

# NIGHT EAGLE NEWS

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

Fall, 2022 - 20223 (802) 855-8661  
Facebook.com/nightaglewilderness

## From the Director

After escaping COVID the past two summers, it did rear its ugly head at camp this past summer. One counselor was out for a week and three had to quarantine for five days. Only two older campers were affected, and they were back after ten days!

In the end, we had a full camp, lots of amazing campers and counselors, and former counselors who were not expecting to be at Night Eagle this summer but stepped up to help out during our Covid week.

This Thanksgiving season, we are thankful to them for their help and thankful that each of your families has come into our circle of friends. We have enjoyed getting to know you and watching your sons grow into young men. Thank you for entrusting them to us for part of the summer and for letting us be part of their lives in such a special way.

## Fall Work and Play II

Because I had only one weekend available to hold Work and Play this fall, I arranged for an impromptu Work and Play day in October with our main objective being to replace the tripod in Hocoka.



The broken tripod pole and backup rope lashing.

I arrived early on Saturday with a chainsaw and some flagging tape and marked three trees that would replace the broken tripod. Then after pulling the rafter poles off of Hocoka, I went back into the woods to cut down the trees. I had just finished felling the first tree when *Earth* "Paul Bunyan" *Dance* appeared with his trusty axe.



Measuring the tripod legs before tying them.

In no time we had the three trees down, de-limbed, and laying on the ground next to Hocoka. Just as we finished, *Sun Quest* and his mom and dad arrived.

We laid out our plan for lowering the tripod, and then went into action. In no time we had the tripod on the ground and untied. After a quick lesson in tripod tying, *Earth Dance* and *Sun Quest* had the new tripod roped together and ready to go. Then it took all four of us - - three on the poles and one on the rope pulling - - to raise the tripod. After carefully measuring the distance between the legs of the tripod, *Earth Dance* tied it together, and we replaced the rafters.

After taking the canoes out of the lake and storing them on land, we enjoyed some of Sun Quest's mom's delicious cooking and lots of comraderie before departing. Mission accomplished!

## Trying to decide if it's worth it being a camp counselor?



**Woodland Spring** helps campers I.D. chanterelle mushrooms.

Since the COVID outbreak in 2020, camps have had difficulty hiring counselors. College age students are taking the summer off, traveling, or turning to internships to further their careers.

This past August, Forbes business magazine published “The Top 10 Most In-Demand Skills for the Next 10 years.

- ~~Computer Literacy~~
- ~~Data Processing~~
- Critical Thinking
- Emotional Intelligence
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Flexibility
- Leadership Skills
- Time Management
- Curiosity and Continuous Learning

With the exception of the first two, the remaining seven have Night Eagle written all over them! Books cannot teach these kinds of skills. They must be acquired through trial and error, and Night Eagle offers young people those opportunities.

What employer wouldn't be impressed with an applicant who spent the summer living in a tipi serving as a role model and caretaker of a group of four campers, led his campers during daily chores, met the challenges of changing weather and wily raccoons, and cooked over an open fire for 40+ people?

Since the activities at Night Eagle tend to spring from our surroundings, they too often present challenges, which the counselors and campers themselves need to solve: What works best for fire tender? Which way do we go to bushwhack through the woods to camp? How can we transport four canoes and our gear over a mile of terrain to Wallingford Pond? How can we build a tree house without nails?

If you are truly looking for a resume builder, Night Eagle is screaming, “**Hey, look at me!**” And trust me when I tell you that future employers *will* look.



**Arctic Rain, Back Bear Stands, Fox Vigil, and Hummingbird Sings** celebrate the end of a successful summer.

So how about it? Are you up for the challenge? Are you willing to give your talents and knowledge to make Night Eagle come alive like those counselors who dedicated their summers to work with you when you were a camper?

Do you feel like matching wits with the beaver(s), supervising campers as they leap from the rock at Little Rock Pond, leading a three-day or get lost hike, eating Night Eagle pizza that you helped a group of campers make in the oven? If the answer is “yes,” let me know!



## Make Your Own Breechclout

If you want to wear a breechclout at Night Eagle, we'll make one to fit you out of broadcloth and give it to you. In the past, some campers and staff who were really into living primitively, arrived at camp wearing leather breechclouts that they had made at home during the year. Other campers began talking about doing the same and asked how to go about it.



*Sun Spirit* giving carving tips to *Marsh Hawk*

First of all, if you want to make a leather breechclout, you have to buy some leather. I would recommend getting deer skin since it's the perfect thickness (2 1/2 oz. to 3 oz.), and it's what the American Indian used primarily.

There are many sources for leather: **Tandy Leather** <tandyleatherfactory.com> has all types of leather available for sale. At the **Deer Shack** <deershack.com> a 10-12 foot hide costs \$59.99 and a 7-9 foot hide costs \$39.95. At **Wandering Bull** <wanderingbull.com> a 9 square foot hide costs \$76.50. At **Crazy Crow** <crazycrow.com> an 8-10 foot German-tanned buckskin will cost from \$55.00 for 8-10 square feet. Look online and you'll probably be able to find even lower prices.

In any case I would recommend your getting the "smoke" or natural version of the hide. Do not purchase deerskin splits. They are good for pouches and other leather work, but are really too thin to be used in making clothing.

Once you have your leather, you will need to measure your waist and divide by 4 to get the width of your breechclout. Then measure the distance from your shoulders to your toes. That will be the length of material you will need. For example, if your waist is 28 inches and from your shoulders to your toes is 48 inches, your breechclout will be 7 inches wide and 48 inches long. Now all you have to do is mark the dimensions on your leather with a pencil and cut it out with scissors. NOTE: Remember that some people prefer longer breechclouts and others prefer them shorter.

