorite camp activity:

Being the sports fanatic that I am, my favorite camp activity is anything at Lehrer Field, especially at night under the lights.



Each fall and spring, Sheryl, Richie, our caretaker Jeff White and I walk through campus together to review our 10 year capital projects list. We discuss feedback from campers, parents, staff and directors on ideas they have shared for great new facilities and programs, build on concepts we have dreamt up over the vears and meet with an array of contractors and landscapers to help us bring to life these ideas. It is an exciting and incredibly detail oriented task to plan out the physical growth and innovation of our campuses. Plans are scrutinized, priorities shifted and target dates are adjusted based on dozens of contributing factors.

The projects we are developing for 2018, some of which are already completed, will primarily be program focused with a few infrastructure upgrades as well.

Both the Equinunk and Blue Ridge campuses will feature their own High Ropes Challenge Course. With unique elements for each course, campers will have the advantage of two completely different sets of elements to challenge themselves over the summer. The explosion in popularity of our Outdoor Exploration (hiking, nature, orienteering) and Outdoor Adventure programs has led to the building of these new courses to enhance an already successful program. For campers who joined us during our Fall Foliage event, they not only saw the completion of the CE Challenge Course they actually got to try it. The team at The Adventure Guild who is building our courses joined us for the day to open up a few elements, including the zip-line for campers to experience firsthand how incredible this addition to EBR will be.

Also designed and being built by The Adventure Guild is a 22 ft high double cabin tree-house. Located within the Outdoor Exploration area on the Equinunk campus where CE and CBR campers learn how to build fires, make shelters

experience.

We can share with you the boring details of the new drainage system going into Blue Ridge Equinunk bunks, but you can see it yourself this summer – actually, it's underground so you won't; but it is there and making CE and CBR even more beautiful.

friends.

For 96 years, 'Tribes' at Blue Ridge has been in the same exact location since it's founding in 1923 - and this sacred tradition will continue for generations to come in the same location, though for 2018 in a brand new Tribal Ring. With the benches nearing 40 years old and the trees almost 100 years old, it was time to rebuild the tribal ring and in a way that maintains the





Hometown: Randolph, NJ Favorite Band: X Ambassadors Imagine Dragons, Kendrick Lamar Hobbies: Lacrosse, Video Games, Football, Basketball Favorite Color: Green Favorite Movie: Ferris Bueller's Day Off

#### Tell us a little about yourself:

I was raised in Randolph, NJ which is a relatively large town as far as suburbs go. After graduating high school, I attended Michigan State University where I majored in advertising (sorry Michigan families). I was fortunate enough to be able to play lacrosse at Michigan State where I was named team captain twice which is something I am very proud of.

Growing up I actually never went to sleep-away camp and instead attended day camp and various lacrosse camps. I spent 10 years at my day camp (7 as a staff member) where I really grew to love camp through everything I was able to provide to my campers.

During my junior year of college, I came to the realization that I wanted to work full time in camping and began to pursue a job in that industry. While interning at a camp conference I met Adam and we struck up a great conversation about camp that ultimately led to him offering me a summer job as the Lower Soph assistant Grouphead and then a full-time position after the summer!

#### What are you most excited about:

I am definitely most excited about getting to live and breathe camp for 365 days a year! I can't say enough

and navigate through the forest. Campers will now have the opportunity to sleep in the treetops. Equinunk and Blue Ridge will alternate evenings to bring two bunks of campers (if they choose) to have this wilderness overnight

Blue Ridge – you asked for it, you got it! Following the outstanding response to the Aqua Park installed at the CE Waterfront last summer, we are designing a just as spectacular Aqua Park for Blue Ridge. Campers will run, jump, swim, wobble, and balance their way through a circuit of obstacles, climbing walls and slides. No doubt this will make the Blue Ridge Waterfront even more of the place to be this summer.

There are two more exciting projects that are already underway at Blue Ridge for next summer. 'The Park' at CBR will be a beautiful open green space with benches, lawn games and a trail down to a lakeside fire-pit located on the site of the former CBR hockey rink. With subtle landscaping and now a clear view over Union Lake, 'The Park' will be a wonderful space for our campers to enjoy downtime with their

feel and sanctity of the space as it has always been. As was the case in 2016 when we rebuilt the Equinunk Tribal Ring, we ensured to recreate the intimate and special space we all cherish; this will certainly be the case in the rebuilding of our CBR Tribal Ring.

This is once again an ambitious building year for CE and CBR. The mild fall weather coupled with 4 of the projects breaking ground in August all but ensures everything will be in ready in plenty of time for Summer 2018 - fingers crossed we do not have any epic March blizzards like we did last year. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates and photos of all the building going on up at camp.

