

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

1914

ISSUE 9

HOME

Eugenia Yoh
Staff '18

I was a counselor in the art village back in the Summer of 2018 with Summer Carreño. I know there must be so many people filtering in and out of Camp Kamaji and 2018 must have seemed like ages ago to the current staff. Still- the experiences at Camp Kamaji- singing on the top of the benches, sleeping in wooden cabins, swimming in a lake, and adventuring out to Bemidji with fellow counselors- are memories I will treasure forever.

In an old email sent in September, Bri reached out for exciting alum news. I have a bit of exciting news, though much delayed from the September deadline! I am publishing a picture book called *This Is Not My Home* with Little, Brown, Hachette, and it is available now!

It really is a dream come true to see the book on display at the forefront of bookstores. It feels like just yesterday I was teaching campers how to sew felt animal pouches, and now I have a fully illustrated picture book in bookstores.

I think campers will be able to resonate with this story. Although the backdrop takes place in Taiwan, the story follows a little girl named Lily who moves to an unfamiliar place. The entire time she is there, she has a hard time accepting this place as her home.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Alumni Tripper Program!
- Around the Campfire
- New website!!

CAMP ACCOUNT

Camp InTouch is the easiest way to be sure you are in the know for all things Camp Kamaji. Create an account [HERE](#).

KAMAJI GEAR

Tribe shirts, council fire sweatshirts, and more are available for purchase year round! Visit our webstore [HERE](#).

RECORD CHECK

We want to stay in touch! Please update your contact information and camp history in your Camp InTouch account. You can also email bri@kamaji.com.

Share your story!

We're accepting submissions from alumni who would like to be featured in the newsletter! Email bri@kamaji.com.

No matter where she goes- to the market, to school, to a temple, Lily feels lost and sad thinking this place is not hers. Only after some time, when Lily makes friends and makes her experience her own does she feel like she is starting to belong.

I remember one of the first counselor orientation activities during training week was to look at picture books. Looking at and dissecting the themes of picture books was such a wonderful way to get into the minds of children while learning something surprisingly universal. During this activity, I remember reading Peter Renoyld's *Ish* for the first time and seeing the world in a different way. I hope *This Is Not My Home* will resonate with both campers and counselors alike. I know missing home is something a lot of new campers go through, and maybe they will find some comfort in knowing their emotions are very tangible and valid, just like Lily's. Through friends and in time, I hope they will find a home where they go, whether abroad or at Camp Kamaji.



Thank you so much for your time, and thank you Camp Kamaji for all the wonderful memories. After being a camp counselor and working so closely with children, I am so privileged to be able to become a children's book author and illustrator and still do something with kids.

This is Not My Home by Kamaji alum Eugenia Yoh and Vivienne Chang is available in print and can be purchased at many major retailers, small bookstores, and at this link: <https://www.vivienneandeugenia.com>

Eugenia and Vivienne are Taiwanese American picture book creators who met at Washington University in St. Louis. Eugenia studied Communication Design and now works at Chronicle Books. Vivienne studies Economics and is still stuck in St. Louis.

They hope to continue telling stories that simplify seemingly universal ideas through humor. When they are not discussing their next book concept, they can be found at a lake talking about life, watching ducks, and eating blueberries like two little old ladies..



HATCHERY 2032



Future Kamaji campers and trip leaders. Congratulations to all of our alumni families and thank you for sharing your photos with us! Alumni's info is listed below photo.



Valerie Kulbersh
Camper '92-'97



Molly Lehrkind
Camper '96-'98



Lauren Baer
Camper '90-'95



Moriah (Bennett) Mroz
Camper '09-'12, CIT '13,
Staff '14-'15

Do you know a Kamaji alumni with a little one on the way? Let us know and we'll send them a Camp Kamaji onesie too! Email bri@kamaji.com.



SUMMER 2024

Make sure that your daughter has a spot on our summer 2024 camper roster! Kat is ready to connect over Zoom or in person with future campers to share pictures of camp, explore a typical day and answer any questions!

