

## THE GROVE STAFF - 2011



**AARON "SCOTTY" BARRON** from Woodstock, Georgia returns to The Grove for his second summer as one of our canoe instructors. Currently, Scotty is a student at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. He is studying Organizational Communications and Sociology. Last summer, Scotty worked at our riflery range, but will now be moving down to the lake to teach our campers how to paddle! When not studying, he enjoys traveling and hiking. Having gone to summer camp since the age of 8, Scotty has such a passion for working for summer camps, with children, and he can't imagine being anywhere else in the summer. In the future, Scotty hopes to work with youth, either through a summer camp or after-school program. Welcome back to camp, Scotty!

Former camper, CIT, and Junior Counselor, **JACOB BERKELHAMER**, will be joining us back at The Grove as one of our sailing instructors this summer. Jacob will be in Decatur for his 8<sup>th</sup> summer, and can't think of a better place to spend his summers. Jacob recently graduated from Highland Park High School and played soccer and lacrosse at his school. He was also a Key Club member where he helped work for local charities as well as his community. Jacob can't wait to teach our campers how to set sail this summer on our beautiful Lake of the Woods



From Valencia, CA, we want to welcome **CONNOR BUSH** to The Grove for his first summer. Currently, Connor is a student at College of the Canyons in California pursuing a degree in economics. One of his dream jobs is to be a smoke jumper because he loves the comradery and adventure. Connor will be working in a dual role at camp to run our ever popular and very important canteen as well as helping run our go-karts. He has a lot of different experiences working with children including coaching soccer for kids ages 7-12. In his free time, Connor enjoys listening to music, spending time with his family, reading and trail running. We are so excited to have him join our staff this summer.

The Grove welcomes twenty-two year old **BARAK DOBZINSKI** from Israel as a Hebrew and animal care instructor for his first summer camp. Prior to coming to camp, Barak was an aircraft technician in the army. Barak will be teaching our campers the basics of taking care of animals including feeding our potbelly pig, walking our llama and playing with our bunnies. He is excited to be in the states and part of the traditional overnight camp experience.



Twenty-five year old **TYLER ECKELS** from Lansing, Michigan is heading to Decatur for his first summer as one of our archery instructors at The Grove. Currently, Tyler is a third class petty officer in the navy and has been in the navy for the past 5 years. Tyler has been shooting both riflery and archery since he was young, and he is looking forward to teaching archery to our campers this summer and wants to make sure everyone can hit a bulls-eye!

Former camper, CIT, junior counselor and counselor, **DAVID ELFMAN**, returns for his 10th summer at camp. We are so excited to have David with us back at our climbing tower teaching our campers how to climb, zip, swing and do our high ropes course. David is currently a student at University of Illinois studying political science and economics. He has been climbing for the last 11 years! We are thrilled to have David back for another summer at our tower.





Joining us for his first summer at camp is twenty-three year old **LACHLAN FRANKLAND** from Australia as one of our very talented and experienced waterski instructors. Lachlan has served in the Australian Army for the past 5 years and experienced 3 overseas deployments. His leadership skills have been highly recognized and honored by the army, and during his services overseas, he has worked with kids in less fortunate circumstances. Lachlan has always had a passion for working with children, and wants to take a break from the army so he can pursue such passions and travel to and experience other cultures. Lachlan has had a boat license since the age of 16, owns his own boat and participates weekly in skiing and wakeboarding. He has had quite a bit of experience teaching others to ski and wakeboard, and can't wait to share his passion with our campers this summer.

**NATAN HAY** is twenty-six years old and will be joining us from Israel as one of our very talented basketball instructors for his first summer at The Grove. Back home, Natan works as a youth counselor as well as a professional basketball trainer. Natan heard about our camp through a friend who worked here a few summers ago. He is very excited to be here in the states and looking forward to teaching our campers how to shoot hoops this summer.



