

NIGHT EAGLE NEWS

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

Fall 2017-2018 (802) 446-6100
[Facebook.com/nighteaglewilderness](https://www.facebook.com/nighteaglewilderness)

From the Director

It's hard to believe that camp ended over three months ago. It seems like just yesterday we were doing chores, playing crack about in the clearing and telling Leaux to "Get Down!"

Although we have certainly had much warmer summers at camp, the chilly weather never seemed to affect the campers or the programs.

Looking back at the six weeks, I don't see how we did all that we did: swamp romps, boat races, camouflage, atlats, hawks, archery, kitchen in the woods, "Get Lost" hikes, day hikes to Little Rock Pond, White Rocks and the Ice Beds, canoe wars, wild edibles, bow drill fires, dog soldiers, putting in a garden, skinning a possum, and that's just the beginning! I didn't even mention all the games we played and the surprise visits by *Summer Bear*!

Of course after camp concluded on August 16, we had a stretch of about five weeks of beautiful sunny weather (although the mosquitos tried to keep us from enjoying it and the ticks were out longer in Wallingford). I think the only semi-wet days occurred on Work And Play Weekend!

Needless to say, when I wasn't teaching in the classroom, I spent as much time at camp as I could cleaning things up and working on a variety of projects.

Snowy Owl and I spent some time cutting trees that were encroaching on the clearing, and I spent quite a bit of time clearing the brush off the dam near the sweat lodge. I also cleared the brush from the area near Sichangu and began working on a new idea *Atka Lakota* ("Honoring the People"). But I'll tell you more about those two things next summer.

I hope to see you back at Night Eagle in 2018!



Meadow Dreamer leads a group of campers in a work project putting in the garden, and what a garden it was!

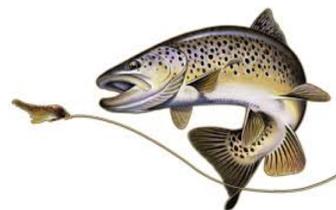
New Activity for 2018!

Because of the Great Blue Heron and kingfishers that live at Night Eagle and the otters that visit in the late summer and early fall, there are not too many "lunkers" swimming in our lakes. This coming summer we plan to remedy that situation.

No we are not going to stock the lakes. That's been done before and only ended up fattening our fish-eating friends.

What we *are* going to do is purchase five or six fly rods so groups can learn to cast, tie on flies, and then head out into the Green Mountain National Forest where they will spend the day (and perhaps the night as well) fishing for trout.

I can't imagine a better way of being in nature than fishing in the trout streams surrounding Night Eagle. So be prepared to sharpen your fishing skills and plan to pack a lunch and bring some fresh trout back to camp for supper!



Fall Work and Play Weekend

This year's Work and Play Weekend took place on the weekend that Hurricane Irma decided to run south to north through the heart of Florida. However, a small but hardy group of five of us decided to get together anyway and try to do what we could to close down camp for the season.

The rain pretty much held off during the day, and we managed to get quite a bit of work done, clear the water bars, walk the "Get Lost Trail" looking for downed trees, and search for the 4 inch PVC pipe that I had asked someone to move from the dam area.

We never did find the pipe, but we surely had a delicious supper and enjoyed throwing atlatls and playing hide-and-go-seek.

Penguins

Recently, in the course of preparing for one of my classes, I found out something that completely blew me away.

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica – where do they go? Wonder no more!

It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird that lives in extremely ordered and complex life.

The penguin is also very committed to its family and will mate for life, and maintains a form of compassionate contact with its offspring throughout its life.

If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been know to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole ice deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into and buried.

the male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:

"Freeze a jolly, good fellow!"

Got you didn't I? Go on, admit it!

Simplicity at its Best!

How do you measure a tipi pole? Usually you would take out a measuring tape and go to work. But at Night Eagle things are often not that complicated.

This past summer, *Summer Bear* and I found ourselves without a tape measure and had to come up with a new way to measure the length of our tipi tripod poles.



