

WYONEGONIC LOON

Dear Wyonegonic Friends,

When alumnae stroll down the path through our majestic pines, and they can see that camp looks the same and feels the same. They are pleased to know that many of the experiences and traditions they once cherished are still a part of each day. Camp remains steeped with tradition. Important camp values, out of synch with our fast paced world, must be monitored carefully for relevance and sustainability.

When alumnae come to visit a frequently asked question is, "What kind of changes have you seen since you and George bought Wyonegonic from the Cobb family?"

The challenge is to hold on to those values that have positive impact on youth development while recognizing that some change is necessary. Camp life must resonate with campers and their families dealing with a world that demands competition, perfection and immediacy.

Intentional planning is critical. Much of our winter work is evaluating information from our parents, staff and campers. We travel and listen; we attend conferences and educational sessions in related fields. We share with other camping professionals. Perhaps the biggest change is our need to embrace technology and understand how best to enhance our ability to serve campers and their families. One thing that never changes is what children need to learn to grow.

Safety is always a top priority. Not just physical safety which is regulated by state health inspections and required by our professional organization, the American Camp Association, but emotional safety as well. We train our counselors to help make campers feel physically and emotionally safe as soon as possible, so they can relax and soak in the many opportunities that Wyonegonic offers.

Camp has the potential to be life changing for some. We provide experiences that reach far beyond fun, adventure and learning new skills. We provide experiences that offer growth and help campers develop relationships, leadership techniques and decision-making skills necessary to be successful adults. We bring girls together to live and work together, to build community together, and relate to adults in a non-competitive environment. Expectations from campers and parents are high and the easiest way to meet those expectations is to tightly schedule the camp experience. The structured approach alone is not the most effective way to build skills that help children learn how to make decisions and be involved in a meaningful way. We believe in a balance of structure, flexibility and input.

Our two year Leadership Training Program helps our Counselors in Training (CIT's) and Assistant Counselors (AC's) with developing leadership. The program prepares teens for leadership roles in college and the work place. Many of these girls become future staff. Now we are paying more attention to presenting leadership opportunities for the younger camper's experience.

We believe that caring adults can make a difference in the lives of young people. Creative imagination and good energy are important. Whit Ryan and Susie Sudduth Hammond take on the challenge of hiring and training the very best staff we can find. We pride ourselves in looking for leaders that spark the interest of the children and do more than get the job done. We look for counselors that give extra attention to do the job the best they can. We are always trying to be better.

This past summer we were hammered with the rainiest season in the recent history of Maine. Camp program directors adjusted, but we still went on canoe and hiking trips. The trippers came home wet and muddy, but with smiles on their faces and tales to tell. The costume closet jumped with activity as counselors and campers kept spirits high. Parents said, "our daughter never mentioned the rain, just the fun." The staff certainly deserves the credit.

In this current political climate we have heard and read much about change. Wyonegonic is willing to explore change, but not change just for the sake of change. Listening to meaningful input from campers, parents and staff is necessary if a camp program is to be effective in meeting the philosophy and goals we believe are important. Weaving new ideas carefully through the foundation of experience and traditions helps to bring us up to speed in today's world.

Forty years later we are still learning and loving the journey . . .

Carol



Gatherings 2008

PHILADELPHIA, PA
November 15, 2008
Saturday, 4:00 PM
Dr. & Mrs. Mitchell Alden
812 Evans Road
Lower Gwynedd, PA

WASHINGTON, DC
November 16, 2008
Sunday, 4:00 PM
Home of Ambassador
& Mrs. Michael Smith
1315 Merrie Ridge Road
McLean, VA

CHATHAM, NJ
December 6, 2008
Saturday, 4:00 pm
Home of Anne
& Jack Fields
12 Oak Drive
Chatham, NJ

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CT
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
December 7, 2008
Sunday, 4:00 pm
Winthrop A-B Room
Hyatt Regency Greenwich
1800 East Putnam Avenue
Old Greenwich, CT

HARTFORD, CT
December 8, 2008
Monday, 7:00 pm
Kingswood-Oxford School
170 Kingswood Road
W. Hartford, CT

MID-COAST MAINE
December 14, 2008
Sunday, 4:00 pm
Home of Amy Jenner
& John Viehman
26 Pleasant Street
Rockport, ME

BETHEL MAINE
December 18, 2008
Thursday, 7:00 pm
Ordway Hall
Gould Academy
Bethel, Maine

METRO BOSTON
January 11, 2009
Sunday, 3:00 pm
Museum of our
National Heritage
33 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA

NEW YORK CITY
January 12, 2009
Monday, 5:30 pm
The Williams Club
of NYC
24 East 39th Street
New York, NY

PRINCETON, NJ
January 13, 2009
Tuesday, 7:00 pm
Home of Gregory &
Anne Elise Matthews
1 Audubon Lane
Princeton, NJ

BARRINGTON, RI
January 14, 2009
Wednesday, 7:00 pm
Home of Glendon &
Carrie Elliott
178 Adams Point Road
Barrington, RI

