

NIGHT EAGLE NEWS

A Primitive Camp for Boys Ages 10-14
www.nighteaglewilderness.com

Winter, 2021 - 2022 (802) 855-8661
Facebook.com/nighteaglewilderness

From the Director

Dr. Gilbert Roehrig suggests that, “In the heart of every American there is an inborn love of the outdoors.” We know that to be true at Night Eagle.

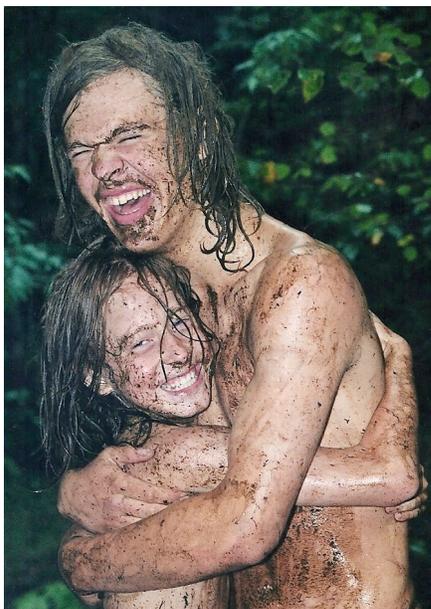
No camp today is just concerned with activities. Sure the activities are fun, but it’s the intangibles at camp that nature provides that are always the most memorable:

Experiencing the freedom of going barefooted for days at a time or being out in the rain without umbrellas and raincoats to hide under;

Walking to Circle Up on those dew-drenched mornings while dragging your bare feet through grass that is dripping with watery diamonds;

Canoeing behind the “island” in the lake just in time to see a Blue Heron majestically rise from the water and take flight;

Playing Slack ‘Em in an inviting pool of mud that was left by a sudden downpour and then cleaning off in the cool lake;



Living with flowers and butterflies, moose and bear, and the other wild flora and fauna that have made possible the world of fable;

Hearing the trees respond to the rain and wind as the rain slaps your tipi while you are warm and cozy in your sleeping bag;

Lying in the clearing at night under a star studded sky watching shooting stars light up the darkness;

Staring as the moon make its way ever so slowly above the trees that line the clearing and discovering that you can see your shadow, even at night;

Sitting silently in Morning Reflection and listening to a loon’s haunting call as it makes its way high above camp on its way to its home on Wallingford Pond;

These are the things that bring us back to Night Eagle summer after summer. It seems that from the moment we arrive at camp, a transformation takes place in us. We step back into another time period and become part of nature. And that’s exactly the way it should be!



Spring Work and Play

This year's Spring Work and Play Weekend will be on April 30 - May 1 (weather permitting). May 7-8 will be the snow/rain date. 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 a.m. (*Night Eagle* time). By noon or so on Sunday you will be on your way home.

Families that are staying can bring a tent or reserve some space 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.

Work projects this year may include clearing the trails of limbs and downed trees, re-lashing *Hocoka*, doing a little painting, re-attaching the aquatic shed door, and checking the Long Trail shelter at Little Rock Pond.

What to bring? Dress for cool weather and wear appropriate shoes. You may want an emergency flashlight if you plan to stay after dark. Bring your own sleeping bags and ground cloths if you plan to camp. There are outdoor privies and running water at camp, but everyone should bring a personal water bottle. Food will mainly be a communal event. Pack a picnic lunch for your family on Saturday and a dish or two to share for a potluck dinner Saturday night. We'll provide Sunday breakfast.

NOTE: If we have a late snow melt, plan to walk into camp from Skunk Junction. Tires will tear up the road into camp, but feet do very little damage!

Please let us know by e-mail or phone if you plan to join us so we can make the necessary arrangements!



Because you Asked

Symbolism is an important part of Night Eagle. On our sweatshirt, for example, the drawing and printing are in yellow, the direction of the South, and represent child energy and growth on the medicine wheel.

The owl (the eagle of the night) represents the North and stands for purity, endurance, and wisdom. As noted by the direction of the tipi doors, the owl is flying from the West, which represents spirituality, introspection, female energy, and creativity. It's also the home of Wakinyan Tanka, the protector of the Lakota sacred pipe.

The owl is carrying an eagle feather, the most important of all feathers because it comes from the eagle, a bird that can fly higher than all birds and therefore can get closer to Wakan Tanka (the Creator). The feather also represents the Lakota and their culture, which we teach about at Night Eagle, and the Lakota connection with Wakan Tanka and all living things

The owl is shown continuing its journey to the East, which represents the campers sharing the knowledge they have learned at Night Eagle with others outside of camp.

