

# CAMP CHATTER



ISSUE XVI

Fall 2023 Winter

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Hartford County 4-H Camp Staff 2023

## Highlights of the summer 2023

It was another memorable summer at 4H camp. It was definitely a summer I will cherish forever. We made lifelong memories and had the time of our lives! The staff were absolutely amazing. They created a fun and supportive environment for campers. The counselors did a great job connecting with the campers in their cabin. The campers had a blast! They got to have a whole week away from home and learn so many new things. Most importantly, everyone made lifelong friends. I bet, as alumni, many of you still have your camp friends. It was an unforgettable experience for all!

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**Thank you Camp** by Emily Eaton  
Staff member 2017 - 2023

Thank you for the everlasting memories,  
And moments of laughing so hard I cried.  
Thank you for the life lessons I've learned,  
That no class or teacher could ever provide.

You taught me how to be myself,  
And not care what others say.  
You taught me how to have a voice,  
And live life to the fullest every day.

It's here I've learned to appreciate nature's beauty,  
And take in the occasional silence.  
It's here I've learned to love the constant noise,  
Because the smiles at this place are timeless.

You showed me how to make new friends,  
But always hold onto the old.  
You showed me how to try new things,  
And go with the flow as each day unfolds.

I realized here that camp is for everyone,  
Old and young, near and far.  
I realized that the camp out is extra special,  
It's where I saw my first shooting star.

You helped me free myself of all stressors,  
And take a break from the outside world,  
You helped me become a strong independent leader,  
But always be mom and dad's little girl.

I discovered that cleaning and chores can be fun,  
And a little rain or heat can't ruin the day,  
I discovered Henna, silly songs, and pond scum,  
A little mud or some scrapes are good for you anyway.

Thank you for shaping me into all that I am,  
And for helping mold my young mind,  
Thank you for always being there for me,  
Summer after summer time after time.

And as I drive away from my home away from home,  
I'll remember the laughs and the cries,  
But I know that I can come back one day,  
For it's a see you later, not a goodbye.

AN OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Behind every page of your old, tattered photo album is a story worth hearing.



Past Program Directors, Mike Pace, (with the Boss Elsie Woolam,) Mike McCusker aka Bosco, & Pat Dillion.

SEEDS by Pat Dillon

Just like this tree, which stands outside of Baldwin Hall, Hartford County 4-H Outdoor Center has a story that started with a small seed. That seed was a belief in 4-H Camping and the benefits for the youth of Hartford County embedded in the soul of my 4-H Leader Elsie Woolam. She planted the seed, nurtured it, gathered support, and encouraged 4-H'ers to help raise funds.



This is where my story with camp begins, selling countless bars of “The World’s Greatest Chocolate”, along with other Hartford County 4-H’ers, to raise funds to purchase the land. Companies donated resources, parents helped build structures and 4-H’ers stained cabins and the balcony on Baldwin Hall and cleaned windows with razor blades to bring the Dream into Reality. This Camp was built on a strong foundation and deep roots just like Nap’s Tree. The trunk was free to grow and bloom. The branches are decades of 4-H Camping and the leaves generations of campers, counselors and staff that have called this place a Home away from Home.

I have called 4-H Camp Home for 20 years as a camper, counselor, and staff member. My siblings and I started with the two weeker. Every year the five of us went to camp and our parents went on vacation. Same two weeks every year. All year I would look forward to seeing my friends; the Salone’s, Brustman’s Healy’s, Riley’s, Jackman’s, Covey’s, Turner, Blouin’s,

Pirot’s, Temple’s, Baldwin’s, Brezicki’s, Grindal’s and so many more. I can still smell Art Smith’s home-made Turkey Soup and Raisin Bread. We anticipated who our Counselor would be and who would be on staff that year; would Wahlberg, Tuller, Bosco, Butterfield, Pace, Garaventa, Ayer, Uncle Brucey be there? Camp was the highlight of the year. One summer I was a counselor for a few weeks and mid-summer the Dishroom staff left mid-summer and I was asked to step in for the rest of the summer. My career as Staff began. I would work as Dishroom/ Store, Waterfront Director and Program Director.

As Staff my Branches expanded even further as we brought international students over for the Summer to join us on staff. We learned about their cultures, and we taught them about ours. What we all had in common was Camp. The Wishing Ceremony, Inspiration Point, classes, tribes, Friday Night Dances and the Fire Bringer Ceremony.

When I turn the corner into 247 South Road Marlborough, CT or hear the Disney Classic Heigh-ho I Remember, I Remember all the memories, the friendships and roots that I will always have at Hartford County 4-H Outdoor Center where we Make the Best Better.

Come by me Lord  
Come by me  
All night, all day  
And show me why I love my club, my community, my country and my world  
But most of all why I love this Camp.  
May the Spirit of Camp Live Forever

Just as this tree keeps growing upward and outward we are the Spirit of Camp. Let’s keep throwing those seeds and watch them grow.

