

SPARKS

Fall 2023



WE MISS YOU, CAMPERS!



THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING SUMMER!



Hello

GREYSTONE GIRLS!

Our one hundred and fourth summer was AMAZING. Of course, it was amazing; it always is, right? But we think this year was special... everything just clicked. All of our sessions were full, and we loved welcoming so many new campers to Greystone this summer. Surveys from campers and parents alike were unanimous: everything was awesome; this was certainly our **BEST SUMMER EVER!**



Now, as our days get shorter, and the temperatures drop, we pull out the sweaters and **LOOK BACK WITH APPRECIATION AND FORWARD WITH ANTICIPATION.** God is good. His blessings increase with every year. What has been true in the past will be true in the future... so we know that 2024 is going to once again be our **BEST SUMMER EVER!**

It doesn't matter if you are brand new to Greystone or if you have been coming for ten years; there's lots inside this Sparks magazine to make you smile! Consider this to be a **SPRINGBOARD FOR YOUR EXCITEMENT** about next summer.

We are honored that you are going to be a Greystone Girl and can't wait to welcome you to camp next summer!



WITH LOVE,
JIMBOY AND MARGARET

BEST
SUMMER
EVER

104

REASONS

SUMMER 104 WAS THE BEST!

Wow



- 1** Bubbles on Opening Day
- 2** SWANS IN THE LAKE
- 3** Ice Cream in a Bag
- 4** THE NEW BIG SLIDE
- 5** Wearing your nametag everyday
- 6** MOUNTAIN BIKING TRIPS
- 7** Camper vs. Counselor challenge games
- 8** CARNIVAL COTTON CANDY
- 9** Garden Party before the 5 Year Celebration
- 10** BABY GOATS
- 11** Chicken Day at June Camp
- 12** RAINBOWS AFTER A THUNDERSTORM
- 13** OCP (Oreo Cream Pie)
- 14** LIGHT AND FLUFFY TALENT SHOW ACT
- 15** Watersports Day War Canoe race
- 16** EVENING PROGRAM POEM ANNOUNCEMENTS





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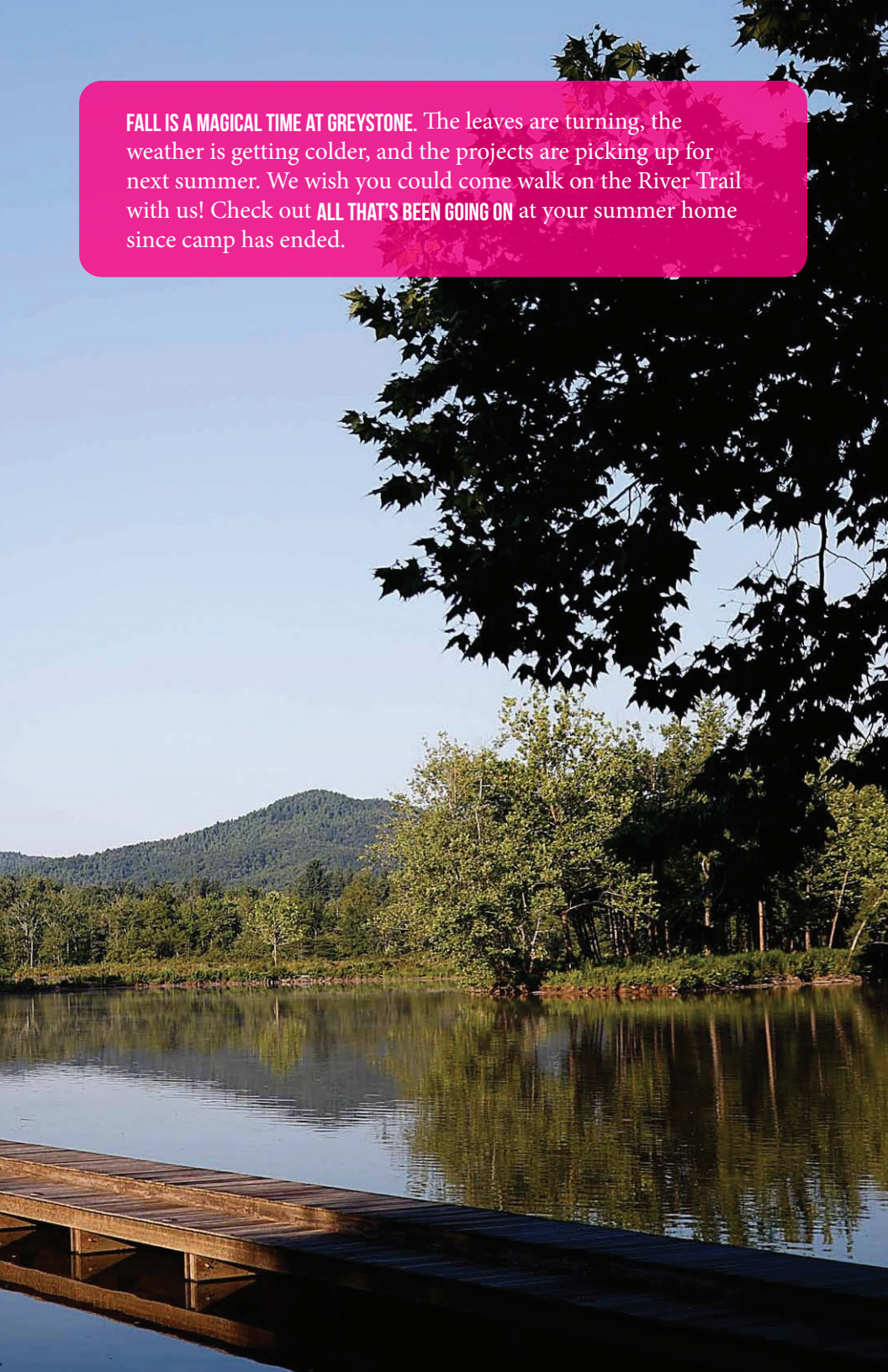
103 BEST STAFF EVER!!!!