The three tipis represent Night Eagle and the three summers Arctic Arrow worked with Allen Flying By, the son of Joe Flying By who was the spiritual leader of the Hunkpapa at Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota. The tipis also represent the three divisions of the Lakota: Teton, Yankton, and Santee.

The circle surrounding the tipis, owl, and feather is sacred to the Lakota and represents the medicine wheel and the circle of life. I'll write more about symbolism at camp in our spring newsletter.

Paha Sapa



Paha Sapa, or the Black Hills, has long been regarded by the Lakota as their holy land. Each year tribes came from great distances to cure illnesses in the warm springs and hunt animals.

A legend of the Lakota, still firmly believed, is that the dark of night turns the rocks into spirits that sing strange songs, awakening the echoes. From holes in rock walls, healing waters flow, and the people fill their buffalo-horn cups with the clear water and drink it to become pure.

From the great needles of rock that touch the sky the medicine men call the Mighty Spirit. The great deposits of glistening metals in the hills were to be used for holy wearing and never sold. The Sioux knew of the gold there long before it was discovered by white men.

The picture paintings on the walls, made long before the coming of the Lakota, are read by holy men as a guide on how to live. The crystal caves, hidden beneath the ground, have great mystery.

On Bear Butte, *Mato Paha*, the father of Crazy Horse performed the rites of a holy man and was given great powers from *Wakan Tanka* (the Great Mystery) who appeared to him in the form of a bear. Later, in 1876, a great council was held at this butte, where chiefs talked over the giving of the Black Hill to the U.S. government.

The highest mountain, Black Elk Peak, was never climbed by the Lakota because it was believed that it was visited by *Wakinyan Tanka* (the Thunder Bird). Whenever the Thunder Bird stopped visiting, it caused much lightning and thunder in the Black Hills.

Of all the land losses suffered by the Lakota to the white men, the giving away of the sacred Black Hills caused the most sadness.

What's In A Name?

In 1999 on my drive from Vermont to Nantucket, I was trying to come up with a name for the summer camp that we were hoping to establish in Vermont, but I was getting nowhere. Having worked at four summer camps in North Carolina, Maine, and Vermont, I was familiar with quite a few camps and their names, and I considered all sorts of possibilities.

On one hand, I wanted a name that would capture the essence of the program we would be offering and at the same time honor Allen Flying By, a Hunkpapa, for his guidance and support. On the other hand, I wanted to avoid stereotypical Indian names like Kickapoo, Mondamin, Yawgoog, and Keewaydin and also Indian sounding names like Winnarainbow, Red Arrow, and Ton-A-Wandah,

Nothing sounded right. At some point during the trip home, I thought about Allen who lived in the town of Little Eagle, South Dakota, which is located in Standing Rock Reservation. I couldn't call camp Little Eagle, but I began playing with the two words and what they could stand for.

I decided that Eagle should definitely be a part of the camp's name, but it shouldn't dominate. It should be more subtle. It was then that I recalled that many American Indians referred to the owl as the Eagle of the Night. By the time I arrived at Nantucket, I had settled on Night Eagle Wilderness Preserve as the name.

After a great deal of discussion, we decided as a family that "Preserve" should be changed to "Adventures," and the name was born. Snowy Owl, at the age of six, drew the logo. Our graphic artist based her drawing on his, and a camp was born!

Today, thanks to people like you who believe in what we are doing, Night Eagle Wilderness Adventures is still going strong twenty-three years later!



Winter Tree Identification

Take advantage of this time of year to expand upon your identification skills. Most of you come to camp knowing how to identify some trees, and many of you may add a few more species to your identification repertoire while at camp. Still, almost all of your tree identification skills for trees rely on identifying leaves - rather than the trees themselves.

The most obvious identifying part of the deciduous tree (one that sheds its leaves in the fall) in winter is its bark. This is a particularly good time to see the bark, the subtle differences in color, different growth patterns and other variances. Sharpen your observation skills and see how many bark differences you can observe.

Winter also offers the best opportunity to see the deciduous tree as a whole. It's really the best time to observe and learn tree shapes and sizes and peculiar growth characteristics. Look at several examples of the same tree species in their winter leafless state and try to see what characteristics they have in common. Do they spread their branches far or do they instead grow into more of a conical shape? Sketching the trees can help to sharpen your observation skills even further. How can you describe the growth pattern of the particular tree's limbs and branches?