Please email kat@kamaji.com for more info.

Thank you for helping us spread the word about camp and growing our community!

SUMMER 2024 DATES!

Full Eight Week Season:

Monday, June 17th- Saturday, August 10th

First Four Week Session:

Monday, June 17th- Saturday, July 13th

Second Four Week Session:

Monday, July 15th- Saturday, August 10th

ENROLL
TODAY!



AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

Camp stories, memories, and photos. Submissions have been edited for length and clarity

Nothing will ever capture my heart in the way Kamaji did. I'm 68 years old and I can still recite all the words to the 4th fire at council fire!! My favorite memory of camp is all of the rituals, traditions, friendships, and skill requirements expected of us! When I was at camp, there was a huge focus on tribal competition which I loved!!

I attended camp when I was in middle school. After I had graduated from college, I was on a train headed for Nice, France where I ran into a fellow Kamaji camper!!! We recognized each other instantly and spent a fabulous day together! Small World.

-Sherry (Sullivan) Silverthorn



Summer 1959 or 1960
Photo submitted by **Barbra McAlister**



I have this picture up at my house I've had a long time. I believe it's from my first year at Kamaji, I think 2001 give or take a year. I wrote in the names of my Nutshell cabinmates on each leg. I don't keep in touch with any of them anymore but have fond memories of each and hope they're all doing well!

-Becky (Hofstein) Grady



Circa 1987. Back row: **Rachel Richman, Jamie Bronner, Betsy McPherson**
Front row: **Linda Nussbaum, Leah Fredman, Sara Bloom, Meredith Stern and Carlin Brochstein**
I think we were 14 and in Cabin 4 Porch 1. **Susie (Anderson) Wilson** was our CIT!
-Leah (Fredman) Irvin



Cocoon camping trip, Summer 2013

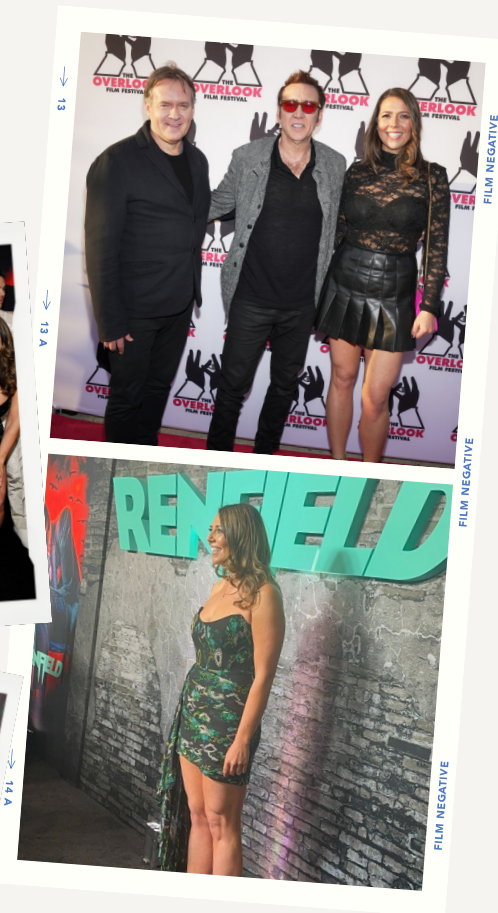
We want to hear from YOU! Submit your Camp Kamaji memories and photos to kat@kamaji.com or bri@kamaji.com for the next edition of 1914

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Sam Niesemboim
Camper '95-'01, Staff '03-'04, Back in 2023!

I have recently produced the film **RENFIELD** for Universal Studios. It is in theatres on April 14. The film stars Nicolas Cage, Nicholas Hoult, & Awkwafina. I spent about 6 months living in New Orleans (where I tried to meet up with **Lane Washburn!** but sadly our schedules didn't align). Would love for anyone in the Camp Kamaji community to consider giving it a watch. It is a really good time!!