To make the breechclout long enough, you *may* have to measure it on an angle from corner to corner on your deerskin hide. Once you have cut out the breechclout, you need to decide whether to leave the ends ragged or trim them square. That is up to you.

If you have left over material, why not try to make a pair of moccasins or a medicine pouch or two for Give-aways?

## Some of the Greatest Lakota Leaders

### ***Sitting Bull* (Hunkpapa) 1822-1919**

The spiritual leader of the Sioux who destroyed General Armstrong Custer's men at Little Big Horn.

### ***Red Cloud* (Oglala) 1822-1909**

A chief who organized the resistance to the White expansion through Wyoming and Montana.

### ***Rain-in-the-Face* (Hunkapapa) 1835-1905**

A leader of the Lakota who fought the Whites in North Dakota and the Black Hills.

### ***Crazy Horse* (Oglala) 1840-1877**

A war chief who took up arms to stop White expansion.

### ***Gall* (Hunkpapa) 1840-1894**

Perhaps the greatest military leader of the Lakota. An accomplished warrior in his teens, he became a war chief in his twenties.

## Dog Men Warriors (Hotamétaneo’o)



**Serge, Sun Quest, and Arctic Arrow**

In 2015, *Little Bear* introduced a new challenge for older Night Eagle campers based on the Dog Men Warriors (Dog Soldiers) of the Cheyenne.

Dog Men were one of six elite military societies of the Cheyenne. They were highly respected and have been referred to as “modern Spartans” because they were “superb specimens” of Cheyenne manhood, highly aggressive and effective in battle, and what the Cheyenne considered the ultimate expression of manhood and tribal identity.

Dog Men were the last line of defense for their tribes and could easily be identified by their feathered headdress and the sashes of tanned skins called "dog ropes" that they wore into battle. As a sign of their resolve in combat, they would stake their sashes to the ground with sacred arrows and fight without moving from that spot.

When a Dog Man was staked to the ground in order to cover the retreat of his companions, he was required to remain there even if death was the consequence. The Dog Men could pull the arrow from the ground only if his companions reached safety or another Dog Men released him from his duty. Like Spartans, they knew how to die, but not how to be led away as captives.

You might ask, “What do Cheyenne Dog Men have to do with the Lakota whom we learn about at Night Eagle?” Well, the Cheyenne were allies of the Lakota, fought alongside them at Little Big Horn, and began to intermarry with them. In fact many Dog Men were half-Lakota. All wore a feathered headdress, a breechclout, and a whistle made of the bone of a bird.

Unlike our Camper Leaders (Wicasa, Pipe Keeper, Drum Keeper, and Akicita) who are selected based on four of the twelve Lakota virtues (Compassion, Generosity, Bravery, Wisdom), our Dog Soldiers are chosen based on four different Lakota virtues.

Being a Camper Leader requires that a camper be a good person, which is a compliment not only to the camper who is chosen, but also to his parents. Becoming a Dog Soldier requires a boy to be physically fit. In order to do that, he must exemplify the following Lakota virtues:

**Sacrifice** - Give up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy

**Fortitude** - Displaying courage in pain or adversity

**Humility** - Having a modest or low view of one’s own importance: humbleness, humility.

**Perseverance** - Showing steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty

This past summer, under the guidance of *Shares the Sun* and *Earth Dance*, the Dog Soldier candidates were required to prove themselves both physically and mentally in order to become a Dog Soldier. It’s quite a challenge, and few persevere to the end. Those who do are rewarded with a steak supper and all the trimmings and an historically accurate handmade Pains style arrow made by historian Wilkie Collins at Native Way in Washington, Mississippi.

### **Night Eagle Dog Soldier Society Members**

**2015**

*Drum Song, Shares the Sun, and Weaves the Wind*

**2017**

*Southern Song*

**2022**

*Sun Quest* - our newest Dog Soldier member

**Lilililili . . . Sun Quest!**

## Welcome to the World, Son!

Congratulations to Cara and *Summer Bear* on the birth of their 7 lbs. 6 oz. son, Huckleberry “Huck” Lai Sibelle, who was born at 6:51 A.M. on September 18, 2022!



**Welcome to *MY* world, Dad!**



For anyone wanting to send Cara and Summer Bear a card or letter, this is their new address:  
193 Packer's Falls Road, Durham, N H 03824



## *Think and Grin*

A student told me that he wants to study burrowing rodents. I told him to gopher it.

When you teach a wolf to meditate, he becomes aware wolf.

My friend David had his ID stolen. Now he's just Dav.

Little is known about the tenth reindeer. You know, “Olive, the other reindeer.”

There was a huge fight at the Salty Dog Seafood Restaurant yesterday - - battered fish everywhere!

I can tell if people are judgmental just by looking at them.

If you are buying smart water for \$5.00 a bottle, it's not working.

What do you call a hippy's wife? Mississippi

Tonight we're having Himalayan rabbit stew for supper. We found Himalayan in the road.

### **Important Dates:**

June 1	Health Forms Due in the Office
June 24	Staff Week Begins
July 1	First 1-Week Session Opens First 2, 3, Week Sessions Open 6-Week Session Opens
July 16	Second 1-Week Session Opens 4-Week Sessions Opens
July 23	Third 1-Week Session Opens Second 2, 3 Week Sessions Opens
August 6	Fourth 1-Week Session Opens

## **Welcome to the world!**



Huck taking a break from his dad!