

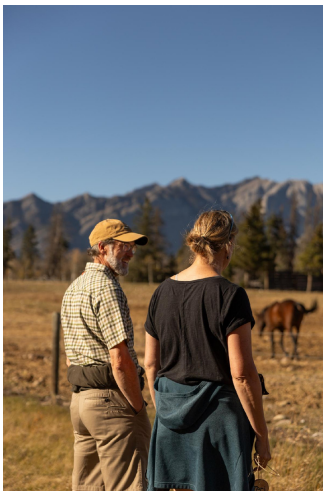


Hello Chase,

Welcome to the 3rd edition of our Camp Chief Hector Alumni newsletter! We are so grateful you chose to be here and stay connected to us and your camp peers.

Alumni Event Recap: Camp BBQ

We had a beautiful fall day for the Alumni BBQ on October 7th! 35 Camp Alumni, representing multiple decades, got to see the Yurts, the new washroom/shower facilities, the Expedition Centre and the beginnings of the new High Ropes course. Chef Patrick and his crew provided a delicious chicken and ribs dinner.



Alumni Event Recap: Music in the Mountains

A matinee version of this Alumni Fundraiser was held at the Ironwood Stage & Grill on October 28th. Performers with an alumni connection to Camp Chief Hector added their musical talents to the afternoon. Everyone enjoyed catching up with their Camp peers and learning a little about what's happening at Camp these days. Through ticket sales, silent auction and a 50/50 draw the event raised just shy of \$3000 which will help kids have outdoor experiences at Camp Chief Hector in years to come.

We hope to see you at next year's event (date TBD). If you would like to perform or have an item to donate to the silent auction please [contact us](#).



Alumni Story: Sandra Engstrom

Meet Sandra, Camp Alumni, who recounts her time as a camper, counsellor and Program Director, and how her summers of hiking and canoe trips taught her skills that she uses today as an Associate Professor at the University of Stirling, Scotland.

Discovered Camp: At age 9, along with my cousin. Our parents figured it would be good for us to go do something.

First Camp Experience: Initially I felt homesick. It was my first time away from home for two full weeks.

Progression at Camp: I worked in a lot of different sections. I was a counsellor for 5 summers, then program director for 2 summers. I have never worked anywhere where there's such a strong sense of community that is actively nurtured, and you're all there for similar reasons. Your values are very aligned. You're spending time outdoors, sharing your love for the outdoors, and being goofy at times.

Highlights: For me, it was the people, and spending time on trip. I loved being a Pioneer Counsellor, going on 5-day hikes and 4-day canoe trips. You could have hilarious and interesting conversations with the kids and also focus on leadership development.

Learnings: There's something about the inner strength and resilience you get from spending extended time outdoors and having to ensure you and the children in your care are safe. These are beautiful places, but you'll get swiftly reminded that there are other forces at play. You learn that when things get tough, you just have to keep going. If something happens, you just have to deal with that.

Lifelong Connections: My fellow counsellors are still some of my best and closest friends, and that was from our time at Camp 20 years ago.

Real-World Benefits: Leadership is a key part of camp. I'm a university lecturer now and am comfortable speaking in front of large groups even though I'm introverted. I can switch into counsellor mode and I would have little problem speaking in front of 400 people, leading them in an activity. And that's just something you learn at campfire.

Camp also teaches you what you're capable of doing when things are not going the way you'd like them to go. One time at the top of a pass with a group of 8 girls, a massive storm quickly came in. We had lightning and hail, it was horrific. The girls were all crying. We huddled up under this massive boulder for a while trying to breathe our way through it. Once it cleared up, we had to move. We could process what happened later, but we needed to make a plan and get to safety.

Without Camp: I wouldn't be as community- and connection-focused. I research community resilience, working with communities and bringing them together, helping people feel like they belong. I don't know if that would necessarily be the case otherwise. I don't know if I would be as self-reliant or as resilient without Camp, either. There's something you learn about yourself and the world during that extended period of time in nature when you're without your usual comforts and not showering for 5 days.

"Camp has everything. Holistically, it just checks all the boxes. All the life lessons you want people to learn, you get at Camp."



"I developed as a person and had incredible opportunities that I wouldn't have had in other places."

Camp Revitalization

Thanks to early gifts toward the Love, Camp Campaign, several projects are complete or underway in our goal to revitalize key infrastructure at our beloved Camp Chief Hector YMCA.

New high ropes challenge course, in progress for commissioning in spring 2024

Two new washroom and shower facilities, in progress for commissioning in spring 2024

63 new yurts for camper accommodations, commissioned in spring 2023

Learn more about the revitalization projects and Love, Camp Campaign [here](#).



Camper's Corner

Hear what some recent campers and their parents had to say about their summer camp experience:

"A 10/10 camp, the people were great, the food was tasty, the outtrip was epic, all in all, an amazing experience!"

"When dropping off my Mistaya aged son, he thought this would be his last year as he had some trouble with home sickness last year. When I picked him up, after hugging me, the first thing he said was that he wanted to come back again next year."

"Both of my kids GREW at camp! "

Give Back to Camp

We have heard from many of you a desire to give back to the camp that gave you so much, so we have organized some camp work days!

Help us get the site looking it's best for future campers to enjoy. Grab your work gloves and boots and spend a day at Camp. Lunch will be provided.

Whether you like hammering, raking, shlepping, or painting, we're sure you'll have fun with us. If you have a specific skill or trade that you think Camp can utilize, please [let us know](#).

April 2024 (Date TBA)

Ready to stay at Camp again?

Winter Weekends ***NEW***

Camp is pleased to offer a chance to stay at camp in our brand new yurts, enjoy delicious meals at Hector Lodge, and use Camp as your kicking off base for your mountain activities (skiing, snowshoeing, holiday shopping, etc.).

February 9-11 | March 8-10

Or gather your Camp peeps and sign up for a Family Getaway Weekend

Spring Family Weekends

April 12-14 | May 10-12 | May 31-June 2 | June 7-9

Fall Family Weekends

September 6-8 | September 20-22 | September 27-29 | October 4-6

Registration begins January 18, 2024. Check back to our [website](#) for full details.

[Questions?](#) Reach out to us, we'd love to hear from you!