Also including a couple pics. Worth noting, I did wear **GREEN** to the NYC Premiere. **GO Metigs!!!**



COCKTAILS AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

Camp Kamaji had a great showing for Camp For All Kids at the event in the spring! Many alumni, parents and staff shared stories of Kamaji across many generations! It's always great to come together AND help a great organization.

We value the support that Camp for All Kids provides to make Kamaji a special, welcoming and diverse community.

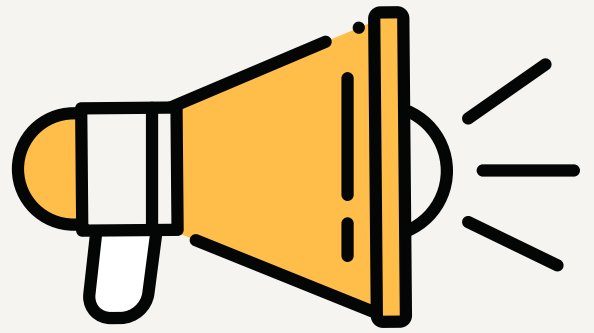
Watch this video to learn more and see lots of Kamaji places and faces [HERE](#).

Every donation to Camp for All Kids makes an impact on our ENTIRE community. Consider a donation in your Cabin's honor.

Visit campforallkids.org to learn more!



ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Hi ho at Kamaji- the alumni are sounding off!

Show off your Kamaji spirit!

Check out our year round webstore for all of your official Camp Kamaji gear! Purchase a new tribe shirt, Council Fire sweatshirt, or our Camp Kamaji Nalgene water bottles **HERE**.



A few fun things are in store for our alumni families! Help us include you and your crew by updating your Kamaji alumni profile. Please share your email and mailing address with us along with your child's name and age.

Email your info to Sara 'Ets' (Etshokin) Horovitz, sara@kamaji.com.

ALUMNI TRIPPER PROGRAM!

This summer we debuted our pilot program with Alumnae Trip Leaders. YOU are invited to "apply" to lead one of our camping trips next summer in partnership with another of our Kamaji staff members (who will have the required qualifications/certifications). We think this is a great opportunity to help you feel (re)connected to camp, help strengthen our tripping program by having more adults in charge, and expose our campers to additional strong, capable alum!

Email jason@kamaji.com for more information.



CHECK THIS OUT!

Our website received a refresh thanks to the hard work of Camp Kamaji Co-Owner/Director, Kat! Be sure to check out our new look and all of the fun camp content.



WWW.KAMAJI.COM

Camp For All Kids

Each summer we partner with Camp For All Kids (CFAK) to provide camperships (camp scholarships) to Black and Brown children from under-resourced communities. These renewable scholarships enable all of our campers to experience a more diverse camp community and at Kamaji we believe that when camp is diverse everyone benefits!

DONATE TODAY!

CONTINUED...

NEW SHOWER HOUSE

Our incredibly talented caretaker, Randy, built a brand new shower house beside the middle wash house this year. We now have SIX additional showers available for our campers and staff. We celebrated its opening with a ribbon cutting and a Pine Manor shower party!



NEW ACTIVITY ALERT

We brought wake surfing to Kamaji for the first time this summer! The campers were determined to take on the challenge of a new activity and we were so proud of each of them.



Congratulations to Willa Brown and Ethan Feuer on marrying at Camp Kamaji this summer!



ALUMNI TRIPPERS 2023



Leah Irvin

Summers at camp: 11

What they're doing now: Leah earned her Bachelors from University of Michigan and then her Masters in Physical Therapy from Washington University. She currently works as a physical therapist.



Maggie Sund

Summers at camp: 11

What they're doing now: Maggie earned her Bachelor's in Elementary Education from the University of Oklahoma and is currently a kindergarten teacher.



Zach Kramer

Summers at camp: 1st at Kamaji, 16 years at Camp Chippewa as a friend of Kamaji's

What they're doing now: Zach earned his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Oklahoma and currently works full time for Pollok Energy.



