

# NIGHT EAGLE NEWS

A Primitive Camp for Boys Ages 10-14  
[www.nightaglewilderness.com](http://www.nightaglewilderness.com)

Winter, 2023 - 2024 (802) 855-8661  
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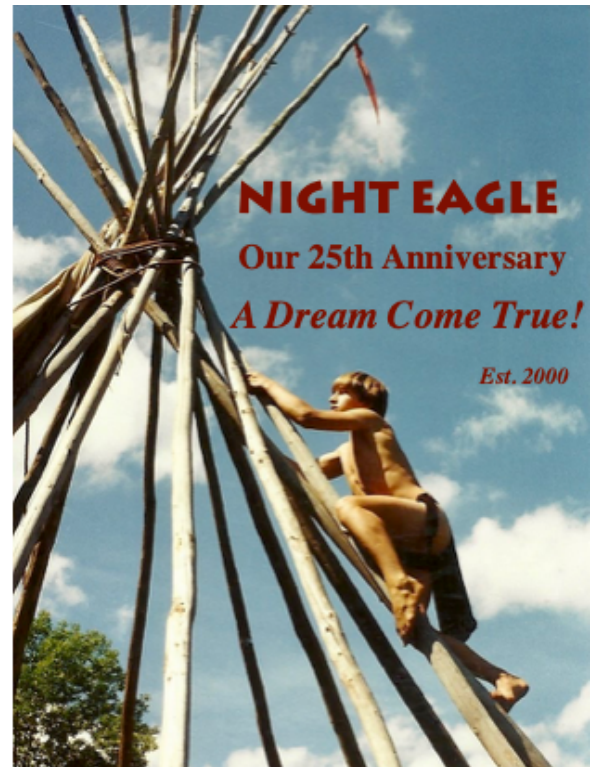
## From the Director

In the summer of 1990, Allen Flying By and I began talking about opening a primitive camp of our own similar to the camp where we were working at the time. The original idea was to find land in South Dakota, and Allen was going to explore that idea. Meanwhile, I would explore the possibilities of setting the camp in North Carolina, a place where I had worked at a summer camp for five years and explored on Quest, a travel camp that I had established in 1982. All the while, Allen and I stayed in contact with each other.

Early on, Allen told me that he did not believe the camp would be feasible in South Dakota because of logistics, mostly centered around transportation. I continued to explore Western North Carolina and contact real estate agents throughout the region where I looked at a small abandoned camp near Brevard that had been used in the 1960's. I'll never forget the agent who contacted us about the property. We arrived at his office, and he came outside to greet me with his hand extended. The first words out of his mouth were, "Tressler, Dick Tressler!" All I could think about was "Bond, James Bond," but I remembered his name.

He led us to the property, which had a small clearing covered in poison ivy and a solitary building that could serve as an office and infirmary; however, the building was in pretty bad shape and would probably have to be torn down and a new one built. The property also had a lake bed (the lake had been drained), but power lines ran right down the middle of it, and the site was adjacent to a two-lane back-topped road, leaving no privacy.

I looked at one other good possibility, a small, former camp compete with cabins, an office, and a dining hall. It's biggest drawbacks were its location (it was miles away from everything and the fact that I was not looking for a camp with cabins.



The final real possibility was located in Todd, NC, an area not far from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. The property was really isolated and deeply forested with no place for anything other than a small pond. Since the site was shaped like a huge deep bowl, I could only imagine what it would be like in a rainstorm with water running down the surrounding mountainsides. The most interesting thing about that property was the fact that Eustace Conway and his camp, Turtle Island, was just a mile or so away.

After three years of looking at land, I had all but given up hope of finding a site that was suitable for the kind of camp that Allen and I had in mind. Land that was suitable had already been gobbled up by the state and turned into state forests and parks. The rest was priced at over \$10,000 an acre, putting it way out of our reach. After considering the cost and the ever-present danger of poisonous snakes, I finally came to the conclusion that establishing a camp in the Blue Ridge Mountains would be prohibitive. (To be continued in the Spring . . .)

## Spring Work and Play Weekend

This year's Spring Work and Play Weekend will be on May 4 and 5 (weather permitting). We invite you all to be part of the fun as we prepare camp for the summer. This is an informal cooperative event that allows new and returning campers and their families to get to know one another while together we attack some of the many projects around camp.

