



CAMP
Outlook

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The Views

Camp Outlook Newsletter - Spring 2015

Camper to Staff

Reflections by Dustin Lunn,
 camper 2011, staff 2012 - 2014

I almost didn't go on my first Camp Outlook trip. It was the summer of 2011, I was graduating high school within the month, and I had just gotten a job in construction. My friend had told me about this silly bucket list of his and how one of the things on it was to go on a Camp Outlook trip with friends. That night my mom told me about how she used to go camping with Outlook when she was a kid and how she had some of the best times of her life there. Needless to say, she convinced me. The next day I called my boss and told him I couldn't come in for the next nine days (I almost got fired in the process) and was ready to go camping.

The trip proved to be challenging for me because I had very little experience camping and even less canoeing, but that made it all that much more rewarding. I felt awkward at first because I was the only one of my friends who had never really been camping before, but none of that mattered because the staff taught us everything we needed to know. I learned a lot about camping on that trip, things like how to read a map, make a fire, tie various knots, portage and steer a canoe. Overall, I couldn't get enough of it! Those nine days flew by so fast, but looking back I can remember each day like it was yesterday. Over the trip I got to know the staff and learned a lot from them about nature, camping, and myself. By the end of the trip I had decided that this simply wasn't enough, I had to do this again. A year later I applied to be staff.

Outlook has changed my life for the better in so many ways, I can't begin to imagine what my life would be like if I hadn't gone on that trip all those years ago. I became a staff member in 2012 and since then I haven't been able to go a summer without leading a trip with them. Camp Outlook never fails to recruit the most amazing staff from all over the world. Getting to know and live with twenty or more people over the course of three months is quite the experience; you make bonds and friendships that will last a lifetime. Seeing some of them struggle like I once did at the beginning of the trip to becoming total champions on the end always brings a smile to my face that I just can't get rid of.

There was a little joke that the directors kept telling us at the beginning of my first summer as staff - "You don't get paid in money at Camp Outlook... you get paid in memories". Over the course of my summers with the camp this proved to become more of a philosophy than a joke. The memories I've made at Camp Outlook over the last 4 years couldn't compare to any amount of money that I might have made working at another camp.

Outlook has changed my life in so many ways and has given me many fond memories and friendships that will last a life time. I know for certain that if given the chance Camp Outlook can and will continue to have the same effect on many youths in the years to come 



Summer Update

The upcoming season.

By: Brian, Katie, and Sarah

On a cold and wet spring afternoon, sometimes it can feel like those hot summer days are never going to come, but summer is on its way once again! Each day brings us a little closer to our 45th summer season. All these months of interviews, emails and Skype meetings have only made the excitement mount as we inch closer to June. For the first time in a number of years we're a summer director team of three. So far it has been a great experience having the extra brain and set of hands on board, even if it makes scheduling meetings a little more of a hassle! Between us we have six summers of full time staff experience and we're honoured to follow in the footsteps of past directors who inspired us to continue our journey with Camp Outlook, and we hope to bring our eclectic blend of leadership styles to the table this summer.

Of course, Camp Outlook is so much more than just its directors - the summer staff donate 3 months of their lives to provide Kingston youth with the opportunity to go to camp. Over the course of February we had the privilege of meeting some really amazing people, and our staff group this summer is composed of 20 incredibly dedicated, enthusiastic individuals ready to embark on a life-changing summer. We're looking forward to bringing everyone together at the end of May as we embark on a summer spent in Canada's backcountry wilderness.

This year we're hoping to focus more on

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Summer Update Continued...

community engagement and mental health training during our staff training month. We're making some changes to our canoeing instruction to better fit what our staff need, and have some upcoming fundraisers and events in downtown Kingston that we hope will get everyone excited in advance of June. Outlook depends on the goodwill of the community and we're so grateful for the continued local support. We hope to make these ties even stronger this summer. We're also bringing in a safeTALK trainer to train our staff in first aid for campers experiencing suicidal ideation. Outlook always strives to provide our staff with a broad base of knowledge to be as successful as possible with our campers and this year is no different.

