

NIGHT EAGLE NEWS

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

Spring, 2021 - 2022 (802) 855-8661
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From the Director

When Ken Webb, a respected camp owner and visionary, once suggested that, “A really fine camp could be set up with only one small building (a place to store the campers’ city clothes) and tipis for boys to sleep in,” people laughed. Today, almost sixty years later Night Eagle is proving him right.

Ken understood what many people didn’t: In the heart of every boy is an inborn love of the outdoors and adventure.

To be sure, living in a primitive community such as he envisioned does require effort. Because the space in a tipi is limited, the modern gadgets that campers have come to depend on in their outside lives have to be left at home, and boys must learn to live simply and adapt to nature. Under these conditions, however, a true spirit of community develops. There is simply no place for cliques or loners. Soon, artificial distinctions disappear, and we are who we are.

Quiet campers who have never had the opportunity to lead are chosen as members of the Akicita, not because they are athletic, or cool, but because they are kind and respectful.

Returning campers help new campers settle into their tipis and then show them around camp and explain the intricacies of using the hydrothermal shower and the Maxwell houses.

A camper leader consoles a young camper who is a bit homesick and soon has him playing a game of “Sticks.”

A group of campers sees the woodpile is getting low and give up their rest hour to saw and split wood for the cook crew.

Two other campers notice that the saw horses we



River Bow and *Southern Sky* split wood for cook

use during chores look a little rickety and take it upon themselves to repair them during their rest hour.

These are the kinds of contagious selfless acts that are commonplace around Night Eagle.

New campers see them and quickly join in, becoming a contributing part of camp. Perhaps *community* more than anything else is why campers have returned to Night Eagle year after year.

As one camper put it, “I came to Night Eagle looking for a camp. Instead, I found a family.”

Mitakue Oyasin!
(All my relatives!)

Spring Work and Play 2022

What an amazing weekend we had this spring! Sixteen people showed up for what felt like a Fall Work and Play Weekend with the low temperature in the 40's at night and the highs in the mid-to-low 60's.



This year's Spring Work and Play participants

*Mustang Sun and his girlfriend Sawyer arrived on Thursday as I was cleaning the food shelter. I thought they had come up early to do some hiking and relax in the serenity of Night, but before I knew it, after helping me move the serving tables to Hocoka, **Mustang Sun** had gone into action, and he and **Sawyer** had headed down the back trail with chainsaw in hand to clear downed trees there and at the gatehouse. I passed them on the road as I was leaving to pick up **Leaux** at daycare.*

Early on Friday morning, I arrived at camp just as **Mustang Sun** and Sawyer were returning from Little Rock Pond where Night Eagle has adopted the shelter that we check up on several times a year. As I resumed cleaning the food shelter and scrubbing the refrigerator, **Mustang Sun** soldered a pipe and attached a spigot to the hot water system and then repaired one of our spokeshave benches. Then he disconnected the cleaned the terminals of the twelve batteries that run our solar system and topped them off with water. Meanwhile, **Sawyer** busied herself raking the entire area around the food shelter, and I began sweeping and replenishing the Maxwell Houses.

Later that day, **Summer Bear**, **Blue Bobcat**, **Red Path Seeker**, and **Blue Heron** made it to camp, and that night **Eagle Dance** arrived, and at some point that night they burned the piles of scrap wood at the waterfront.

On Saturday, the work began in earnest! Folks went in all directions, as we attacked the list of jobs that I had posted on the wall of the food shelter. In no time chainsaws were screaming along the trails and on the dam as downed trees were being cut up and dead trees were being cut down.

Later on Saturday, **Marsh Hawk** arrived as did **Snowy Owl**, **Spirit Dance** and his dad **Todd**. A short time later, **Calvin** (a new camper) arrived with his dad **Lars** and toured the camp. Shortly after that, **Calvin** was busy vacuuming behind the shelves in the food shelter, a job that had not been done in quite a while.

Then around lunch time we got re-enforcements with the arrival of **Yellow Bear Touches**, **Sun Quest**, and his dad **Serge** who jumped right in and began tackling jobs. Soon after they arrived, they grabbed some tools and cleaned out the water bars in the road as they made their way to the waterfront and rehung the door to the aquatics shed.

Blue Heron made sure the hand-washing stations were set up and then grabbed Sahasipa tipi and a couple of workers and took charge of raising it so overnights could be warm. Some folks began re-lashing the poles on Hocoka while **Lars** and **Todd** re-lashed and re-covered the wood shed.

