

# The Greylock Beacon

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CAMP GREYLOCK, BECKET, MASSACHUSETTS 01223

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Volume CVIII, Number 1

January 24, 2023

Greetings Greylockers.

We hope this note finds you well and enjoying a very happy new year.

It has been a very busy time for Greylock and we wanted to share some updates with you as we get closer to the start of Summer 2023.

At the campsite, we have been very involved with improvements and construction projects since the August day that everyone left to go back home.

Much of our attention has gone into our latest building project, which will be an open air pavilion on the Senior Side. It will be in the spot where we removed the tennis hitting cages last summer. This is our most ambitious project since we built the new social hall. The building will have ping pong tables, benches / couches, lights, and a music system. It will have many uses. At night, it will be a place for our oldest campers to hang out, play games, and chill. On rainy days, we can host a division of campers for games. We feel that this will be a great addition to the senior side. This will be our twelfth (and one of the largest) indoor spaces that we can use on rainy or hot days to keep the kids as active as possible. The building will be large. We began clearing the land last summer and work at the site is already underway. Sections of the building are constructed off site and this process has already begun. Completion should be in May. (Below is a photo of a smaller version of the building at another site -- ours will be similar in style but larger). The construction company is the same one who built the Senior Social Hall (which was completed before the pandemic) and we are confident that they will do a good job once again and complete the project on time.



In addition to the pavilion, our team of workers at camp has been very busy. Among their accomplishments have been a new fence on the lake camp quad, the replacement of dozens of windows / screens on the upper quad

bunks, work to rebuild and reseed the fields that were damaged by all of the great play this past summer, the re-roofing of several buildings, upgrades to several bathroom facilities, and many beautification and safety matters have been addressed.

When the weather improves, the team will be back to do more projects prior to the summer. We also have firm dates with a contractor for basketball and hockey court resurfacing and painting that did not get done last summer.



Staffing Update: We have been spending a lot of time on ZOOM meeting new counselor applicants, reconnecting with past staff members, and working to fill our team for 2023. There is a lot of good news to report. The return rate on counselor and support staff is very high.

We have many returning popular bunk counselors from junior and senior side, many wonderful travelling coaches, some key department heads, and people who skipped 2022 but want to return. In addition, we welcome back four of our top maintenance workers, as well as several kitchen, housekeeping, office, and security personnel. We are continuing to hire more staff, Rovers, and other former Greylock campers.



Program Plans for 2023: Another area that we have been working hard on is our camp calendar. 2023 will have a full camp calendar like we had before the pandemic that will include long off-campus trips, hikes, intercamp, tournaments, Visiting Day, special events, socials, and more.

In early January, we had a group meeting with other programming directors of the major Berkshire-area camps to set up a great tournament schedule for the summer. By planning early and working together, we were able to pick dates for events that work for as many camps as possible, make sure that events are spaced out properly on the summer calendar, and to streamline the number of events so that there is at least one or two events for every sport and every age group, from going into 4th grade to our oldest campers.



In addition to a full tournament schedule at Greylock and on the road, the camp calendar will once again include a heavy schedule of social events with the girls from Belvoir Terrace, Bryn Mawr, and Romaca. There will also be on and off campus hikes, overnights, day trips, intercamp with the local boy's camps, and big trips for our Senior Siders. The calendar will include co-ed shows with Romaca for our four eldest divisions as well as many playdays with Bryn Mawr, both at Greylock and on their campus. Of course, the summer will also include many on-campus special events of all different sorts. These include athletic special events such as NFL Day and MLB Day; special athletic events that we added in 2022 such as Elite Eight Day and the Olympiad; fun special events such as the Greylock Relay, the Bonanza, and the Amazing Race; fun events like Escape Room Day and Wacky Water Day; and other new events that we plan to debut in 2023.



One of the great things at camp is waking up in the morning and having no idea what is planned for you. At Greylock, it can be anything – a hike, a trip, an intercamp, a tournament, a special event, a social event with the girls, etc. There is one thing that you do know when you wake up – it will be fun.

### Yearbook 2022 and Forms For 2023

We have completed an amazing yearbook for our campers. It is at the printers now and we are waiting for the proofs before final production will begin. Unlike last year where we experience a lot of delays in printing, this will not be the case this year and you should have it in your mailboxes in February.