Families and friends are invited to come for all or part of either day or to join us for the entire weekend. This is a great time to introduce your friends to Night Eagle. The majority of the work will take place on Saturday beginning around 9:00 in the morning (*Night Eagle* time).

Families that are staying can bring a tent or reserve some space for their sleeping bags in one of the tipis that we'll put up for the weekend. We can also recommend some nearby motels or inns if you're more inclined to a hot shower and a soft bed after a day's work (and play).



Raising tipis during Work and Play

Work projects at this year's gathering may include putting up a tipi or two, cutting and hauling in tipi poles, clearing the road of fallen trees, checking the Long Trail Shelter at Little Rock Pond, re-lashing Hocoka, or any other projects we deem worthy of our attention. There is always plenty to do to prepare camp for the summer and there is always plenty of fun!

**NOTE: If the ground is soft, plan to walk into camp from Skunk Junction. Tires will tear up the road into camp, but feet do very little damage!**



*Meadow Dreamer, Carries the Sun, and Sun Meadow* clowning around in the canoes

## Summer Staff

Today is the last day of February, which means tomorrow I will begin in earnest to put together the Night Eagle staff for the 25th time.

*Carries the Sun* has told me that he is planning to return for his second summer, but this time he hopes to have his Wilderness First Responder certification under his belt.

Today I got a call from *Cedar Waxwing* who is going to try to arrange his schedule so he can be in camp for at least half the summer.

*Sunrise Oak*, a camper and AC from three or four years ago, has also contacted me to let me know that he is interested in working for three weeks as well.

The Castleton University tennis team that I coach will begin playing matches next week, and I have a lot to do to prepare for the summer and the 25th Anniversary Celebration. So I am going to push myself to wrap up the staff by the end of March.

If any of you out there are interested in being a counselor or an assistant counselor, please let me know. You may even know someone who has never been to Night Eagle who would make a great counselor. If that's the case, point him my way!







## 25th Anniversary Weekend Schedule

### Friday

4:00 - **Until** Early arrivals

6:00 Supper (Potluck dinner bring a dish or two to share!)

### Saturday

7:30 - 9:00 Breakfast for Friday night arrivals

9:00 - 10:30 Check in

10:30 Welcoming Ceremony

11:00 - 1:00 Open Activities (To be determined)

1:00 - 2:30 Lunch / Settle in

2:30 - 3:00 Time Capsule

Opening the 2000 Time Capsule

Burying the 2024 Time Capsule

3:00 - 5:30 Open Activities (To be determined)

Snacks (fruit, energy bars) will be available

5:30 - 6:00 General Swim

6:00 Dinner

7:00 All Camp Game

8:00 Campfire

### Sunday

7:00 - 9:00 Breakfast

9:00 Morning Reflection

9:30 Relax before heading home, Possible hike to Little Rock Pond

*All times are approximate. Remember, we live on Night Eagle time!*

**Follow the link to register online:**

<https://www.nighteaglewilderness.com/25th-anniversary>

## Things You Should Know

### Who?

Night Eagle alumni, new and returning campers, families, and friends are invited to participate in our 25th Anniversary celebration.

### What to Bring?

The weather in Vermont can be fickle, so plan accordingly and wear appropriate shoes. You may want an emergency flashlight if you plan to stay after dark as the dark comes earlier this time of year. Bring your own sleeping bags and ground cloths if you plan to camp. There are Maxwell Houses (outdoor privies) and running water at camp, but everyone should bring a personal water bottle.

### Food?

On Friday, food will mainly be a communal event. Bring a dish or two to share for a potluck dinner Friday night. Night Eagle will provide food on Saturday and Sunday.

As with all camp events, our 25th Anniversary will be free of tobacco and alcohol as well as electronics and cell phones.

### Overnight?

You are welcome to stay overnight in camp, but you will need to bring your own sleeping bag. You may reserve space in a tipi or pitch a tent anywhere on the property, but fires will only be allowed in the tipis, at the food shelter, and under Hocoka. If you do plan to spend the night, let us know so we can coordinate everyone's needs. We can also recommend some nearby motels or inns if you're more inclined to a hot shower and a soft bed after a day in the woods.

