



## LAKE OF THE WOODS AND GREENWOODS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

### Dear Camp Alumni,

As the weather warmed this past spring, we found ourselves immersed in camp preparations. We had celebrated our 85th summer in 2019, and we were eager to get back to camp for our 86th. The program calendar was set, camp brothers and sisters were assigned, activity selection forms were mailed, and New Camper Parties were around the corner. We were ready... and then our world drastically changed.

COVID-19 forced camp professionals to face difficult decisions they never thought they would have to make. Should we open camp? Could we open camp? Would it be possible to keep the integrity of our programs and traditions while keeping campers and staff safe? Would it feel like camp without hugs and singing around the campfire? Lake of the Woods and Greenwood ran consecutively for 85 summers; would that come to a halt in 2020? Our campers had activities, events, and celebrations canceled. Would we have to add to that growing list of disappointments that they were facing?

We knew that camp wouldn't necessarily look the same, but if allowed to open safely, we committed to do anything and everything possible to make camp FEEL the same.

We also knew that with borders and embassies closed, we would not be able to greet our staff who come to us every summer from all over the world. We would miss the accents, the singing of anthems on International Day, and the lessons and culture brought to our little town in Decatur; such a cherished part of the camp experience.





As the summer inched closer, we did not see a clear path to open our summer session in time for 1st session. It was heartbreaking, but we had to cancel all of our 1st session programs, and both sessions of The Grove, our two-week program for boys. We wanted more time to see if the 2nd session was a possibility. Our patience paid off.

I will never forget getting that phone call on June 12th, the call to notify us that the State of Michigan had given us the green light to open for the 2nd session. We had a little over a month until Opening Day, and from that day on we spent every minute of every day evaluating and redesigning every aspect of camp operations. Every little detail was explored, down to the way we served parmesan cheese for pasta at dinner!



Our campers arrived on July 20th. As anticipated, camp did look different. Campers were assigned specific arrival times, and to either drive or take the bus to camp. Our elective program shifted to activity zones with scheduled times for cabin groups. Greenwood's campers ate meals outside under a large wedding tent. There was testing, both before and during camp. Campers and staff wore masks when they were with anyone outside of their cabin group. This list of adaptations we made was endless.

But for all that was different, so much was the same. New friendships were formed, skills were learned, and independence was gained. We learned to see the smiles behind the masks, and there were SO many smiles. It was still camp, and nothing took away from that feeling and energy created there each summer. All of us, campers and staff included, grew a new appreciation and gratitude for our home away from home at Lake of the Woods and Greenwood's.

Did opening camp come without risk? Absolutely not. Was the risk worth it? ABSOLUTELY! The four weeks that we had at camp in 2020 were nothing short of magical! It was incredible that we had the opportunity to provide a safe, fun, and much-needed experience for many campers.

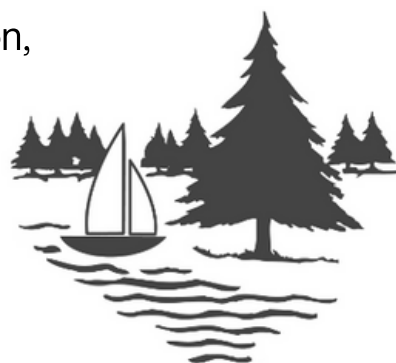
We heard daily from campers, parents, and you, our alumni. You checked in on us, gave us encouragement, and reminded us how important this “home away from home” was to you - for some even decades later. We want to thank you for your support. It wasn't always easy, but your enthusiasm for camp and motivation helped us to push forward and devise a plan to open safely this past summer.

While we hope that the world is in a different place by summer 2021, we are confident that our [COVID Safety Plan](#) can be implemented once again with any necessary adaptations needed.

We look forward to future summers where we can invite our alumni to once again gather with us at camp, tell stories around the campfire, sing songs loudly and likely off-key, and share in the camp magic and traditions they helped create.

Until then, wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season,

Dana



## We've Hit the Airwaves

We are so excited to share that the [Lake of the Woods and Greenwoods Camp Podcast](#) has officially launched on Apple and Spotify! Subscribe today to join us in learning about the camp community and all that comes with it. We'll speak with current campers, alumni, staff, directors, and other camp professionals across the country! Interested in being featured on our podcast? Email [directors@lwcgwc.com](mailto:directors@lwcgwc.com).





# Come Back Home For Family Camp!

**Sun, Aug 14 - Wed, Aug 18**

Join us at Family Camp this summer and spend quality time as a family while participating in your favorite traditions and activities -- waterskiing, Obstacle Relay, s'mores at the campfire, and archery, to name just a few! You can find more information about family camp [HERE](#).



## Grab Swag

Interested in the latest 49045 apparel? Hooded sweatshirts are on sale now! If interested, email [tara@lwcgwc.com](mailto:tara@lwcgwc.com).

**LWC, GWC, Glen, or Grove: \$40**

**includes shipping while supplies last!**

Want more? Check out additional logoed apparel at [The CampSpot](#)



## Help Us Hire the Best of the Best

We offer paid summer internship opportunities! If you know someone that would be a great fit to work at camp, please send them our way! Please email [directors@lwcgwc.com](mailto:directors@lwcgwc.com) or send them [HERE](#) so they can apply today!





## STAY UP TO DATE

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AND INSTAGRAM!



LAKE OF THE WOODS AND  
GREENWOODS CAMPS



@lakeofthewoodscamp  
@greenwoodscamp

## Spread the Word!

We still have space at our two-week boys' program, The Grove at Greenwood Camp. For more information can call our main office at 847-242-0009 and fill out an application [HERE](#). Spaces are filling quickly, so spread the word as soon as you can!



## CampOut

Thu, Aug 19 - Sun, Aug 22

Started by Lake of the Woods Camp alum Emily Ferdman, [CampOut Camp](#)

offers LGBTQ families a memorable weekend to make new friends and connect with old via a fully inclusive registration in a safe and welcoming space! For more info email [campout@lwcgwc.com](mailto:campout@lwcgwc.com)



## Happy Birthday, Laurie!

This October, previous owner/director Laurie Seeger celebrated his 99th birthday! Laurie was happily surrounded by his family, and Director Emeritus Dayna Hardin too! We wish him continued health and happiness for the year ahead!