104 BEST CAMPERS EVER!!!!



ENJOYING THE FALL AT CAMP





FALL IS A MAGICAL TIME AT GREYSTONE. The leaves are turning, the weather is getting colder, and the projects are picking up for next summer. We wish you could come walk on the River Trail with us! Check out **ALL THAT'S BEEN GOING ON** at your summer home since camp has ended.

ENJOYING THE FALL AT CAMP

RUF RETREATS



During the off-season, we host different events at camp, including 3 weekends of RUF retreats (Reformed University Fellowship). **WE SAW SO MANY OF OUR SUMMER STAFF** who returned to camp with their college campuses for the weekend. It felt like a **MINI-GREYSTONE REUNION** every time!

BOOK CLUB AND LUNCHES

Our year-round Greystone team knows how to have fun all year long! Every month, we enjoy a lunch together with our entire team, including our Office staff, Maintenance crew, and Housekeeping team. This past month, we tried out **THE FOOD TRUCK THAT VISITED OUR JUNIOR SENIORS ON GROUP NIGHT.** We all approved! Delicious!

We also get together monthly for a Book Club, and this fall **WE ARE READING "THE RUTHLESS ELIMINATION OF HURRY."** As we talk about the book, we always think about ways to apply it to camp!





ALUMNAE WEEKEND

Our favorite off-season event was our recent **ALUMNAE GREAT DAY WEEKEND**. We welcomed so many alumnae back to camp for a fun Reunion. The weekend was packed full of all of your Greystone favorites: a Talent Show, activities, Vespers, Morning Assembly, Breakfast Club with Jimboy, homemade pizza from the Kitchen, Banquet (including awards and the team score announcement), and so much more. When you eventually become an alumna one day, **WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY WEEKEND!**



ENJOYING THE FALL AT CAMP

THURSDAY NIGHT BYOM

BYOM: Bring Your Own Meat! On Thursday nights during the off-season months, **WE ENJOY BYOM NIGHTS DOWN NEAR THE FORT.** We have a huge hand-built grill that is able to cook all of our meat at one time. Everyone brings a meat to cook, and then vegetables and sides are shared amongst the group. We love enjoying these nights while the weather is still nice!



WELCOME PETER ELBAUM!