2009 CAMP SEASON

- June 1 – training clinics & certification courses
- June 24-August 11 – seven week session for Girls
- June 24-July 18 – 3 ½ week, Session 1 for Girls
- July 5-18 – fourteen day Kayak Trip on white and salt water
- July 18 – August 11 – 3 ½ week, Session 2 for Girls
- July 18 - August 11 - Wilderness Trip Hike on the Appalachian Trail
- August 14-23 Family Camp (3 sessions)



FIFTY FACTS ABOUT WYONEGONIC:

• Wyonegonic is the oldest girls' camp in the country and started in 1902 • Our lake, Moose Pond is 9 miles long • Wyo has 180 campers and 20 older teens in a two year Leadership Training Program • We offer a non-competitive program and atmosphere • Wyonegonic is divided into three small separate camps to accommodate age appropriate choice, structure and free time • Wyonegonic is accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA) and the Maine Youth Camping Foundation (MYCF) • The program is traditional in nature with heavy focus on water activities and canoe/hiking trips • Wyonegonic has a two year Leadership Training Program: Counselor in Training (CIT) and Assistant Counselor (AC) • Please visit www.wyonegonic.com, contact us for restricted alumnae and parents sites which contain archived newsletters • A typical summer includes campers and staff from 30 states and 22 foreign countries • Meals are served in two shifts in the Cobb Dining Hall • There are registered nurses in residence and the Bridgton hospital is twelve minutes away • We are affiliated with Winona, our brother camp, located 5 miles away on the same lake • 20% of our 85 staff are international • We have a database of over 4000 alumnae • The majority of new campers start camp at ages 8-11 • Campers choose their individual weekly program each Sunday • In over 100 years, just two families have owned and directed Wyonegonic: two generations of Cobbs; two

generations of Sudduths • Wyonegonic offers three Family Camp Sessions starting in mid-August • Three musical shows are presented by campers each summer • Wyonegonic offers a 3 1/2 week or 7 week session for girls only • Pleasant Mt rises across the lake to 2006 feet and encompasses our view • Cabin groups average 5; Junior cabins have 3 or 4 campers • Wyonegonic property includes five campsites on lower Moose Pond • Wyo leases 10 horses for the summer • Denmark

Maine is located near the NH border in the SW Lakes Region of Maine; 3 hours from Boston; 1 hour from Portland • Wyonegonic means "Long Lake" in Penobscot Native American language • Wyonegonic owns a fleet of eight Vanguard sailboats that are 15 feet long, a light weight racing boat • Wyonegonic and the Sudduth family own 780 acres of pine forest; approximately 12,000 feet of shoreline • We have 6 tennis courts, 5 of which are clay • Our advertising is by word of mouth through satisfied camp families and alumnae who serve as our ambassadors • There are 67 roofs to shovel in the winter time • The two

most recent activities added to our program are kayaking and a high ropes course • This past decade our teenage camp has been waitlisted • Our camper staff ratio is 3 1/2 to 1 • We have two art studios and pottery shops • We practice the "Leave no Trace" ethic on our canoe and hike trips • Our swim program follows the American Red Cross curriculum • Wyonegonic is a training site for camp counselors from other camps for three weeks in June • In the winter we travel with Winona, our brother camp, for presentations to new and current families and interested alumnae—all are welcome • Wyonegonic has a library and a museum/archive building on property • Carol and her son Steve Sudduth have both served in leadership positions for professional organizations representing camping • Wyo owns 44 canoes and 18 kayaks • Wyonegonic has a modest campership program to assist a dozen young ladies each summer • Wilderness trip groups are staffed with two trip leaders and eight campers • 30% of the camper population is new each year • We have many generational children including a fifth generation camper • Nearly 500 alumnae came to the 100 year celebration in August

2001 • Group dynamics and decision making are practiced in daily cabin living • In summer 2008, 44 canoe paddles were gifted to campers/staff who have been with us 5 years; 5 people received their 10 year gift, a Wyonegonic Wiggle chair • Approximately 67% of staff members have previously been at Wyonegonic • Extended Wilderness Trips have been added as an alternative for teens ages 15-18 • It is our aim to have each camper and staff person treated with respect • Our front gate, which is a memorial to George N. Sudduth, reads "Discover—Share—Preserve"



Mother Nature ~

Mother Nature challenged us in 2008 with the heaviest snow in 50 years and the wettest summer season on record. On July 25th a micro-burst blew down 30 trees on the south end of our property. Half of our high ropes course and an equipment shed were destroyed but no one was injured. A contracted crew has been in to reconfigure and rebuild the ropes course. The Junior Wiggle collapsed in the February snows but the indoor fireplace and chimney remains. Note the deck we built over the creek around the standing fireplace for dance, aerobics, evening programs. We still enjoy the cherished view of the mountain and this Fall we plan to replace the building with a post and beam structure attached to this deck.

Wyonegonic Camps

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