Being surrounded by a group of campers who wanted to know what we were going to do to solve the problem, I jokingly began asking each of them if they knew their height. As they told me how tall they were, Summer Bear jumped up, grabbed them one by one, and lined them up on the ground head-to-toe until he arrived at the number we needed.

The problem was solved and tipi raising could continue!



Rainbow Medicine, Otter Path, Circle Singer, Winter Moon, and Summer Bear tie the tripod for the tipi.

To Parents

We are 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.

A New Oven? Thank Summer Bear

Several summers ago we had our first “Back to the Blanket” session. One of the things required of the campers who attended the program was a community service project. After arriving on a Sunday, the campers, *Summer Bear*, and *Arctic Arrow* discussed several options for projects. Among those choices was to begin building a clay oven to eventually replace our well-used barrel oven.

Having only two or three days to work on the project, we knew it would not be possible to complete the project that week. However, the campers worked hard locating large stones, digging them up, dragging them into camp, and building what would eventually become the oven’s base.



Red Deer, *Weaves the Wind*, and *Raccoon Brother* wrestle with a stone for the base of the clay oven.

After finally getting the stones into camp, the group decided on a location on which to build it and had the time to clear the area, level the

ground, stake out the perimeter, and build the foundation.



Weaves the Wind lays out the base.

With the foundation built, the group considered its portion of the project to be complete. The rest would have to wait until more time could be allocated to completing what they had begun. However, because of several rained out Work and Play Weekends and busy summers, the completion of the oven was delayed. Still, even though we are on Night Eagle time, we had no idea it would take three years before *Summer Bear* decided that enough was enough.

After attending a “How to Build a Clay Oven” workshop, *Summer Bear* showed up at camp this past summer with tools, sand, and concrete in hand. He grabbed *Weaves the Wind* (the last of the foundation builders) and a few campers and went to work. The rest is now history. This summer, we hope to break it in!



Summer Bear and *Weaves the Wind* finish what they began in Back to the Blanket.

The 10 Best Educational Activities for Children in Vermont!

This week we were informed that *Night Eagle Wilderness Adventures* has been selected as one of the best 10 Educational Activities for Children in Vermont by Best of American Towns, a leader in highlighting the work of great local organizations for over 15 years.

Here is the complete top 10 list of activities for children. I hope you enjoy reading about them. When they were younger, Snowy Owl and Little Bear went to ECHO, Montshire Museum, Shelburne Farms, and the Fairbanks Museum.

1. KidsPLAYce

KidsPLAYce is a community, storybook-themed play space for children and their caregivers that was established in 1983. Handmade by local craftsmen and artisans, structures include a two-story playhouse, a castle and ship, and book nook. A safe place that fosters imaginative play, exploration, discovery, and socialization.

2. Night Eagle Wilderness

In the heart of the Green Mountains, lies a summer camp for boys, ages 10-14 like no other. At Night Eagle, everyone lives in Lakota-style tipis for the summer, and day are filled with activities that date back hundreds of years—fire making, plant identification, tracking, the art of camouflage, and more. On 135 acres situated in the middle of the Green Mountain National Forest, the Appalachian is only minutes away, and experienced counselors are on hand as guides for this wilderness adventure.

3. ECHO Camps, Burlington, VT

ECHO is a non-profit organization whose mission is “to educate and delight people about the Ecology, Culture, History, and Opportunities for Stewardship of the Lake Champlain Basin.” ECHO Camps insist that science is fun and that compassion for the earth is important

4. Green Mountain Youth Symphony

A seven-day, intensive residential musical experience is offered this summer at Johnson State College. Professional music coaches and chamber groups offer private lessons, and orchestra rehearsals.

5. Otter Creek Wildlife Rescue

Every year hundreds of orphaned and injured wild birds and mammals need help. Students learn how to assist Vermont species and what it takes to help them thrive in nature again. Campers also get to enjoy hiking, swimming, gardening, and picnics

6. Hosmer Point Camps

Hosmer Point offers day camps for ages five to eight, and Wilderness Trekking camps are an option for teens. With a bent on sustainable practices and environmental stewardship, Hosmer Point provides farm-to-table food and an “unplugged” lifestyle.