It is always exciting when we welcome someone new to our year-round team, and this year, we are excited for Peter Elbaum to join us! Peter has been connected to Greystone for many years (he's married to Cat, after all), and he worked on the Tennis staff during his summers at Wofford College. **HE'S JOINING CAMP AS OUR OPERATIONS DIRECTOR** and will be working behind the scenes to make everything about camp even better. Welcome, Peter!



CAMP PROJECTS

We have so many projects in the works as we get ready for next summer! We will tell you more about all of our projects on the Blog and in the next Sparks, but for now, get excited as we give you a sneak peek into some of the fun going on right now:

- Renovations to the **WHITE HALL KITCHEN**
- A bigger and better replacement for **MT. EDITH AT WATERPARK**
- **NEW OVENS** purchased for the Kitchen
- Bathroom renovations in a few Tentalows (including **ADDING 2 SHOWERS!**)



KEEPING IN TOUCH

WITH YOUR CAMP FRIENDS



KEEP THAT GROUP TEXT GOING

Send out a Bible verse you love, your funniest camp picture, or even a dad joke fit for Jimboy!

ASK YOUR FRIENDS FOR THEIR PRAYER REQUESTS

Set a reminder to pray for your camp friends at a certain time every day.

CHALLENGE EACH OTHER TO COOK YOUR FAVORITE CAMP RECIPES AT HOME

Our Blog has lots of your favorites like Cheesy Chicken, Sprinkle Cookies, and even the famous Opening Day Scones. Share pictures afterward and have your cabin vote on the best copycat!



SNAIL MAIL ISN'T JUST FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS!

Find a greeting card that reminds you of a friend, send a photo of the two of you, or write end-of-the-year Plane Letters.

CREATE A “SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING” SOMETHING

We love hearing about cabins who send an item back and forth to each other until it makes it to everyone! You could have a traveling journal, stuffed animal, or anything else that's an inside joke for your group.

SCHEDULE VIRTUAL SHOPPE DATES

All you need is your favorite treat and a friend on FaceTime.

MAKE A NOTE OF YOUR CAMP FRIENDS' AND COUNSELORS' BIRTHDAYS

Send them a card or a quick video message. Extra points if you can arrange a cabin serenade!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE DAILY DEVOTIONS TOGETHER

Find these on our Greystone website and text your takeaways to each other each morning.

AND IF ALL ELSE FAILS, PLAN A REUNION!

Start dreaming up your perfect weekend together and how you'd fill it. Make sure to send us pictures!

THE BEST STAFF MOMENTS

We spent 82 days with our 2023 staff, each one jam-packed with incredible memories! From their Orientation arrivals to the last car departing on Closing Day, we wouldn't trade a second with these incredible people. We love them, we're grateful for them, and we're counting down the days for more staff moments next year; we know you feel the same!

- **TOSSING OUR CAPS** with our 2023 staff Orientation graduates - they did it!
- June Camp **CO-COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS** - best friends were made!
- Welcoming YOU to camp on the field on **OPENING DAY** (with bubbles!).
- **EVENING PROGRAMS** - the messier, the better!
- The many (many) **EPIC HEAD STAFF GROUP COSTUMES**. How can you pick a favorite?
- Taking every chance to **WEAR A MORPH SUIT**.
- Embracing the **LIQUID SUNSHINE** (even during Carnival set up!).
- Jimbo's **BELLY FLOP**.
- **TALENT SHOW ACTS** that are impossible to explain outside the Bubble.







WE  LOVE OUR





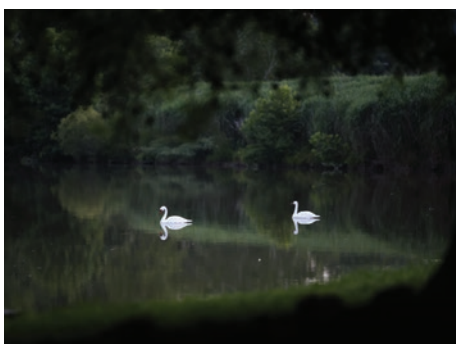
COUNSELORS!



THE SWANS OF LAKE EDITH



You know them, you love them, and you have so many questions for them. Our snow white beauties grace the shores of Lake Edith with only one goal: to deter the flock of geese by any means necessary.