Karin Hass

Years at camp: 10

What they're doing now: Karin earned her BA in History from Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband (and Camp Chippewa alum), Jerry, and their dog, Tupelo. She works in regulatory policy for Xcel Energy, which is the largest electricity provider in Minnesota.

A FAMILY TRADITION

Summer 2023 photos celebrating the legacy of Kamaji



2nd Session, 2nd+ Generation Campers & Staff



Sam Irvin (Leah 'Fred' Fredman) and **Nelson Rice (Meredith Stern)** at the 5 year paddle Council Fire ceremony.



A whole crew of Kami cabinmates' daughters! **Heidi (Padawer) Garfield's daughters (Orly & Kinley)**, **Michelle (Nisenboim) Genser's daughter (Lily)**, **Genevieve (Nisenboim) Sagett's daughters (Juliette & Emma)**, **Michelle's Sydney** and **Emily (Tzinberg) Caine's daughter, Zoey.**



Nelson Rice (Meredith Stern) presented **Garnett Tobin (Caitlin Talbott)** her paddle celebrating 5 summers.



Kat and Jason set money aside each year toward a 'Director's Scholarship'. If you have a daughter/niece/granddaughter/cousin/friend whom you think would thrive at Kamaji - email kat@kamaji.com to inquire about Director's Scholarships for Summer 2024! The more girls who can experience Kamaji...the better. Let the legacy continue!

SUMMER 2023

A few snapshots from Kamaji's 109th season!



BOY OH BOY IS THAT GREAT



Recipe from the Kamaji cookbook

Killer Brownies

Ingredients

- 1 box (18.25 ounces) Betty Crocker Super Moist German Chocolate Cake Mix OR your favorite brownie mix
- 12 tablespoons butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons cream
- ¾ cup walnut pieces (optional)
- 2/3 cup caramel ice cream topping
- 2/3 cup Callebaut semisweet chocolate chips
- Powdered sugar (optional)

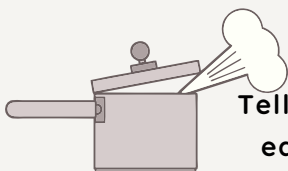
Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. By hand or with a mixer, mix dry cake mix and butter.
3. Beat in cream.
4. Stir in walnuts by hand.
5. Spread half of the dough in the bottom of a lightly buttered and floured, 9-inch-square baking pan. Bake 5 minutes.
6. Remove from oven and bang on counter to make brownies fall. Bake 3 to 4 minutes longer.
7. Remove from oven and cool to room temperature. Refrigerate until cold.
8. Spread caramel topping over brownie layer. Sprinkle with chocolate chips. Freeze until firm.
9. Crumble remaining dough and scatter evenly over caramel layer. Bake at 350 degrees for about 20 to 25 minutes, until top is dry.
10. Cool completely, then refrigerate until firm.
11. Cut into squares and dust with powdered sugar. Store in refrigerator or freeze. Bring to room temperature to serve

Servings: 9 (huge) or 18 (just right) size!!



Check out more Kami kitchen recipes in our online **Camp Kamaji Cookbook**.



Tell us which recipe you would like to see featured in the next edition of 1914. Email bri@kamaji.com to let us know which recipe you miss most from your camp days!

SINGING IN THE RAIN



Lyrics from the Kamaji Songbook

Life of a Voyager

Life of a voyager, that of a sojourner,
Travels around and round
But not from town to town.
Travels the lakes and streams
Follows his distant dreams.
Peace on the waterways,
Blue skies, no cloudy days.

[Chorus]

My heart has but one home,
From which I'll never roam
Land of true happiness
Canadian wilderness.

The call of the lonely loon
Coyotes howling at the moon.
Wind rustling through the trees
That's a Canadian breeze.
Smoke rising from the fire
Up through the trees in stately spire.
All is well in the evening glow;
Sun goes down and the north wind blows.