Later in the afternoon, **Red Path Seeker**, **Sun Quest**, and **Yellow Bear Touches** carried the extension ladder from the gatehouse to the food shelter, and people pitched in to replace a translucent panel that had blown off the roof.



Red Path Seeker loads the mini-water heater on Eagle Dance's truck

After that, folks began thinking about preparing supper so we would have time to eat and clean up before dark. Actually, **Summer Bear** and friends were thinking about supper early on Saturday morning when they prepared a brisket and began slow cooking it in our barrel oven. By 5:00 or so, it was ready to be served.

So people brought out the food and placed it on the counter in front of the food shelter. The brisket was joined by macaroni and cheese, corn bread, amazing sesame chicken (ala **Sun Quest's** mom), hot dogs with all the trimmings, including sticks with which to cook them on the open fire.



Following the gastronomical feast, we took a group photo, and participants drifted to their tents or the tipi for a well deserved good night's sleep.

On Sunday morning, **Blue Heron** arrived with two boxes of coffee and several boxes of donuts from Dunkin' Donuts. Those items together with Honey Nut Cheerios, Raisin Bran, milk, orange juice, bagels and cream cheese, along with lots of enjoyable conversation, made up our two hour breakfast.

Then **Serge**, **Sun Quest**, and **Yellow Bear Touches** began splitting and stacking wood to replace what we used, while **Blue Bobcat** and others cleared the counter and washed the dishes.

As that was taking place, a new camper **Zach Lincoln** and his mom **Karen** arrived to see the camp and meet and talk with the people at the work weekend. After their visit, folks began packing up for their trip home, and we said our farewells.

Marsh Hawk and I stayed a bit longer and stored the tools and dishes in the shed. As we worked, talked about the weekend and Night Eagle and decided that maybe we could get everyone together again before Staff Week for a chainsaw and subs Saturday of cutting tipi poles. What do you think? Is anybody up for that?

Thanks to everyone for all of your help!

Little Rock Pond Shelter – 18 Years!

In the fall of 2004, Night Eagle adopted the shelter at Little Rock Pond for the Green Mountain Club. Adopting a shelter involves visiting it at least three times a year, performing light maintenance, and making sure everything is in good order. This coming summer we will begin working on our 18th year as caretakers of Little Rock Pond Shelter!



Think and Grin

I was at the hardware store today and the owner told me that they are not making yardsticks any longer.

Every day a bike keeps running over me. It seems to be a vicious cycle.

Life without music would b flat.

Headline: "Police Toilet Stolen - - Cops have nothing to go on."

To whomever invented the zero, thanks for nothing!

Summer Bear burned the Hawaiian pizza last summer at camp. Personally, I thought he should have used aloha temperature.

Never make your computer password "beef stew." It's not stroganoff.

I tried to make up a pun about carpentry, but nothing wood work.



Marsh Hawk takes aim with his trusty 'hawk back in the day

Hawk Throwing

When we opened Night Eagle twenty-three years ago, one of the very first activities we introduced (and still one of the most popular) was hawk throwing. Since that time, hawks have been filling the air and leaving targets in pieces.

In fact, it wasn't long after arriving for Work and Play weekend this spring that someone took out the hawks and began throwing them. Within minutes a crowd had gathered.

It's not surprising that boys gravitate to activities like hawk throwing and seem to have an affection for all target sports from throwing sticks to throwing darts with atlatls.

By nature, boys like to be active and to challenge themselves. Target sports offer them the opportunity to do both. In addition, boys get to design and carve their own atlatls, bows, arrows, throwing sticks, blowguns, and bolas. They get to experiment with various types of woods to see which ones are easiest to carve and to test different lengths and weights of wood to see which ones work best.

Boys spend hours testing and fine tuning their creations. When all is said and done, they have a wonderful implement, but more important, they have developed other skills and learned the value of hard work and persistence!

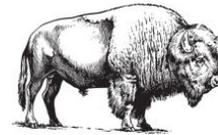
Sacred Buffalo (from *Lakota Life* by Zelinger)

Tatanka or buffalo was held in high regard by the Lakota. The buffalo was respected as a symbol of the divine because the buffalo was a "banquet" for the people.