For 105 years, the non-migratory geese have been claiming all that Lake Edith has to offer, leaving their excrement on every dock, chair, and patch of grass in sight. One day, Jimboy brought these graceful swans home so that we could reclaim our grounds. With beady eyes and iron clad beaks, they sent one message: **DON'T MESS WITH ME.**

Their names are **GUNTHER AND BRIGITA**, hailing all the way from Hamburg, Germany. Jimboy has raised them since they were wee cygnets in the comfort of his bathtub. If you ever heard a faint melody after Taps, it just might have been Gunther and Brigita singing Jimboy his goodnight song, a treasured tradition in the Miller household. Once the birds were old enough to face the shores of Edith, they made their way down to their new home...less glamorous than their marble bathtub where they lived for years. But they were eager to protect and serve against camp's greatest pest.



Today, we're bringing you the highlights of a tell-all interview with these unsung heroes. Find the full interview on our Instagram stories (@campgreystone) this year.

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST PART ABOUT RELOCATING FROM JIMBOY'S BATHTUB TO LAKE EDITH?

BRIGITA: Losing access to Dr. Margaret's favorite bubble bath. I had grown so accustomed to spending my days in a peony-scented bubble world. Adjusting to the curious smells of Edith has been challenging, as you might imagine.



HAVE YOU MADE ANY NEW FRIENDS AT THE LAKE?

GUNTHER: Boy have we - Lake Edith has such a great community that we have enjoyed getting to know. We have especially enjoyed the mermaids under the Blob as well as the ancient snapping turtle by the Canoe Dock.

BRIGITA: We were introduced to the Bald Eagle this summer and have loved getting to know a fellow man of flight.

WE ARE ALL DYING TO KNOW, DO YOU STILL SING JIMBOY HIS GOODNIGHT SONG FROM THE LAKE?

GUNTHER: We do on occasion but have since trained Meme and Murray to sing it in our absence. It is not quite as elegant, but they do their best.

LAST QUESTION, HOW DID THE COYOTES REACT TO YOUR ARRIVAL AND NEW ROLE AS MITIGATORS OF THE GEESE DETERRENT PROTOCOL?

GUNTHER: To be honest with you, they were not thrilled about the demotion, but at the end of the day, the geese were just not afraid of them anymore.

BRIGITA: It came down to who could protect the Waterpark elements better. While the coyotes were feared for a while, they eventually became too well-known with the campers. The geese caught on, and the floating dock faced the consequences. I'm just not sure they were at camp for the right reasons.

WELL FOLKS, YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST. While Gunther and Brigita are not accepting any sponsorships or gifts at this time, they will accept any form of bubble bath in bulk.

SUMMER EVENT QUIZ

WHICH EVENT
ARE YOU?



Our special events are a highlight of each summer! We repeat many of our favorite events every year (as you like them so much!), but we also surprise our campers with fun new events each session. Find out which 2023 event represents your personality by taking this quiz:

1. THE CLASS I AM MOST EXCITED TO TAKE THIS SUMMER IS:

- a. Waterpark
- b. Dance classes
- c. Farm Barn
- d. Outdoor Skills

2. MY FRIENDS DESCRIBE ME AS:

- a. The life of the party
- b. Thoughtful
- c. Down-to-earth
- d. A night owl

3. IF I HAVE AN HOUR OF FREE TIME, I USUALLY:

- a. Invite friends over to play
- b. Work on a card for a friend
- c. Play with my animals at home
- d. Put on some tunes and dance

4. FOR MY BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR, I HOPE I CAN:

- a. Rent a foam pit
- b. Throw a huge themed party
- c. Have a petting zoo
- d. Host a sleepover

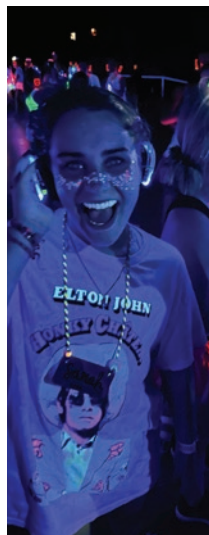
5. WHEN PACKING FOR CAMP, I DON'T WANT TO FORGET:

- a. My bathing suit
- b. My whites
- c. A Gameshow outfit
- d. My neon clothes

6. WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE:

- a. A cotton candy seller
- b. A stage performer
- c. A Chick-fil-A employee
- d. A music deejay





MOSTLY A: CARNIVAL

One of our most popular events, Carnival is where you will shine this summer! Throw on that bathing suit and enjoy our many inflatables and foam pit as you laugh with your friends. Don't forget to get your face painted and grab a cotton candy (that is as big as your head!). You'll love the fun of this night at camp.