[Repeat Chorus]

The calm waters of the morn
Reflects one lonely soul
Paddling so silently
That's undisturbed by he
Waters so pure and fresh
Untouched by human flesh
His life is sad but good
This is his chosen home.

[Repeat Chorus]



SUPPORTING KAMAJI

As a small, family-owned business we appreciate each and every person that helps spread the word about Kamaji! We are often asked how alumni and camp friends can best support camp. Below are a few ways that **YOU** can help Camp Kamaji continue to thrive.

- Host an informational meeting at your home. Kat will travel to meet with families from your community!
- Write a positive review on **Google**
- Follow Kamaji on FB and Instagram. Share our posts to your page! "Like" the post and/or leave a comment!
- Talk about Kamaji to friends and family!

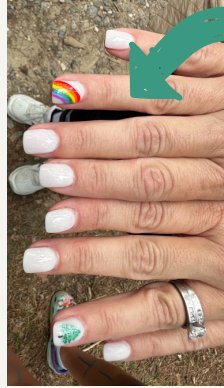
ALUMNI HOMECOMING SUMMER '23



Andrea Cuttler and Leah Israel pictured with Tolula Mastio (Carolyn Mastio).



Alum **Jamie (Wolbach) Kesselman** with her husband and two campers **Betsy** and **Margot**. Jamie's manicure was perfect for Tribe Day!



Summer '23 LT **Jessie Eldridge** with her aunt **Liz Eldridge Schieber** and future camper, **Brooke**!



A visit to Kamaji just isn't the same without a stop in the dining hall for a delicious lunch and LOUD songs!



Tobey Ballenger poses with 2023 Kamaji Trip Leader, **Leah (Fredman) Irvin**. Tobey's daughters were both at Kamaji this summer! **Vivian** as a Pine Manor camper and **Abbey** as a cabin counselor/office assistant.



Katie (Vesely) Huisenga, **Kat Martin Nelson** & **Shannon (Espenschied) Ketterring** reunited at camp, last together as 1st year counselors in 2001!

IT'S A SMALL WORLD



Valerie Kulbersh and her son, **Eli**, pose in their Camp Kamaji gear!



Lauren Baer's TWO future campers in Kami gear!



St. Louis Reunion
Leah 'Fred' (Fredman) Irvin, Hopie (Welles) Jernagan, Kat (Martin) Nelson, Julie Hess, and Emily (Tzinberg) Caine



Reunion! **Max Glass, Allie Cowan, Anna Weinberg, Emily Barron, and Leah Israel.**



Alumni campers and current staff members **Annie Rogula** and **Lexi 'Links' Markham.**



Flo and I met up with **Lesley Moran, Lucy, and Alex** when we were down in Florida!

-Jordan (Bookey) Lloyd



Laurel Rifikin, Heather (Rifkin) Rosenblatt, and Samantha Nisenboim ran into each other at the Chicago Taylor Swift concert.



Kat recently ran into **Maya Cohen** at a local restaurant!

IT'S A SMALL WORLD



Lexi 'Links' Markham, Sophie 'Sinks' Markham, and Sofie Bogucki recently reunited!



Bri, Sara 'Ets' (Etshokin) Horovitz, Jason, Kat and Lauryn Barnett at Cocktails Around the Campfire.



Jason and Bri met up with former staff members **Marjourie Guerra Fernández** and **Eduardo Yrigoyen Zorrilla** while at the IENA recruitment fair in Puebla, Mexico.



Kamaji's Program Director, Shannon (Espenschied) Kettering, Addie Bond, and Kat Martin Nelson caught up poolside at the ACA National Conference in Orlando.



Annee Phillips, Lana Kennebrev (mom to former camper, Tai), Jason, Sara 'Ets' (Etshokin) Horovitz, and Kat at Cocktails Around the Campfire.



Lucy Groover, Lillian Fleisher, and Ellie Pazol met up while studying abroad!

IT'S A SMALL WORLD



Izzy Cohen, Adelaide Hocking, Maddie Gordon, Caden Traversari, and Lillian Fleisher reunited for a meal together recently.



