

THE SEWATARO SMOKE SIGNAL

Camp Sewataro

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August 18, 2011

Dear Sewataro Families,



It's time to take down the tents, pull the canoes out of the water, disassemble the docks, roll up the tennis and volleyball nets, and put the 2011 edition of Camp Sewataro to pasture (oh happy animals). But before we do, we are flooded with a deluge of memories: canoeing on the Concord and the Charles Rivers; seeing our beloved Tree House transformed into an ice kingdom; bellying down the slip n' slide during water carnival; Star Search; Wild Wild West duel at the Grassy Bowl; triple cannon for the White Witch and her repentance; five kinds of pasta for the overnight entrée and a pancake and fruit breakfast the following morning; campers pitching their mosquito proof tents; closing sing when the campers arose as one and crowded the performance area; tie-dyeing and candlemaking with Becca and Kelly at Arts and Crafts; songs with John Fitz and the Sewataro Singers; Chicken Fat that turned into a race for the Sewataro Chicken; the Wacky Wheel of Wednesday; Spirit awards and Clean Tent prizes; scrambling up the Climbing Tower; hiking up Wachusett on a brilliant day; one dry and one wet Overday; balloons popped and bullseyes hit at Archery; largemouth bass landed and the ones who got away; Poncas' and Yakimas' joint skit; Deal or No Deal in the Meeting Hall while it rained; a night game of "crack-about" there; four Cannons; the Star Spangled Banner as sung pitch-perfect by Zachary and dramatized by the other Commanches; the Counselor tug-a-war; Nicole's variety show, etc. etc. etc. Everyone has his or her own special memory, so add your own to the list. **The perfect way to recall all the events of the summer is to visit Ken's and Rob's photos and streaming video (new every day) at sewatarotoday.com.**

Tomorrow we will have a camp-wide scavenger hunt, a slide show, and a counselor talent show before Declan plays the final taps of the camp season. We hope you all had the best summer yet. We did! And we hope to see all of your smiling faces again next summer.

As Mark told you at Monday's Overday, **our 2012 applications will be sent out in October**. We know how hectic September can be with the beginning of the school year. Perhaps the extra time will allow you to better plan your summer and fit Sewataro into your plans. Naturally our past campers have first priority in the registration process. After the first two weeks, we will open our registration to everyone. **A special discount will be applied for all who sign up by December 31st, 2011.**

Our satisfaction surveys will be emailed to you on Monday. We appreciate your prompt responses which we will read carefully and thoughtfully. Already we have made changes based on surveys completed earlier this summer by first session families. So far, the responses have been many and overwhelmingly gratifying. We love what we do and hope to improve our program every single year. As Alba always reminded us, however, for most campers, camp is their counselors, and we are blessed to have an exceptional staff. They truly are the heart of Sewataro!

With fond wishes for an terrific school year and high hopes to see you next summer,

The Taylors, Jen & Emmy

Red & White Section Overday is a roaring (albeit pouring!) success!

Nothing can dampen the Spirit of Sewataro, not even Monday's Monsoon dubbed, "Liquid Sunshine." Campers enjoyed lots of games, (most notably "Deal or No Deal" and the "Rock, Paper Scissors Play-Offs"), a pizza party, and a truly memorable sing-along with John Fitzsimmons. We thank our amazing staff for keeping everyone smiling despite the weather conditions, and a special thank you to the record number of parents who braved the elements to join us for singing and dancing "Sewie Style" — we hope you had as much fun as we did!

Ain't No Mountain High Enough!

The Choctaw and Chinook tribes had a fantastic hiking trip to Wachusett Mountain last week! The group, led by Mark, Rob and Emmy, skillfully ascended the mountain, and then enjoyed a picnic lunch at the summit. "It was steep, challenging, and at times tiring, but when we got to the top it was worth it," said Chinook camper Rachel Avram. After hiking, the group cooled off with a swim at Dunn State Park in Gardner, before heading back to Sewataro for a delicious dinner and the Blue section Overnight!



The Chinook and Choctaw tribes, along with their counselors and Mark, Rob and Emmy, at the top of Wachusett Mountain.

Spirit Awards

Delaware Dakota Pima Ponca
Erie Cree Seminole Seneca
Chinook Navajo Arapaho Tuscarora

These tribes truly shined all week long... *Great job!*

TOMORROW IS THE LAST DAY OF CAMP

Buses: Depart at 1pm (*they normally leave at 3:30*).

Parent Drivers: Please arrive between 12:45 & 12:55.

Blue section Overnight = Over the top fun!

Last Thursday, campers in our oldest section enjoyed a day and night filled with fun and excitement on their Overnight.

The festivities included extra swimming, (twilight swimming in our pools was a huge hit!), a massive camp-wide scavenger hunt, a delicious home-cooked meal (compliments of Chef Deb Taylor), banana “boats” roasting over a campfire, sleeping in tents, and hanging out with friends. A great time was had by all, and many campers reported the tents as being “surprisingly comfortable”!

The next morning’s breakfast was quite a feast, as well — pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, juice, and even a Spansih tortilla was served, compliments of Vicky O’Reagan of the Ponca tribe.

We’ll never forget...

- C**ookies + water = H2Awesome!
- A**wesome activities!
- M**arshmallows roasting on an open fire...
- P**erformances and sing-alongs with Fitz!
- S**unshine and smiling faces
- E**vents on Fridays!
- W**acky Wheel on Wednesdays!
- A**mazing campers and staff!
- T**he Green Gizmo (Who’s got it?)!
- A**lligators! (Green ones, that is...)
- R**rare ho, the rattlin’ bog...
- O**verdays and Overnights!

**Thank you for an unforgettable summer!
See you in 2012!!**

NARNIA MANIA!!

Ever seen snow in August? We have! Last Friday’s Narnia event was the culmination of a week long search for our beloved Green Gizmo! After an intense scavenger hunt for clues leading to the identity of the White Witch, 99% of Sewataro’s super sleuths pointed the finger at Blue section Supervisor Colleen! The plot thickened when we learned that one of the Narnia children was really a double agent, which lead us to the identity of the REAL White Witch, which in a shocking turn of events turned out to be our own Heather of the Pima tribe!! Although her alter ego turned our camp into a frozen tundra, it was no match for the Spirit of Sewataro! After 3 cannons and her humblest apologies, we are pleased to report that the White Witch has turned back into our Heather, order has been restored, and our beloved Green Gizmo is back in its place of prominence.
A PHNEOMENAL Friday Special Event!

The reviews are in, and critics are RAVING from last Friday’s “First Annual Sewataro Variety Show”!

“The Mohawk’s Mario Brothers skit was awesome!” - member of the Choctaw tribe

“I liked the Seminole Time Machine, especially the part with the evil wizard...he should definitely continue his acting career.” - The Evil Wizard

“I love how the Chinook wrote their own skit, and it was so cool how they incorporated the Yakimas!” - a Dakota counselor

“The Navajo’s “Rumple” was amazing!!” - Emmy

“I love that the Chinooks and Choctaws did Journey’s ‘Don’t Stop Believing’-- I think a lot of the parents appreciated it, too!” -- Jen

Congratulations to all participating campers, and to Nicole from Drama on an outstanding show!

Golden Broom Awards

Last week’s neatest and cleanest tents belonged to:

Ponca Cayuga Arapaho

Tidy tents is what these tribes are about — thank you!