### Parking?

Plan to park near the front gate and walk into camp from there using the trail or the road. We don't want people to have to worry about cars traveling the road into camp. Tires will tear up the road, but feet do very little damage! Besides, it's a beautiful walk!

### Cost?

There is no charge to attend the event. We hope you can join us, reconnect with old friends, and share your Night Eagle memories.

## The Medicine Wheel

*(Understanding the Medicine Wheel will help you understand many Night Eagle names.)*

“The Medicine Wheel is sometimes called the sacred hoop. This symbol of all of life’s cycles has given the American Indian an evolutionary blueprint for centuries. Each cycle of life is honored in a sacred way, giving us a way to see the value of each step of our pathway and a new understanding of our growth patterns.

The Medicine Wheel is the circle of lessons that each person must pass through to complete his journey on the good Red Road of physical life. Physical life begins at birth, which is the South direction of the Sacred Hoop. Each of us will travel through the circle on the South-to-North path until we reach the place of the Elder, which is the North.

Our spirit is made of Wind, one of the four clan chiefs of this world, and can travel around the rim of the Medicine Wheel and send us urges to learn certain lessons.

The East is the entry point to all other levels of awareness and consciousness. Spirits of the ancestors who have finished their Earth Walks, leave at the North of the Wheel and follow the rim of the Hoop to the East. This allows them to pass through the door and enter the Blue Road of spirit, which crosses the Wheel East-to-West. We also return to new physical lives via the Blue Road. Once again we come through the door in the East as spirits and travel the rim of the Medicine Wheel to the South where our spirits are born again into physical bodies.”

## The Significance of the Four Directions

**East  
(Red)** Male energy, Place of Illumination, Home of the Eagle and Hawk, Morning Star, Universal Enlightenment, New Beginnings

**South  
(Yellow)** Child Energy, Place of Innocence, Faith, Trust, Home of the Coyote, Bear, Rabbit, and Mouse, Summer, Power to Grow (seeds blossom)

**West  
(Black)** Female Energy, Place of Introspection and Creativity, Home of the Bear, Thunder Beings, Rain

**North  
(White)** Elder Energy, Place of Wisdom, Gratitude, Endurance, Strength, Purity. Home of the Buffalo, Snowy Owl, Eagle, Polar Bear, Cold, Powerful Cleansing Wind

**Note:** *The color placement on the medicine wheel varies based on individual tribal customs.*



## Enrollment

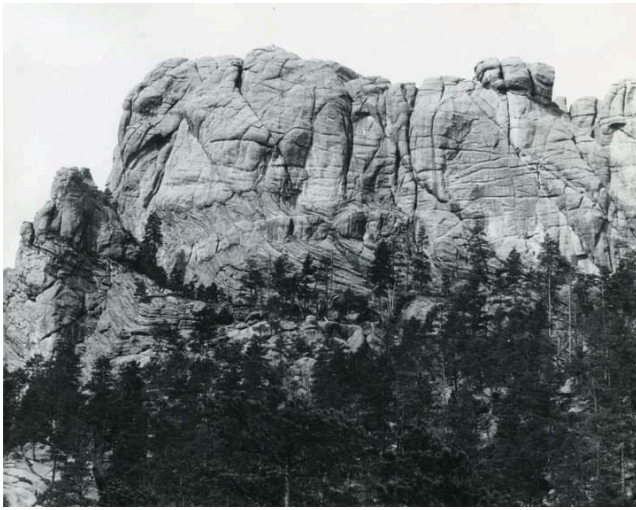
The enrollment season is just getting underway, and we are off to a great start. Below is a list of campers who have enrolled as of February:

Whirling Flame	Seeks the Horizon
Sunrise Owl	Silent Squirrel
Buffalo Spirit	Two Moons
Speaks His Heart	Creek Stone
Coyote Runner	Raven Walks
Robertson Crouse	George Crull
Ronnie Petrik	Western Moon
Forest Fox	William Metcalf
Colt Watches	Trevor Kurtz
Liam Fuller	Anthony Stevens
Amos Griffith	Stellan Neves
Henri Baertschiger	