Look at this crew! **Adelaide Hocking, Sammie Axelbaum, Izzy Cohen, Laura Wall, Lindsey Apple, Stella Dale, Tatum Rosenblatt, Maddie Gordon, Sunny Axelbaum, and Hayley Cohen** had a mini Kami reunion!



Lindy Olderman and I both work at the flagship Ben & Jerry's in Burlington, Vermont. We met as campers in 2015 because we're both Nanahtahgas and reconnected in 2019 since we both went to the University of Vermont! Lindy's a senior this year and I graduated last May.

-Josie Clark

IT'S A SMALL WORLD



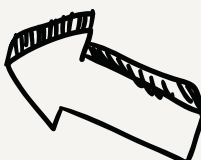
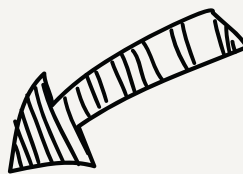
While **Nicola Friedrich** (staff, late 80s) and her wife, Rachel Toft, were visiting Dave and **Lisa Wigand** (staff, mid-80s) in Florida all the way from the UK, my family (husband Josh and kids Jacob (12) and Wyatt (10) Schaffer) and I (camper 88-91, staff 94-95) were spending spring break an hour away from Lisa and Dave's place.

Lisa and Dave had our family out for a great meal, an English tea, a swim in the Gulf, and more, and it was all a surprise to Nick. The day, thanks to Lisa and Dave's generous hospitality, was the highlight of our spring break. Also: go Mundahmins 🌴! (Nick and I are both Mundahmins) 🌈

-Emily (Wolf) Schaffer

BE SURE TO SEND US YOUR PHOTOS AND SMALL WORLD RUN-INS AND REUNIONS TO INCLUDE IN THE NEXT EDITIONS OF 1914!

EMAIL BRI@KAMAJI.COM OR KAT@KAMAJI.COM.





CONTACT INFO

Summer Address
32054 Wolf Lake Road
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Winter Address
PO Box 70
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
www.kamaji.com

Kat & Jason Nelson
Directors
kat@kamaji.com
jason@kamaji.com
218-556-1805

Bri Humphries
Operations Director
bri@kamaji.com
218-308-7336

Jen Rabb
Communications Director
jen@kamaji.com
616-558-0711

CONNECT

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Camp InTouch

ENROLL TODAY!

- 2024 Enrollment Application

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT, WHAT'S UP WITH KAT?

Those who know me have heard me wax on about Kamaji's reputation as a "camp for nice girls". That's a pretty fantastic reputation to live up to!

While I like to think there is simply something ingrained in our camp culture that promotes kindness, I also want to make sure we are being proactive in ensuring this culture of kindness is intentional and continues.

I believe one of the most important influences on our camp culture is how much mixed-aged programming we do at Kamaji. Campers still pick which activities they want to take each week (although long past the days where you are running table to table in the Lodge to sign up for archery with your friends), which means within each activity period campers are meeting campers from all different ages and cabins. Campers discover connections with people who are older or younger than they when someone helps them improve their aim at archery or sitting together and creating a salt and pepper shaker in ceramics.

Then, when not participating in instructional activities, campers reconvene with their cabinmates during meals and rest period where they have lots to chat about, whether it be when they fell out of the boat during sailing or sharing that they finally reached the top of the climbing wall. The time apart during the activity day allows them to form stronger connections with their "roommates" because they have more to offer the group in terms of their own experiences and stories from their day.

And nothing, absolutely nothing, is more pivotal than our Tribes. Alumna will be happy to know that the camaraderie and spirit of our Tribes remains thriving at camp. While new campers to Kamaji might think they will be disappointed when they are initiated into a tribe that is not their favorite color- little do they know, they just didn't know what their true favorite color was!! This quickly changes as the Tribe embraces the new members, teaches songs, makes connections, and helps each camper feel a sense of belonging. Tribe Leaders take their responsibility seriously and want each member to feel embraced by their Tribe and be involved in Council Fires, O'Naug-She-Nodin performances, taking care of our beautiful camp by contributing to their Tribe Duties and of course, through enthusiasm and unwavering support during Tribe Day. Young campers hold hands with their "cool" older friends in their Tribe and friends share special garb to celebrate their Tribe spirit during relays or Capture the Flag.