Look for winter tree identification guides at your local library and have fun with it!

Question: Which species of conifer that can be found at *Night Eagle* sheds all its needles for winter?



Night Eagle Reunion?

by Summer Bear
A couple months ago while visiting Arctic Arrow, a conversation came up about organizing a Camp Reunion.

As we talked, the idea blossomed into full color: a multi-day event that welcomes new new campers, old campers, camper families, and staff from over the years; an organized event that included group meals, hikes, skills classes, swimming, campfires, and story telling; an opportunity to connect and reconnect with others bound together by the traditions and community of Night Eagle.

Keep an eye on your inbox for more details, This isn't the 'Work and Play' weekend you're used to; so you won't want to miss out!

Think and Grin

This is my step ladder. I never knew my real ladder.

One of my friends asked me to help him round up his 37 sheep, so I said "40."

Man, I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous!

Two boys met on opposite sides of a river. One shouted to the other, "I need you to help me get to the other side!" The other boy said, "You *are* on the other side!"

So what if I don't know what Armageddon means? It's not the end of the world.

What do you call a dog that does magic tricks? A labracadabrador.

What We Are Doing

This winter *Summer Bear* has been pretty busy with work: traveling to the DC area, LA, Tunisia, and writing this from Liberia. He wrote that “The company I work for just signed a contract in Libya to build a hospital, and they expanded their AME and FST contract in Afghanistan to run an ICU unit in country. While it's unlikely I'll head to Afghanistan soon, I am awaiting a visa for Libya!” Be safe and hurry home, Summer Bear!

Little Bear flew “across the Pond” to England, during the holidays. He met up with *Shares the Sun* while he was there and took in the sites of London: the Tower of London, Windsor Castle, the Eye of London, Harry Potter Studios, an English pub. He saw a soccer game and might have played a little golf. He even had High Tea with the Queen of England (Well, at least she said she was the Queen of England. Well, what she actually said was, “If you’re a golfer, then I’m the Queen of England!”)

So You Want to Be a Counselor

By the time you read this, it will be late February. I have already been in contact with last year’s staff (some of whom have already responded) and hope to have this summer’s staff lined up by the end of March. If you are interested in spending this coming summer at Night Eagle as a counselor, or know somebody who you think would be a great Night Eagle counselor, let me know so I can contact him.

So give it some thought, dust off your choker, and join *Nurse Trudy, Leaux, and me* this summer as we celebrate Night Eagle’s 23rd year!



Calling All Campers! If You Have Not Already Enrolled, It’s Time!

February generally marks the end of early enrollment and the beginning of the enrollment season for prospective camp families, and *we are already over half filled!* (six-weekers count twice)

So if you haven’t already enrolled, we hope it’s only because you’re still on Night Eagle time and have not realized that the summer enrollment season is here or maybe because the extreme temperatures and snow have kept your mind on other things! In either case, Night Eagle won’t be the same without YOU, so get your applications in today and reserve your space!

Campers Already Enrolled

<i>Mustang Wind</i>	<i>River Shines</i>
<i>Aspen Moon</i>	<i>Sunset Oak</i>
<i>Western Moon</i>	<i>Marsh Rabbit</i>
<i>Fox Brother</i>	<i>GlowingSpring</i>
<i>Spirit Dance</i>	<i>Tundra Winds</i>
<i>Wolf Spirit</i>	<i>Creek Stone</i>
<i>Looks to the Stars</i>	<i>Southern Star</i>
<i>Sun Quest</i>	<i>Deer Seeker</i>
<i>Loon Spirit</i>	Luca Sarno
Paxton Barraza	Asher Smith
Alessandro Traverso	Calvin Fischer
Harrison Tinlin	Patrick Lefevre
Carter McFarland	Wake Roberts
Asher Monsarrat	Julian Rivera
Jamie Sandler-Frey	Elliot Olstad
Aydan Harrington	Emmett Fowler

Assistant Counselors - So Far . . .

Mountain Friend
Otter Fox

Important Dates:

June 1	Health Forms Due in the Office
June 25	Staff Week Begins
July 3	First 1-Week Session Opens First 2, 3, Week Sessions Open 6-Week Session Opens
July 17	Second 1-Week Session Opens 4-Week Sessions Opens
July 24	Third 1-Week Session Opens Second 2, 3 Week Sessions Opens
August 7	Fourth 1-Week Session Opens
August 14	To Be A Man Opens



Cara and I are expecting

2  22

To be a Great Year!