For the upcoming summer -- the camp uniform and packing list are available now on our website in the parent section under "Camp Clothier." You will also be receiving our new digital clothing catalog soon. Individual forms for campers are live on your CampMinder dashboard. If you need help or have questions, please call us.

### College Updates

We are so proud of all of the Greylock alumni group and how successful they are after their camper days have ended. So many of them get into great colleges and this fall was no exception.

Here is an update on some of the ones we have heard in this year's class who were successful in the early decision process: Sam Korff to Dartmouth, Noah Rose to Colgate, Griffin Arndt to Rice, James Dessau to Syracuse, Charlie Milberg to Princeton, Harry Goldberg to Emory, Jacob Raphan to Vassar (to play soccer), Henry Rifkin to Colgate, Nate Russo to Brown, and Bennett Soodek to Ohio State. There will be many more to come.



### Recap of 2022 as We Look Forward to 2023

In many ways, the summer of 2022 was a return to a full camp program (except for 3000+ Covid tests). So many great things happened at camp last summer that we are proud of. We had a full calendar of events at camp. This

included day trips for our junior side and four days of big trips for our senior siders. We visited two different Six Flags parks, Boston, Fenway Park, Boston Harbor, Camp Bryn Mawr, Cooperstown, Lake George, and other places too numerous to mention. We had a full hiking schedule that included day and overnight hikes, our big Masters trip, our Mt. Greylock trip, and optional hikes for each of our senior side divisions. We had a full intercamp and tournament schedule, both at home and on the road.

We had an outstanding teaching and coaching staff. At baseball, Bob Morgan (the former head coach at Indiana University) was back to run the junior side, while recent American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame inductee Tim Saunders was at camp for half the summer to run the senior side program. Riverdale Country School JV Coach Danny de la Rosa worked as their assistants and helped run the programs in the closing weeks. It would be hard to find two head coaches of even close to their caliber in a camp setting anywhere in America. Scott Lee and Mario Selph ran our basketball programs with the help of Ian Hutchins, a high school head coach from Oregon. At Soccer, veteran staffer Harry Blackburn was back to run the junior side program, while Neil Brown (a former US College soccer coach) joined us to run the senior program. Brandyn Harvey, a former NFL player, ran our flag football program. Doug Benson ran our hiking and adventure programs. Johnny Sanchez ran our Radio and Electronics and Tutoring programs. Ray Chen, a highly regarded UNESCO artist ran out art department. Ben Cohen, who has spent over a decade at Greylock, was back to run our drama program. Veteran Greylocker Taylor Briggs ran our waterfront. Fellow long-timers Innocent Modika, Bryan Ellis, and Charlie Cunningham were in charge of our tennis programs – together they have about 70 summers of Greylock coaching under their belts. Greg Munro was back to run our lax program, while Romell Horton returned for his third summer to run our strength and conditioning program. Newcomer Jonathan Houk ran our roller hockey program. As you can see, this was an outstanding teaching staff, in respect to experience and their ability to help the boys develop their skills.



We had an equally qualified group of group heads. Alix North in the Hill Camp (11 summers), Jenn Levielle in the Braves (16 summers), Ryan Macdonald in the Chiefs (6 summers), Daniel Martin in the Freshmen (15 summers), and Jacob Gorelick in the Sophomores (18 summers) combined to have over 60 summers of Greylock experience. All of them had many summers of group head experience. On the Senior side, we had Micah Rockwell (16 summers), Anthony DeSanto (12 summers), Noah Kaminsky (first summer), and Noah Rohde (7 summers) on the leadership team to help give that program structure and additional adult supervision.

We are very proud of these staffers and that we can offer a group that is skilled, experienced, and dedicated to Greylock and your sons. We are busy putting together a summer staff for 2023 that will be equally strong. Staffing is such an important part of putting together a great summer for the campers.

One other area that we have been working on is our food service. We have been working with our food service company Sodexo to fix and improve the food. We have also interviewed two other food service companies as we explore options to make sure that the cuisine is of the highest camp standard.

We were also proud to have hosted a Visiting Day. Most other camps chose not to – but we felt that it was important to do so and could do it while maintaining the health of our campus. We did not have a single case of Covid at Greylock after hosting over 1000 people to camp in mid-July.



Greylock is our passion. We work everyday on making camp the best place it can be – where people will treat each other with respect and care, where boys will make lifelong friends, where boys will grow and learn, and where they will walk away from the experience feeling good about themselves. That is our goal as we walk forward with you into the future.