7. Montshire Museum

The museum has more than 140 exhibits relating to the natural sciences, ecology, and technology. The outdoor environment is a large part of the experience. Families can conduct activities with air, weather, and mechanics while interacting with indoor exhibits.

8. Shelburne Farms

Explore this 1,400-acre working farm located on the shores of Lake Champlain collecting eggs, helping to milk cows, or having a picnic in the pastoral fields. Shelburne offers an array of hands-on activities like tractor rides and scavenger hunt on one of the trails.

9. Birds of Vermont Museum

The mission of this organization is “to provide education, to nurture an appreciation of the environment, and to study birds and their habitats using woodcarvings and other museum resources.” The museum also hosts a 100-acre bird sanctuary/nature preserve. Go birding, learn bird calls, explore art, or even attempt wood carving.

10. Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium

The museum, founded in 1889 by industrialist Franklin Fairbanks, boasts more than 175,000 objects. Topics span art, culture, technology, history, geology, climate, and more. The Naturalist’s Corner covers wetlands, forests, and fields, including plant and animal diversity and the ecosystem, and the planetarium covers the stars and sky that cover the planet.

Good News!

I bumped into *Trudy* yesterday at the grocery store and she told me that after taking last summer off to travel to Alaska she is ready to return to Night Eagle this coming summer! *Trudy* actually took *three* trips last year: a Western adventure, a trip to Hawaii, and finally a visit to Alaska.

Until last summer, *Trudy* had been our only nurse since we opened in 2000. We certainly enjoyed having *Nurse Daphne* with us last summer, but it's going to be great having *Trudy* with us again. I'm sure she will have lots of stories to tell!



Blue Heron proved to be invaluable this past summer with his guitar and musical skills.

So You Want to be a Counselor or AC?

I realize it's only November, but I'm already beginning to receive interest from potential counselors and assistant counselors. If you are interested in spending next summer at Night Eagle as a counselor or an AC, let me know. If you know somebody who you think would be a great Night Eagle counselor, please encourage him to contact me or to check out our website.

Early Bird Enrollees for 2018

Thunder Willow	Arctic Rain
Arctic Sun	Sunrise Bear
Prairie Sky	Mountain Maple
Medicine Rainbow	Night Heron
Mountain Friend	Winter Moon
Sun Flicker	Yellow Flame



Summer Spring and *Drum Spirit* on a survival hike.

Bring a Friend to Camp

Please help us get the *Night Eagle* word out! If you know someone who might be interested in attending *Night Eagle* or learning more about camp, call or e-mail us and we'll send the family an information packet. ***If any of your referrals enroll for any Night Eagle session, we will be happy to credit your account with a value of 10% of the new camper's tuition.***

Informational Meetings

If you would like to host an Informational Meeting in your home to introduce Night Eagle to prospective campers and their families, let us know and we'll show you how simple it is to do. We would be happy to attend to talk about camp, show photos from past summers, and distribute information that families can take home. In addition, your son will receive a 10% discount of any new camper's tuition for each new camper who enrolls as a result of the meeting (up to 50% of your son's tuition).

2017 CAMPER LEADERS

1ST SESSION

Wicasa

Rainbow Medicine

Pipe Keeper

Arctic Sun

Drum Keeper

Earth Dance

2ND SESSION

Wicasa

Summer Spring

Pipe Keeper

Arctic Rain

Drum Keeper

Southern Song

Important Dates:

June 24	Staff Week Begins
July 1	First Session (2, 3, 6 weeks) Opens
July 15	Four-Week Sessions Opens First One-Week Session Opens
July 22	Second Session (2 and 3 weeks) Opens
July 15	First One-Week Session Opens
Aug. 5	Second One-Week Session Opens

Please Note Our New Address!

**Night Eagle Wilderness Adventures
P.O. Box 479
Wallingford, VT 05773**



The “twins” *Drum Spirit* and *Circle Singer* enjoy exploring the lake.