*Western Owl and Seeks the Horizon working on the spokeshave benches making bows.*





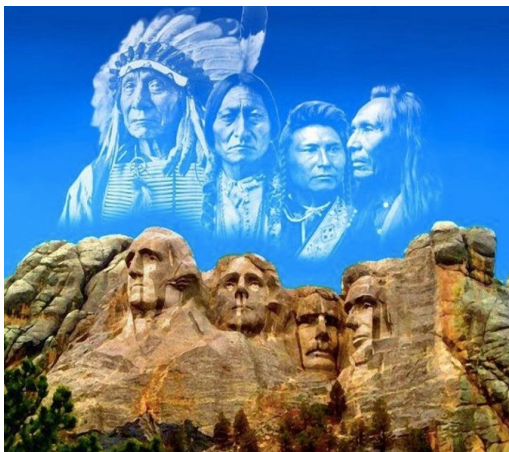
## Tunkasila Sakpe Paha

“Before it became known as Mount Rushmore, the Lakota called this granite formation Tunkasila Sakpe Paha, or Six Grandfathers Mountain. It was a place for prayer and devotion for them.

The mountain’s location in the Black Hills was also significant, as it was considered to be the center of the universe of the Lakota and was also where tribes gathered food and medicinal plants.

In the late 1800s, Euro-American settlers began pushing into the Black Hills, igniting a war with the Indians. The U.S. government signed the Treaty of Fort Laramie in 1868, giving the Lakota exclusive use of the Black Hills. Within a decade, however, gold was discovered in the region and in 1877, the U.S. broke the treaty and forced the Lakota to give back the Black Hills portion of their reservation.

In the 1925, Gutzon Borglum began carving the faces of presidents into the mountain, igniting a controversy that has continued ever since. What do you think?



## Night Eagle Blog on the Website

I am always looking for contributions for the Blog section of our website. I have posted essays by *Meadow Dreamer*, *Carries the Fire*, *Blue Heron*, and *Rainbow Medicine*. If any of you (campers, staff, or parents) have anything related to camp that you would like to contribute, please send it to me, and I will be happy to add it to the articles.

While all the articles are being clicked on, the most viewed articles are those that are related to the American Indian.

<u>Views</u>	<u>Title</u>
5,404	The Give Away Ceremony
1,139	Tatonka
1,077	Indian Trail Trees
689	Water Water Everywhere
513	A Camper’s First Summer at Night Eagle
407	Blue Heron Shares Night Eagle
382	Almost Feral
302	Just a Boy in the Woods
273	Night Eagle Alum Published
258	12 Ways to Keep Night Eagle With You
245	Summer Camps and Some are Not
193	The Story of the Rainbow
192	Should We Pamper Our Campers?
164	Promises, Promises
59	Heart Spirit - The Next Ansel Adams? (Newest Blog)

## Think and Grin

Yesterday, I accidentally swallowed some food coloring. The doctor says I’m okay, but I feel like I’ve dyed a little inside.

Coffee has a rough time in our house. It gets mugged every single morning!

Why do you never see elephants hiding in trees? Because they're so good at it!

My grandfather unfortunately passed away when we couldn't remember his blood type. His last words to us were, "Be positive!"

Did you hear about that cheese factory that exploded in France? There was nothing left but de Brie!

What do you get from a pampered cow? Spoiled milk.

## ***Help Us Spread the Word About Night Eagle!***

If you had a good time at camp this summer,

please go to

[https://g.page/r/Cf\\_HsDrQYqyHEAI/review](https://g.page/r/Cf_HsDrQYqyHEAI/review)

and leave a Review on our Business Profile!

**Thanks!**

## **Important Dates:**

<b>Sat., June 1</b>	<i>Health Forms Due in the Office</i>
<b>Sat., June 23</b>	<i>Staff Week Begins</i>
<b>Sun., June 30</b>	First 1-Week Session Opens First 2, 3, Week Sessions Open 6-Week Session Opens
<b>Sun., July 14</b>	Second 1-Week Session Opens 4-Week Sessions Opens
<b>Sun., July 21</b>	Third 1-Week Session Opens Second 2, 3 Week Sessions Opens
<b>Sun., August 4</b>	Fourth 1-Week Session Opens