We have spent time (and continue to do work) reflecting and learning about the history of Tribes at Kamaji and its connection to Native American culture and appropriation. As most know, the names of our tribes are based on Ojibwe words that describe each of the symbols. During the 1st Council Fire of each session, I now take time to describe the history of the Ojibwe people and acknowledge the land we are on is Native American land. At the end of every Council Fire, we have a moment of silence and reflection to honor the land and the people who walked the land before us. I talk about the contributions of the Ojibwe people and how the community continues today. We are careful not to emulate Native American customs or rituals and instead work to educate our campers on the history of the land and the Ojibwe. "Tribe" is used in the most impactful way at camp: "a social group composed of numerous families, clans or generations having a shared ancestry"; "a group of persons having a common character, occupation, or interest". Now, I'll leave it up to you all to decide what the common "character" is of your particular tribe, but we can all agree that the way we use the term "Tribe" and its meaning definitely applies.



Those parts of our culture are ingrained at Kamaji. How do we make sure this culture of kindness continues?

At the beginning of each activity period block, our counselors make time to have everyone introduce themselves. Campers become familiar with names and faces so when they see each other around camp they say "hello" and avoid that awkward thought, "Does she know who I am?". In addition to Tribe Meetings after lunch about every other day where Tribe Leaders typically do a "get-to-know-you" game or teach a song, we also have Tribe Time that occurs each week. This is about an hour of time once a week where the Tribe gets together to specifically to focus on community. How to check in with each other, take care of camp and strengthen our whole camp community.



At the beginning of each session, we are now adding a time designated specifically for porch groups to outline expectations for how to live together respectfully as a cabin group and offer language to help our campers navigate tricky roommate situations and be aware of how the actions and choices of one can affect the group. We teach our campers the language they can use to speak up and how to communicate thoughtfully and respectfully with one another.

This summer we are hoping to add a new tradition to bring our new campers and their “Kami Sisters” together while at camp. While we guide and encourage these specially chosen “Big Sisters” to communicate with their new campers prior to camp, we also want to be intentional about making a special time for them together while at camp and really celebrate that connection.

And the most exciting addition and intentional programming involves YOU- the alum! Kamaji has a long tradition of camping, adventure, and exploration through our wilderness trip program. As many of you know, we have been working hard over the last 10 years to hire more young women as Trip Leaders to guide our campers. It has been difficult to find young people who have the experience and knowledge to do this. Cue: Our Alumna!

Most of our campers will tell you their favorite Evening Program is Camp History Night or Council Fire. And why do they love it so much? Because they feel connected and tied to this wonderful history and traditions of Kamaji. They love hearing “old” stories and laughing about what was and marveling at what still remains. Any professional who works with children will tell you having positive role models, mentors and influences in young people’s lives is perhaps one of the most beneficial things you can do to support children. So, let’s do it. We are bringing back Alumna who come with their Kamaji experience, confidence in camping, outdoors and working with children, to help us lead our camping trips. These Trip Leaders are trusted adults who will work cooperatively with the appropriately trained and certified counselors to provide a fun, memorable adventure for our campers! Plus, we are always getting requests for visits from our former campers to visit camp, what is a better way to “give back” to the place you love so much, spend time with amazing Kamaji campers, share your experience and knowledge and have an eager audience to listen to all your (appropriate) camp stories from days of yore! 😊

I am proud of Kamaji and look forward to continuing our traditions and helping our campers have a sleepaway camp experience that is a ton of silly fun, where they learn real, concrete skills, and make lifelong memories and connections with friends of all ages.

