

NIGHT EAGLE NEWS

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

Winter, 2022 - 20223 (802) 855-8661
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From the Director

I'm going to do something here that I'm guessing very few camp directors would ever do. It might surprise you, if you've never talked with me about the value of a real summer camp experience, but what I'm going to do is to make a promise to all of our 2023 summer campers. I'm going to promise each and every one of you that you *won't* be able to do every activity that we offer at *Night Eagle* this summer. Yes, I said *won't*, as in "will not."

I've worked at quite a few summer camps and have had the opportunity to see several different kinds of camps in action (sports camps, boys' camps, coed camps, wilderness and travel camps) and, more importantly, to witness the philosophies of various camp directors.

Night Eagle is fundamentally different from all of them, and as I travel to winter camp fairs and see other camps promoting themselves, that difference seems to be growing exponentially.

Each year, one page in *Talking Leaves* (our end of summer booklet) is usually filled with "Quotes heard around camp." Some are funny and some are sometimes very profound and capture the essence of *Night Eagle*. Once included in *Talking Leaves* was the following quote that someone overheard me saying in the clearing: "This ain't McDonalds; we don't have a drive-through!" Whether that is funny or profound is for you to decide -- maybe it's a little of both?

That quote is exactly the reason why I'm not going to promise it "all" to any camper. Instead, I'm going to promise that you will have the opportunity to do lots of great activities, be in an amazing place filled with caring campers and staff, and have the time of your life.

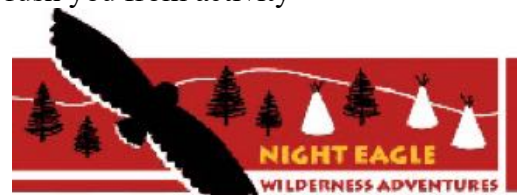
If you want to complete a complicated craft project at *Night Eagle*, you'll have to work at it, and that will take time from other activities. If you're going to eat three meals a day, you're going to have to do your share on cook crew. That, too, will take time. If you want to perfect your canoe strokes, you won't be able to unless spend time out in a canoe, and that will take time also.



Otter Path and a group of hikers on the AT/LT

I think you see my point. While you are working on that difficult carving project, perfecting your canoe strokes, or cooking delicious pizza for supper, other activities will also be taking place. However, you won't be able to participate in them because you will be doing something else, well and thoroughly.

Some camp directors may promise you the moon, but I'm going to promise you something better than that. I going to promise to give you the chance to slow down, discover who you are, and become a valuable member of the Night Eagle community, not to rush you from activity



Spring Work and Play

And a glorious weekend it was! After several weeks of rain, the sun was out in its full Vermont glory and the temperature was cool at night and in the 70's during the day!

By the time the weekend had concluded, fifteen people (new, returning, and former campers, parents, former staff, and a friend who volunteered to help get Night Eagle up and running in 1999) from five states had participated in our annual spring gathering:

Arctic Arrow (VT)

William Metcalf and his mother Jessica (VT)

George Crull and his mother Maria (NH)

Declan Read-Murrell and his father Steve (NH)

Western Moon and his father Steve (RI)

Sun Meadow and his father Matt (NJ)

Blue Heron (NJ)

Red Path Seeker (VA)

Huckleberry and his father *Summer Bear* (NH)

Marsh Hawk (NH)

Weaves the Wind (VT)

Chris Wetherby, a long-time friend of camp (VT)

To begin the day, I posted a list of twenty-seven possible jobs that we could choose from that had to be done between that day and July 2, to prepare for the opening of camp. And believe it or not, between snacking, visiting, throwing hawks, and even napping, we managed to check off seventeen of the twenty-seven jobs by lunchtime on Sunday.

The day began with one group clearing raspberry shouts in front of the food shelter to make room for the ferns that would soon be popping up.



Another group led by Blue Heron and Red Path Seeker began the task of inspecting, repairing, and erecting tipis. In the photo above, Sun Meadow is showing George, a new camper, how it's done.

Meanwhile, William, another new camper, busied himself painting the two air vents to the leach field line.



When *Marsh Hawk* arrived, he went to work with the chainsaw and bucked up many of the logs that the logging company left behind at the second lake, while Declan's dad used his chainsaw to cut up the downed tree behind the garden.

On my way from running an errand in town, I stopped to visit with *Marsh Hawk*, filled the back of my X Terra with *Marsh Hawk's* work, and brought the freshly cut wood into camp, where Declan and his dad began splitting some of it for us to use this summer.

Along with many smaller tasks, important jobs that were taken care of were cleaning Trudy's space, repairing the woodshed that heavy rains had

brought down three days the previous week, taking down and storing the sweat lodge, and repairing the Black Bear Buffet at Skunk Junction.



Red Path Seeker and Blue Heron - tipi repair



Up she goes!



Job well done!

Thank you all for giving your time to help prepare Night Eagle for the summer of 2023. It was great seeing old friends and meeting new campers and parents. All of you are vital to the existence of Night Eagle, and we really do appreciate all that you do for camp! Pilamaya!