The creature gave up its own flesh and life to feed them. It provided for their every need by way of sheltering them with its hide over their tipis, covering their bodies as clothing and their feet as moccasins. **Tatanka** also provided everyday utensils such as needle and thread, awls, bowls and more. In this way, the buffalo was a true relative for the people - - making life possible.

Because of the buffalo's great importance to the people, a buffalo symbol or buffalo skull is present in all sacred Lakota rituals. It stands as a reminder of this great animal, which gives completely of itself for others. The buffalo is a symbol of self-sacrifice; it gives until there is nothing left.

This was imitated by the Lakota in their lives. To be generous and give what you have to others in need, or to honor them, is one of the most highly respected ways of acting or being. We try to carry on that tradition at Night Eagle.



Where Do Our Campers Come From?

The numbers represent the number of U.S. towns or cities in each state that our campers have come from. As you can see, Vermont leads the way, probably because we advertise more locally.

Alabama 1	New Mexico 1
Arizona 1	New York 33
California 4	North Carolina 2
Connecticut 30	Ohio 2
Florida 6	Oregon 1
Louisiana 1	Pennsylvania 7
Maine 7	Rhode Island 5
Maryland 4	South Dakota 1
Massachusetts 57	Texas 4
Minnesota 1	Vermont 74
New Hampshire 11	Virginia 3
New Jersey 15	Washington 2

The Life of Litter

Because Green Up Day occurs in May, I thought you would be interested in the life of the litter that you collected earlier this month.

Orange Peel	2-5 weeks
Paper	2-5 months
Orange Peel	6 months
Milk Carton	5 years
Cigarette Butt	10-12 years
Plastic Bag	10-20 years
Plastic Bottle	50-80 years
Disposable Diaper	75 years
Tin Can	100 years
Aluminum Can	200-500 years
Fishing Line	800 years
Glass Bottle	1 million years
Styrofoam	more than 5,000 years
Tin Foil	does not biodegrade

Bring a Friend to Camp

All of you know that Night Eagle is a special place. During the summer I often hear you talk about the “outside world,” “society names,” and the freedom you have at Night Eagle to be yourself. But during the school year some of you think Night Eagle is so special that you tend to keep the magic of camp to yourself, as you melt into that “outside world” that we decry during the summer.

But think about it for just a minute. What would you be like if *you* had never discovered Night Eagle? What if you had never gone on a Quest, or received a Night Eagle name, or slept in a tipi with a group of close friends? What if you had never known what it was like to play a rousing game of Sticks or Crack About or to jump off the ledge at Little Rock Pond? How would your life be different if you hadn’t met counselors like *Summer Bear*, *Fox Vigil*, *Feels the Drum*, or *Nurse Trudy*?

Now think about what it would be like if you could share those special moments at camp with your friends. Think about somebody you know who would enjoy spending a summer at Night Eagle and tell them about it. After all, who better than you knows what makes Night Eagle such a special place?



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

Night Eagle accepts 32 campers each three-week session. Currently we have 47 campers enrolled for this coming summer leaving 17 spaces. Last year, between May 1 and July 15, we enrolled 28 campers. So if you haven’t already enrolled, we hope it’s only because you’re still on Night Eagle time or maybe the extreme temperatures and snow have kept your mind on other things and you have not realized that the summer enrollment season is here! In either case, Night Eagle won’t be the same without YOU, so get your applications in today and reserve your space!

Night Eagle Campers as of May 10

<i>Sunset Oak</i>	<i>Southern Star</i>
<i>Mustang Wind</i>	<i>River Shines</i>
<i>Yellow Bear Touches</i>	<i>Western Moon</i>
<i>Marsh Rabbit</i>	<i>Fox Brother</i>
<i>Wolf Spirit</i>	<i>Creek Stone</i>
<i>Sun Quest</i>	<i>Deer Seeker</i>
<i>Loon Spirit</i>	<i>Valley Sage</i>
<i>Summer Song</i>	<i>Glowing Spring</i>
<i>Looks to the Stars</i>	<i>Sea Otter Stands</i>
<i>Sparkling Hummingbird</i>	<i>Aspen Moon</i>
<i>Spirit Dance</i>	<i>Falcon Reaches</i>
Luca Sarno	Asher Smith
Paxton Barraza	Luca Herviou
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
Jay Peets Alio	Zach Lincoln
Connor Galbraith	Lucian Rosberg
Aydan Hamilton	Luca Bernhardt
Henry Waitkus	Neil Erickson
Jamie Sandler- Frey	

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



Fox Brother with Leaux