**Editors Note: Pat Dillon worked at camp from 1973 to 1984. Her choice of title “Seeds” for her article rings true with the history of 4-H.**

B. Graham started a youth program in Clark County, Ohio, in 1902, which is considered the birth of 4-H in the United States. The first club was called “**The Tomato Club**” or the “Corn Growing Club”.

In Connecticut, A.J. Brundage was sent to the Connecticut Agricultural College at Storrs with these simple instructions, “Go over to Mansfield and start a corn club.” He organized club work in the Mansfield schools in 1913 and in January 1914 became “State Club Organizer.” the birthplace of 4-H in the United States.

Why tomato and corn clubs you might ask? County extension agents were having a difficult time to get farmers to adopt new varieties of hybrid seeds especially corn. In response they started clubs of youths who were soon out producing their parents, thus advancing the superior seeds. Result the birth of 4-H



## 2023 Camper, Counselor, Spirit of the Week

### Week 1

Camper: Sawyer Pequita  
 Counselor: Cam Carlander  
 Head: Payton Dowe  
 Heart: Catherine Thatford  
 Hands: Jillian Bouchard  
 Health: Sydney Sciascia

Vinny Leone  
 Grant Scott  
 Nolan Byam  
 J Agrios

### Week 2

Camper: Clayton Trojanowski  
 Counselor: Brody Camaro  
 Head: Scarlett Formosa  
 Heart: Beckett Krajewski  
 Hands: Parker Steinmetz  
 Health: Kylie Boerenko

Morganne Krawetz  
 Will Krajewski  
 Emma Lopez  
 Suhaas Kankipati

### Week 3

Camper: Miles Perez  
 Counselor: Paul Cordilico  
 Head: Violet Meyer  
 Heart: Breena Cowell  
 Hands: Vincent Leone  
 Health: Jackson Howe

Reese Silver  
 Allison Clyne  
 Jack O'Neill  
 Scarlett Softic

### Week 4

Camper: Allison Clyne  
 Counselor: Nikki Dibacco  
 Head: Grant Hoffman  
 Heart: Hannah Muldoon  
 Hands: Gianna Dei  
 Health: Maeve Flynn

Sam Bruno  
 Bennett Zielinski  
 Kevin Barone  
 Dominic Paragone

### Week 5

Camper: Caroline Cavanaugh  
 Counselor: Pia Squatrito  
 Head: Yasmine Abunasra  
 Heart: Charlie Petrone  
 Hands: Bennett Davignon  
 Health: Reagan Newfang

Karim Abunasra  
 Ben Wojnar  
 Amalia Maielli  
 Chase Swanson

### Week 6

Camper: Sydney Sciascia  
 Counselors: Lynn Boyaji  
 Head: Avery DeBarros  
 Heart: Gabby Maternowski  
 Hand: Chloe Tatum  
 Health: Bennett Zielinski

Jannaya Nti  
 Alan Xia  
 Ryan Krane  
 Brayden Sundquist  
 Maggie Wilde

### Week 7

Camper: Kenny Manthorne  
 Counselor: Riley Kudlac  
 Head: Sam Castro  
 Heart: Will Sonkin  
 Hand: Vincenzo Paragone  
 Health: Brohm Citroen

Yasmine Abunasra  
 Maeve Cooper  
 Ella Gibriano  
 Hannah Muldoon

## Highlights continued ‘

For now, we are working behind the scenes to get ready for the 2024 camping season.

We are in the beginning stages of looking for a new associate director as Nadia has resigned. If you happen to know anyone that would be interested in this sought after position, please have them fill out an application which can be found on our website.

I know it is hard to believe, but summer 2024 will be here before we know it. I am looking forward to seeing many familiar faces, continuing the traditions we all know and love, and being a part of the magic that only Hartford County 4-H Camp has!

Yours in Camping,  
 Jenn Paragone  
 Hartford County 4-H Camp Director



EXPERIENCE 4-H YEAR ROUND

VOLUNTEER WITH 4-H  
  
 QUESTIONS? EMAIL  
 HARTFORD@UCONN.EDU

BECOME A MEMBER  
  
 QUESTIONS? EMAIL  
 HARTFORD@UCONN.EDU



Clark Family cabin dedication Hartford County 4-H Camp Saturday Sept 23rd, 2023  
Pictured L-R Brianna Gallitto, Amber Molina, Joe Tedeschi, Linda Tedeschi, Donna Fieger, Riva Clark



Brianna Gallitto, & Linda Tedeschi cut the cake

### Comments from Peter Brzezicki at the Clark Family Cabin Dedication September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Warning – what I am about to say is conceptually accurate, but being of a certain age I am finding that memory of some details may be off a little bit

I remember as a young child the first time coming to this property to plant Christmas trees as a potential fundraiser in an empty field in the area that 60 years later I refer to as the haunted forest. This entire property was mainly empty fields – other than the stone walls and some barbed wire fence nothing man made to be seen.