MOSTLY B: BANQUET

Our final event of each session, Banquet is full of so much anticipation and excitement. You'll love finding out the theme at the big Banquet reveal and will cheer for your counselor on stage as she performs in her Banquet role. Walking into the decorated Dining Hall will be a real treat!

MOSTLY C: CHICKEN DAY

Our 2023 June Camp Chicken Day was a themed event to remember! You are one who appreciates a chicken-focused menu, including biscuits from none other than Chick-fil-A! You also love competing with your team in our themed Gameshow to hopefully win a trip to town! Will we have Chicken Day next year? Only time will tell!

MOSTLY D: AFTER HOURS

This 2023 Main Camp event was a highlight from this past summer, and we know you'd fit right in. Staying up late doesn't bother you, and you love dressing in neon colors so you can shine under our black-lights. You'll love dancing the night away with the tunes on your silent disco headphones!

WEIRD BUT TRUE

GREYSTONE HISTORY EDITION



DO YOU KNOW THESE WEIRD BUT TRUE GREYSTONE FACTS?

Many years ago, the goats at camp would get out of their pen and **JUMP ON THE ROOF** of the Dining Hall.

THERE WERE NO SHOWERS IN THE CABINS, SO GIRLS HAD TO CARRY A SHOWER BUCKET TO THE SHOWER HOUSE. YOU TURNED ON THE WATER BY PULLING A CHAIN. IF YOU LET GO, THE WATER STOPPED SO YOU HAD TO PULL THE CHAIN THE WHOLE TIME.

Campers used to have to pay for their Candy Shoppe. Girls would get a **\$10 SHOPPE CARD** and when you selected your item, the counselor at the window would mark off that amount on the card. Everyone had to be careful not to lose their card; it was like cash!

FOR WATERSPORTS DAY, THE ENTIRE CAMP WALKED TO THE SWIM DOCKS TO WATCH THE RACES AND SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING. THESE SWIM DOCKS WERE ON LAKE SUMMIT AND WERE OVER A MILE FROM THE FRONT GATE!

One 4th of July, a rogue firework **SET THE BUSHES ON FIRE** by the track. They erupted in flames, and the Men Staff had to hurry over to put it out.

MANY YEARS AGO, CAMPERS WERE REQUIRED TO TAKE SWIMMING. YOU HAD TO WEAR COLORED SWIM-CAPS THAT MATCHED YOUR SWIMMING LEVEL (SUCH AS, BLUE SWIM-CAPS FOR DOLPHIN). YOU HAD TO KEEP TAKING LESSONS UNTIL YOU PASSED YOUR SHARK LEVEL, WHICH FOR MOST CAMPERS TOOK MANY YEARS.

The Greystone songs were written by cabins and performed at a **YEARLY SONG CONTEST**. The winners had their song added to the Dining Hall playlist.



READY FOR
2024

SUMMER 2024 CONTEST



SUBMIT YOUR
DREAM PLAYLIST!

DEADLINE:

December 1, 2023





DESIGN YOUR DREAM CAMP PLAYLIST

Contests and prizes are some of our favorite things at camp, and this year's fall contest is one you do not want to miss!

We're giving you the chance to design your dream camp playlist filled with your favorites from start to finish. This is your time to get as creative, specific, or wacky as you want. Do you have ideas for the ideal waking-up playlist? Or maybe the ultimate Taylor Swift songs to power you through getting perfect inspection? Whether your playlist fits a specific mood or is just filled with your favorite tunes, we want to hear it.



THE WINNING PLAYLIST WILL BE ADDED TO OUR MUSIC LIBRARY for next summer, but that's not all! Our winner will also receive **FULL CONTROL OVER ALL CAMP MUSIC (INCLUDING DINING HALL SONGS AND BUGLES) FOR A FULL DAY AT HER SESSION.** That song you've always wanted the whole camp to wake up to?

The Dining Hall dance party of your dreams? It could be yours!

Greystone

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