Twenty-one year old **MICHAEL HINE** from England will be joining us for his first summer at The Grove as our rocketry and sports instructor. Currently, Michael is a student working towards a degree in sports and exercise science at The University of Essex in Colchester, England and plans to continue towards a Master's degree in the fall. He has a real passion for sports, watching, playing and coaching. Soccer is his passion, and he is currently the team captain of his university's team. He has also completed his level one football association coaching qualification and has put that knowledge into practice as a coach for a U15 girls team as well as coaching for a soccer company where he helped coach children aged 7 to 11 years old. We are so excited to have Michael join our team this summer helping our kids to launch rockets and improve their skills in many sports this summer.

We are so excited to welcome back twenty-three year old **TOMMY JOHN** from Portage, Indiana for his fourth summer at The Grove. Tommy just graduated from Purdue University with a degree in elementary education. Tommy has had experience working with children in Kindergarten through 5th grade classrooms, and he just completed his student teaching in a kindergarten classroom. He was very active on Purdue's campus and involved in many philanthropies including: efforts to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis, Cancer, and Heart Disease research and prevention. Tommy is so excited to be back at The Grove this summer and will help teach team sports.



The Grove welcomes twenty-five year old **CONNOR JOHNSTON** from Texas as one of our baseball instructors. Connor is a Texas A & M graduate, studied education and plans to become a teacher. He has 15 years experience playing baseball including playing for one year in college. Connor has a passion for working with children and even volunteered at an orphanage in Nuevo Laredo. In his free time, Connor enjoys climbing, playing golf and reading a good book. We are so excited to have Connor join our team and help our campers hit home runs this summer!

We are so happy to welcome back twenty-two year old **TYLER KLEIST** from Tyron, Georgia to The Grove for his second summer at camp. Tyler recently graduated from The University of Georgia with a BBA in real estate. Last summer, Tyler worked as a counselor and climbing instructor, but this summer, we are excited to have Tyler down at the lake teaching our campers to waterski. Tyler has been waterskiing for the last 8 years and enjoys wakeboarding and knee-boarding as well. In his free time, Tyler enjoys reading, fixing up his jeep, and hanging out with friends. He recently received his pilot's license and is working towards becoming a commercial airline pilot. We know he will be a great asset to our ski staff and will help all of our campers achieve their goal to get up on skis this summer.





We are so happy to welcome first time counselor, twenty-three year old **KEAN LAFFITTE** from Portland, Oregon to The Grove this summer as one of our very experienced swim instructors and pool director. Currently, Kean is a student at The University of Oregon studying history with plans to become an elementary education teacher. Kean worked for three summers at Portland Parks and Recreation as a swim instructor working with children ages 2-12. In his free time, he enjoys reading a good book, aerobic activities, playing basketball and watching his favorite team, the Portland Trailblazers. He is so excited to be at camp because he truly loves the outdoors. Kean is looking forward to a fantastic summer at camp.

Joining us at the climbing tower for his first summer is twenty-one year old **RICK LEACH** from England. Currently, Rick is a student at Leeds Metropolitan University studying physical education. He has been climbing for years and has been a member of a climbing club for the past 2 years as well as helped coach children aged 7-13 climbing. Rick also enjoys playing rugby having been a rugby union player for 11 years, and coached for three years. He is extremely athletic and has also been a member of his university's indoor rowing club, golf club and played as a soccer player for three years. Rick is so excited to be at camp and is looking forward to helping our campers ring that bell at the top of the tower this summer.



**CONNOR MCCUMBER** joins The Grove for his first summer from Canada as one of our lacrosse and soccer instructors. Currently, Connor is a student at Mount Allison University in Canada working on his Bachelor's degree with hopes of becoming a high school physical education teacher. Connor has a tremendous passion for soccer. He started at the early age of 4, continues to play for his university, and more recently began coaching in his community. He played basketball for many years as well as lacrosse for 6 years and helped coach the peewee aged lacrosse team in his community. We know Connor will be a fantastic addition to our team and looks forward to helping our kids develop a passion for two of his favorite sports.