We've had great experiences at the new staff houses on Nelson Street for the past two years, and last year's new addition of a four day Advanced Wilderness First Aid course better prepared our staff for the unique situations that always seem to arise on a canoe trips. Continuing last year's push to bring in more female campers, we've added an extra girls' trip this summer. Hopefully this will allow us to engage more female campers with the summer program, and increase enrollment in the 14 day trip. Camper recruitment is going well, and trips in July and August are filling up.

It's hard to quantify what Outlook does for Kingston youth in words. There's something so amazing about seeing campers come home from a long trip, grimy and tired, but feeling like they can accomplish anything. That sense of self-worth is invaluable both to campers and staff, and Camp Outlook's continuing ability to provide this growth is a testament to the incredible donors and hardworking volunteers that make up its backbone 🐾

Keep in Touch

Questions? Comments? Change of address? Email us!

bod@campoutlook.ca

Winter Update

Reflecting on the past season

By: Emma and Maggie

It has been a thrill to carry on the Outlook tradition this year with a strong season of fall and winter camping. The fall was nothing but beautiful. We were lucky enough to run two early trips, which really felt just like summer. As the temperature dropped a bit and the leaves started to change colours the campers flocked! We were lucky to have tons of camper interest this fall and winter, and for the first time send out more than one trip per weekend. Seeing trips off to Frontenac Park in the fall was a blast, and what was even better was seeing the happy faces of campers and staff as they returned for a weekend of wildness exploration. As winter approached we had quite a large crew of campers who returned almost every other weekend!

As always, the Kingston winter was the real deal. All the snow allowed staff and campers to get creative and make some serious quinzees at the Queen's Biological Station. Not to mention even more epic snow castles to protect each other from the snowball firing ranges. From September to April we were happy to have nothing but an amazing season of wild, wacky, and whimsical trips. As always we were so grateful for the donations we received this year, as they are truly the reason this program is able to run. This year we were also supported all year by the Common Ground, who donated pre-made sandwiches and bread that was left over at the end of the day each week. Beyond that, we had an amazing fundraising year. We had everything from bake sales to custom tie-dye shirt sales and in between. We hosted some really unique events like tying-up staff to canoes and having students pay to get them untied or better yet, to spray them with whip cream and chocolate sauce (which we think they would've had wanted for free)! We also brought back three classics that are always a blast and quite successful - the Pumpkin Sale, late night hot dog sales, and the Pub Night! This year

we host the pub night at the Grad Club so you can imagine the hide and seek that we played in that massive old building.

Also new this year - Outlook staff and our supporters were outfitted with Outlook-branded winter toques. Not only were our staff looking stylish in their new winter gear, but we gave out toques to campers at a skate night we hosted and after some of the final trips. They have also been sold to Camp Outlook alumni and supporters!

The camper recruitment committee really worked to make sure that the Kingston and surrounding community knew about the fall and winter program. This year we were really lucky to have a lot of support from the summer program, who distributed flyers to campers in the summer about the fall program. It was also fantastic to have quite a few summer staff involved in the fall winter program to provide the campers with long lasting relationships.

As the year has closed we cannot help but think that we were extremely lucky to be a part of such an amazing program that has existed for 45 years. We look forward to sharing that experience with Mariana and Marc next year, and Katie, Sarah, and Brian this rapidly approaching summer. We thank all of our supporters for providing Kingston youth with another incredible year of outdoor adventures 🐾

Thank You!



We would like to extend a **BIG THANK YOU** for your support! Outlook is made possible by the donations, time, energy, dedication, thoughts and well wishes that are generously contributed by the camp's friends and alumni.

100% of donations support Camp Outlook campers and volunteers and are tax deductible. Contributions can also be sent by mail; gift cheque made payable to:

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