Animals Seen at Night Eagle

Over the years we have had the pleasure of watching moose wander through the clearing; finding and repairing damage caused by bears at Skunk Junction; capturing fun-loving raccoons that were raiding the bread cage; listening to loons flying overhead during Morning Reflection; and finding newly-hatched Kingfishers standing in their nests burrowed into the side of a cliff.

One evening before camp opened, *Eagle Dance*, a counselor who had arrived before camp opened, had set up a tent in the clearing and was awakened by a bear circling his tent. I never thought to ask him if the bear was walking sunwise.

I've put together a list of our Night Eagle friends below. If you know of others, please let me know so I can add them to our collection.

Mammals

Black Bears	Mice	Bats
Fisher Cats	Otters	Deer
Mink	Bobcats	Weasels
Porcupines	Raccoons	Rabbits
Moose	Coyotes	Beavers

Birds

Great Blue Herons	Bald Eagles
Belted Kingfishers	Robins
Red-Tailed Hawks	Barred Owls
Pileated Woodpeckers	Loon
Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers	Hummingbirds
Downey Woodpeckers	Song Sparrows
Hermit Thrushes	Canada Geese
Ruffed Grouse	Wild Turkeys

Reptiles

Snapping Turtles	Common Garter Snakes
Spotted Salamanders	Red Efts
American Bittern	



Huck Visits Night Eagle (in photos!)



Huck and his dad, *Summer Bear*



Huck, *Summer Bear*, and Matt

***Feels the Drum* Out West**

Many of you know *Feels the Drum*, a long time counselor at Night Eagle. Well, he is now living in Las Vegas where he is teaching school and soaking up the history of the area.

He recently learned that there are more Catholic Churches in Las Vegas, the gambling center of the United States, than there are casinos. Because I taught in a Catholic school for thirteen years, he thought that I'd be interested in the following trivia.

He then informed me that many of the worshippers at Sunday Mass drop casino chips rather than cash into the collection basket when it is passed around. Because the chips come from many different casinos in Las Vegas, the churches had to devise an easy and quick method to separate the casino chips from the cash contributions.

After they have done that, they then send all the collected chips to nearby St. Andrew's Benedictine Abby where a special group of brothers sorts the chips and then takes them to the casinos from which they came and cash them in. The brothers who do this good work are know as the chip monks. *Got you, didn't I!*



Huck explaining the finer points of tipi raising to the others



Time for a break! These people are wearing me out



Night Eagle Sweatshirts

Okay, it's that time of year when we order Night Eagle hoody sweatshirts! Unlike larger camps, we can't keep a year-round supply of camp shirts and sweatshirts on hand. We do, however, try to order sweatshirts (Gildan heavy blend 8 oz.) once or twice a year! This will be our spring order.

The printers have told me that the sweatshirts should be ready before camp, so you will have them in time for those chilly Vermont summer nights. If you want to order one (or more), please let me know by **Thursday, June 10**. The cost is \$35.00 per sweatshirt, which includes shipping.

I would suggest that you have your son try on a sweatshirt in a store to make sure you know what size you want before ordering.

Sizes: Youth small, medium, large; Men's small, medium, large, X Large.



Drum Spirit and Circle Singer model the first edition of the Night Eagle sweatshirt

Night Eagle's 25th Anniversary

Believe it or not, next summer, 2024, is Night Eagle's 25th Anniversary. I will send more information about that later.

In the meantime, I'd like to put together a planning committee that would meet in the fall (virtually or in person) to focus on how best to commemorate that event. We'll have lots to discuss!

If any of you would like to be on that committee and help plan the celebration, please let me know!

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

Forms, Forms, Forms . .

If you have registered to come to Night Eagle this summer, you have already filled out your most important form, the **Application**. The **Health Form** is the next most important form, and it needs to be completed and sent in by June 1.

In early June I will send you a **What's Missing Form** if your folder in the office is incomplete. Please complete any forms you receive and return them to the office as soon as you can! As always, send us an e-mail or give us a call if you have any questions about any aspect of the enrollment process.

Think and Grin

What do you call birds that stick together?
Vel-Crows

Spiders and snakes are a vital part of the
eek-cosystem.

Two silk worms had a race in Rutland last week.
They ended up in a tie.

I have the heart of a lion and a lifetime ban from
the Toronto Zoo.

I've been told that I'm condescending (that means I
talk down to people).

What's the difference between a hippo and a
Zippo? One is really heavy, and the other is a little
lighter.

One of my friends said to me, "What rhymes with
orange? I said, "No it doesn't."

Before Mount Rushmore was carved, it's beauty
was un-presidented!

A jumper cable walked into Johnny Boy's
restaurant in Rutland.! The waitress said, "I'll serve
you, but don't try to start anything."

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
June 25-July 1	Staff Training



Sea Otter Stands working with his bow drill
as ***Forest Light*** offers encouragement