Twenty-two year old **RICKY MCDONALD** is joining us all the way from Auckland, New Zealand for his first summer at The Grove as one of our tennis instructors. Ricky started playing tennis at the young age of just 7 years old and developed a passion for it by the age of 11. He started playing in tournaments around his country and gained a New Zealand ranking from the age of 12 through 18. At the age of 14 he was chosen to represent New Zealand to play in Australia and was the best player and won the tournament! He was a great deal of experience coaching not only tennis, but rugby and cricket as well. In his free time, Ricky enjoys spending time with family and friends, going to the beach, running, playing cards and listening to music. We are excited to have Ricky join us on the courts this summer and we know our campers continue to get great tennis instruction at camp.



Twenty-one year old **ANTHONY NICHOLSON** from England will be joining us on our riflery range for his first summer at The Grove. Camp is the perfect place for Anthony as he has quite a lot of experience in many outdoor activities including camping, outdoor cooking and kayaking. Anthony has also been involved in soccer his whole life and now coaches at a local foot ball club working with kids ages 6-15. Currently, Anthony is a student at University studying sports science. He has extensive experience at the riflery range and loved to go clay pigeon shooting every weekend when he was younger. Anthony is looking forward joining our staff and teaching our campers how to aim and shoot this summer!

We couldn't be more thrilled to welcome back twenty-two year old **MICHAEL POWERS** from Illinois to our GG sailing dock for his 8<sup>th</sup> summer in Decatur! Michael was a camper for 2 summers at camp and went on to become a CIT, Junior Counselor and Counselor for 5 more summers. After taking a year away from camp, we are so excited Michael has decided to return. Currently, he is a senior at The University of Illinois majoring in economics and minoring in geology. After graduation, he hopes to find a job where he can financially help companies; he is also interested in improving the lives of other people and their standard of living. Michael has taught both tennis and sailing at camp. He has been down at the sailing docks for 3 summers, and originally learned to sail to get over his fear of unpredictably falling in the water! In his free time, Michael enjoys being outdoors, camping, and hiking. Our future sailors will be in great hands with Michael back down at the docks this summer!



**QUAID ROSENBERG** will be spending his 10<sup>th</sup> summer in Decatur as one of our waterskiing instructors at The Grove. Quaid has grown up at camp, went on to become a CIT, and last summer, was an amazing Junior Counselor. He is so excited to return as a counselor at The Grove so he can continue to share his love for camp with our campers. Quaid recently graduated from Deerfield High School and is heading to college in the fall. He enjoys all sports including soccer, tennis, diving, gymnastics, snowboarding, hockey, running and working out. Waterskiing has always been his favorite activity at camp, and he has been a huge asset to our ski staff and instrumental in helping many campers learn to ski. We couldn't be more thrilled to have Quaid down at our ski dock doing what he enjoys and helping our campers get up and ski around the lake this summer.

All the way from England is twenty-one year old **CRAIG SANDERSON** who will be at The Grove for his first summer as one of our Outdoor Livings Skills (OLS) instructors. Craig recently graduated from University with a degree in sports studies. He spent time with the Ministry of Defence, has a tremendous amount of hiking experience, and has been on many residential trips where he was able to put his outdoor living skills to use. Craig really enjoys working with children and has spent time working in his local community to help coach rugby and soccer as well as working with at risk children after school to keep them out of trouble. He really enjoys camping and considers it to be a hobby. We know Craig will have so much knowledge to share with our campers and teach them the basics of surviving in the outdoors.



**MICHAEL SCHULZ** joins The Grove for his first summer from South Bend, Indiana as our computer and volleyball instructor. Currently, Michael is a student at The University of Notre Dame majoring in business and working towards a degree in IT Management. As computers are his major at school, Michael is very comfortable teaching our campers this summer basic technology. He has done a lot of work with children including volunteering at Easter Seals Respite Camps, helping to coach as a volunteer basketball coach, and tutoring elementary aged school children. Michael is looking forward to a fantastic summer at camp.

