



SPARKS

The Newsletter for Camps Kahdalea & Chosatonga
In the Beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina



Real Kids ♦ Real Adventure ♦ Real Growth ♦ Real Value ♦ Real Fun

Spring Newsletter

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HOME FRONT

I stepped outside last night and was taken aback by the incredible sights and sounds. First, (try to remember your own experience of this...) the sky was black and the stars were brilliant and covering the heavens! So many, so bright - how privileged I felt to see such an impressive sight! I couldn't help but to say a little prayer of thanksgiving. Then, I heard what must have been a few owls and the cackles, yelps and



cries were so unusual and fascinating that I went inside, threw on a jacket to cut the chill of the night and went out for more. These mountains are remote and so beautiful in so many different ways. Last summer was so wonderful! Thanks for all the support and good words that make camp the family it is. If you couldn't join us, WE MISSED YOU! Keep in touch and come back soon.

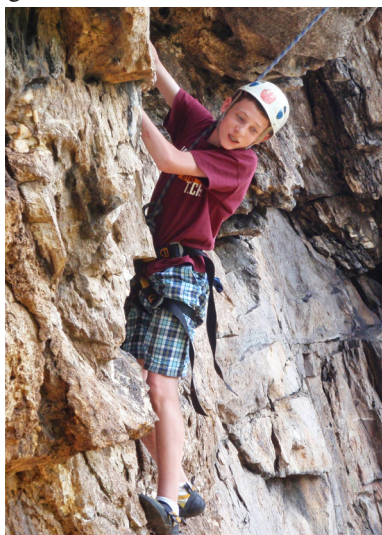
Staff Notes

The staff is shaping up well! There are just a few staff positions left so it is not too late to send a friend. We are getting great returning counselors from last year and beyond. Kwame Seymore, Marybelle Bates, Aaron Willis, Michelle Dalton, Sam Chasuk, Helena Stefanowicz, Josh Ault, Brian DeMaio will be back, as well as Jeff & Adam Trufant... AND more. We are so excited for our staff! Kahdalea could use a June nurse and a climber. Chosatonga could use a cave man (ha!), marksmanship and one or two others... Please keep spreading the word. Meanwhile, we are gearing up for school groups and for the summer! Join us! **Sign up** now for Lake Highland Prep in May and Family Camp and Envoy in Aug.

There is a New Session!

The Junior Camp sessions have been a great success. They are good introductions to camp for both campers and parents. Children have an opportunity to learn more about how capable they are and how wonderful it is to be a part of the camp community. Parents get to know our staff and the gifts that a little "being on their own" and away from "screens" can offer their young ones.

We now have a **NEW MINI-SESSION** for children 7-9. It lasts about 5 days, is only once during the summer and will be very limited in size. It will be great fun for the campers. They'll be camping and exploring as well as trying new skills & activities. We can't wait!



On a ROLL!

Welcome Program Directors!

We are SO happy to have fine and experienced leaders, an important ingredient to a smooth and excellent summer. We are glad to share the news that **Sara Bergeron** and **Adam Trufant** are our new management team! Sara Bergeron has been a camper and a councilor, a tribal leader and a program director here at Kahdalea for over 20 years of attendance and service. She has been a professional social worker in Tennessee, but camp has put a calling on her heart. She is beside herself and can't wait for the summer! Adam has been at camp for a very long time... say over 23 years. He is a graduate of National Outdoor Leadership School and has hiked, biked, climbed, and paddled in places like China and Thailand and he paddled safety for rafting trips while in Nepal. He graduated from Belmont Abbey College, writes songs and is one of the brothers in the band BrotherBrother. Can't wait. He'll be an inspiring PD!



We are excited and DELIGHTED to have these great folks providing leadership! This will be an inspiring summer. No doubt, you'll continue to feel right at home.

FIFTY YEARS of KAHDALAE!