In the spring of 1966 a bunch of people showed up to this vacant 80 acres of land – mainly construction workers and volunteers of all ages and these people started building HC4H camp. A key leader of this effort in the position of construction foreman was Edgar Clark. And based on countless hours of work all supervised by Edgar, the basic form of HC4H camp as we still know it came into existence over a less than 4 month period – all from scratch – cabins, bathrooms, Baldwin Hall, a kitchen, grant house, manmade pond, dock, water system, electrical system. the whole thing in four months.

Somehow, we were all lucky that Edgar and his wife Pat agreed to pick up their family (Linda Donna Sandra Debra Riva) from Wethersfield and take on the job of volunteer caretaker family, starting that first summer. Everyone in the family worked hard at maintaining camp.

The Clark family remained at camp for 15 years from 1966 to 1981 as the caretaker family. They set a high standard for this most important position and we have been lucky that the two subsequent caretakers have continued the tradition of stewardship started by the Clarks.



I have a conviction that a few weeks spent at a well organized summer camp may be of more value educationally than a whole year of formal school work.

Charles William Eliot 1834-1926  
American Educator, Poet  
President of Harvard University

## Hartford County 4-H Camp Mission Statement

An outdoor center that provides a safe, fun, inclusive, enriching experience with an appreciation for the environment through learning by doing.

4-H Camp is a place where 4-H principles are valued and personal growth fostered by honoring 4-H Camp traditions while creating new opportunities for all.



Horse Campers, Staff & Counselors summer 2023



Members of the Connecticut Governor's Horse Guard gave a presentation to horse campers the first week of camp.

### Sponsor A Camp Horse for the 2024 Summer

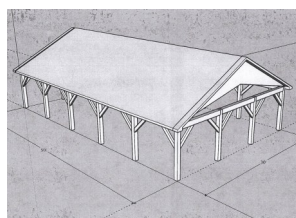
Help keep horses at HC4H camp, and help children have a hands on Horse Activity experience!

Contact : Amy Balko 860-305-8230

(Call or Text Friendly) Amymatulis@gmail.com

### New for Summer of 2024

Camp Pavilion from Concept to moving soil.



Brian Hattan, Hattan Home Improvement, Chris York of Affordable Solutions and Peter Brzezicki



### Calling all Volunteers. New for the summer of 2024.

**Pavillion:** pouring foundation and pilings November 2023  
Building: Spring to June 2024

**New Amphitheater:** Clearing brush November 2023  
Building Stage Spring to June 2024

Grab a shovel, paint brush, hammer and nails. Join us in making the best better.

Email Peter Brzezicki at [peters\\_ccats@att.net](mailto:peters_ccats@att.net)



**Donate to 4-H  
Camp's Annual  
Capital &  
Endowment  
Campaign**

Making a wish. 4-H Camp Wishing Ceremony.  
Leave a legacy, make wishes come true by supporting Hartford County 4-H Camp Inc.

## The 2023 Annual Fund Drive Kick off.

**Hartford County 4-H Camp's Endowment Fund** provide an opportunity for gifts to be placed in an Endowment with only the interest earnings to be used for pressing projects outside of the operating budget, while the principal provides a financial base for the 4-H Camp.

**Hartford County 4-H Camp's Working Capital Fund** provides an avenue for gifts to be utilized to establish a working capital fund to meet cash flow needs for various projects. This fund is not used by the annual operating budgets. The establishment of a firm financial base is essential for the long term development of 4-H Camp.

Tax deductible donations can be made in care of Hartford County 4-H Camp to  
**Hartford County 4-H Camp Inc.**

### Another way to support Hartford County 4-H Camp

*There's an old saying, 4-H is more than cows and Cookin'*

Do You have a special Skill, Interest or Hobby you could share with youth?

Please consider volunteering with a 4-H Club near you, **OR** start your own. Try it for just several months, on your schedule.

Contact Jenn Cushman

[jennifer.cushman@uconn.edu](mailto:jennifer.cushman@uconn.edu)

Hartford County 4-H Extension Educator

VOLUNTEER WITH 4-H



BECOME A MEMBER



QUESTIONS? EMAIL  
[HARTFORD@UCONN.EDU](mailto:HARTFORD@UCONN.EDU)



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### Hartford County 4-H Camp

- The fundraiser will run now through November 30th
- Proceeds will be donated directly to the Hartford County 4-H Camp
- Online ordering payments are made via credit card at time of purchase.
- Orders typically arrive within 8-10 days of being placed
- An additional personal donation will be made to the organization from me for every online party booking.
- Orders can be placed through the online fundraiser shopping link or via catalog paper forms:

🌟 ONLINE Fundraising shopping link:  
<https://www.tastefullysimple.com/p/11501331>

Or scan QR code to shop:



Thank you  
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Khoffman521@gmail.com

## Looking for Contributors to Camp Chatter

Do you have a good story, a cherished memory, News of Camp Alumni, Someone we should Profile?

Let us know, or better yet write an article for Chatter yourself.

Send Submissions to  
[John@GaraventaPhotography.com](mailto:John@GaraventaPhotography.com)



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