Twenty-six year old **MATTHEW SULLIVAN** will be coming to camp for his first summer all the way from Australia! Matthew has a degree in hospitality operations and music business from Sydney Institute TAFE Colleges in Sydney, Australia. He is currently studying technical production, and also runs an artist management company. Matthew has been playing guitar for 15 years, and has recorded 15 of his own compositions! In his spare time, Matthew teaches guitar to young children, as well as spends time with any number of his 29 cousins! Matthew is so excited to be a guitar instructor at The Grove, and we can't wait to hear him play!





Twenty-Six year old **WARREN TECHOW** from South Africa is heading back to Decatur for his third summer at The Grove! After leaving camp last summer, Warren spent time traveling across America and then went back home to South Africa to work at a resort. In his spare time he loves to waterski, motocross, road bike, play soccer, squash and be in the outdoors. He loves to try new sports and spend time with his family and friends. Warren is an amazing water-skier, and will continue to help our campers “walk on water” this summer. Welcome back, Warren!

We would like to give a big welcome back to twenty-three year old **JONNY THURSTON** from England for his 4th summer at The Grove. Jonny has been with us for the last three summers as a Grove counselor and has been amazing at teaching both swimming and guitar. We are happy to announce that this summer Jonny will be taking on a new role as our Grove Program Assist. He will still be living in a cabin as a cabin counselor, but will be busy helping our program director, Tom Daniel, to run the day to day operations and evening programs at The Grove. Jonny is originally from Norwich, England and received his degree in sports and exercise science from Sheffield Hallam University. When not working, Jonny enjoys swimming, playing soccer and watching his favorite team, Norwich. Currently, Jonny is enjoying traveling and has been traveling the past four months through New Zealand, Australia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. He is very much looking forward to another fantastic summer at The Grove!



We are excited to welcome twenty-three year old **CHRIS TRENT** from Sydney, Australia to camp for his first summer as one of our outdoor living skills (OLS) and fishing instructors at The Grove. Chris graduated from The University of Wollongong with a degree in computer science and is currently working in land and property management. He is quite an accomplished fisherman and has been fishing since he was young. He has also had the opportunity to lead a number of camping trips in Australia. We know Chris will be a great addition to our staff and help our campers enjoy fishing and the outdoors.

After taking a few summers away from The Grove, twenty-five year old **JEFF TRUNEK** will be joining us for his fourth summer as one of our climbing instructors. Over the last few years, Jeff has been working in the “real world” as a sales associate, but felt the need to come back to camp! He spent his three summers at The Grove teaching climbing as well as a few years out climbing mountains. Besides climbing, Jeff really enjoys teaching swimming and is always up for a great game of capture the flag. He is thrilled to be back at camp to help our campers climb to the top of the tower this summer!



We want to give a big welcome to twenty-two year old **RICHARD VAUGHAN** from New Zealand to The Grove as one of our swim instructors at the pool. Richard is a recent college graduate and received a business degree in marketing and commercial law. He is extremely comfortable in the pool having grown up with a pool at his house and beginning swim lessons at the age of two. Richard progressed with his swimming and competed in interschool competitions throughout his childhood. He is looking forward to working at summer camp this summer and helping all of our campers improve their strokes.

Former camper, CIT, and Junior Counselor, **Tony WALNER**, will be joining us for his 9<sup>th</sup> summer at camp as one of our volleyball and roller hockey instructors. Tony just graduated for high school where he played as the setter for his high school volleyball team. He also went to an in-line skating camp a few years ago. Tony plans to study creative writing at Emory University in the fall. In his free time, Tony enjoys playing ping-pong and spending time with his friends. Tony is excited to be back at camp helping our campers to bump, set and spike this ball this summer.



The following counselors have successfully completed our Counselor in Training (CIT) program and we are so thrilled to have them join us as Junior Counselors this summer:

Colan Biemer-Archery  
Scott Brody-Climbing  
George Eisner-Football  
Jackson Perno-Archery  
Jeremy Sachs-Tennis