The 50th Anniversary Labor Day weekend was great! Our 50th committee worked for months and then the big day arrived. About 150 people descended upon camp, with laughter and squeals of excitement that looked just like an opening day! Old friends reconnected in minutes. The joy in the air was electric! Without missing a beat, Kahdalea old and new joined hands and hearts for an amazing weekend.

With so many former activity heads and trip leaders here, folks were planning their own agendas and diving into the trips they'd waited to come back and do for years. Black Balsam and Dupont, Triple Falls, Turtle Back Falls, were among the places they couldn't wait to visit, but in camp activities were buzzing as well. The high ropes course was a popular spot, as was the lake, gym, paddling docks, craft shop and water slide. And the dining hall was bursting with songs-some that haven't been sung in a very long time. Adam's band, BrotherBrother, gave a great concert Saturday evening and were joined by Chris Cole and John Trufant. The founders, Monty and Julie Oates, joined us for lunch and told us the story of

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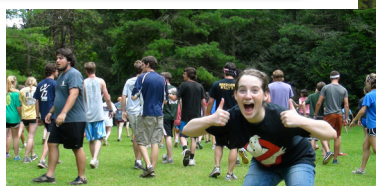
CAMP, a Unique Challenge

We thank you, parents! Parents are crucial to making camp successful. We continue to hear from you that the difference camp makes in your children is something you don't want to do without. You know that challenge is an important ingredient in raising capable kids who are comfortable in their own skin. Parents who try to protect their children from all difficulty and challenge run the risk of having children unprepared for stressful times. "Camp people," we call them, are often far better prepared with good coping skills as well as some appetite for life's adventures. There's just something different about "Camp People." That is just one reason why Kahdalea & Chosatonga parents spread the word with conviction. We appreciate you and know the difference you make. Thank you!

Next, we thank YOU, staff. A big part of the success is due to you and your good work. Importantly, too, you have been spreading the word and sending your most awesome friends. Our philosophy is to seek out counselors with selfless hearts and to train them well. With around 2 weeks or more of extensive training and orientation, we have an incredible blend of skills, sense of mission and lots of great adventures! Additionally, we also provide Wilderness First Aid, CPR, First Aid and Epinephrine Certifications to nearly all staff.

Finally and most importantly, we have to thank YOU, campers! We LOVE you! Your spirit and excitement make camp what it is! Your openness to grow, adventure and to discover make camp the place to be! The life in this community is so rich due to you and the good people you are! Thank you for coming, participating and spreading the word to your friends with such sincerity and enthusiasm. You are our best ambassadors! Keep it up. We are forever appreciative of you and your good work!

See all of the summer's pictures at DotPhoto.com.
Username: kahdalea
Password: summerfun



Some New TOYS for the Summer



closed boats more quickly. This will allow us to advance at a faster pace.

We have a new lake toy called a water mat. It is so fun. You can stand on it, play on it and it can hold a couple of dozen people! These will be great fun on the lakes.



We are adding to the enjoyment of camp with a lot of nice new adirondack chairs for the decks and around camp as well as some new boats for the kayak fleet! Our paddling program will change just a bit so that we can start working out in



Missing the Scoop?

"Did I miss it?" said the email from a veteran camp person who regularly attended past special camp trips and other fun camp events. Was it the 50th Anniversary Reunion, the Ski-K-C or a chance to join the staff or work an off-season group? Make sure the office is up to date with your contact information - address and email. Drop a quick note to office@kahdalea.com.

Fifty Years of KAHDALIA - continued

the very beginnings of Kahdalea and Chosatonga. It was a wonderful time. As a matter of fact, it was magical, but not because of the fabulous activities. For 50 years, Kahdalea has brought together some of the finest people anywhere. Each person who comes through these gates grows in ways they never knew they would and then leaves a bit of themselves here. There is nothing like "camp people!"

It was so evident in the love and the laughter, the memories and the stories, that Kahdalea has left a deeply lasting imprint on each life. And each life has added to the magic that is Kahdalea. Join us next year for "25 Years with the Trufants."

