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# My Kamaji Memories

2023 COUNSELOR FAREWELL : JULIA JASMER

Kamaji has always been a special place that I can come back to year after year and enjoy time with friends. I started 10 long years ago, and sometimes it feels like I've spent an eternity surrounded by these tall pines and familiar faces. Through the years, I've made so many friendships that I will cherish forever. It's all the people here who choose to love one another that creates the magic of Kamaji. Which is why I was nervous coming to camp this summer as the only one back from my age group.

To be completely honest, this summer did not go how I planned. I had planned on coming back with my longtime friend Niche' Grice along with our other friends who we were planning to convince to come back with us. However, two days before my departure to Camp Kamaji, I found out Che' Che' wouldn't be able to come for 1st session and possibly even 2nd session as well. Due to an emergency, she had to stay home. The information felt crushing.

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Arriving midway through staff week, I didn't know what to expect. I knew hardly anyone and my best friend would not be coming back. Yet, I got to know more and more people as staff week progressed. Everyone was so welcoming and it made me feel comfortable even without my best friend. Slowly but surely I could feel myself connect with all the people here.

By being open to making new friends, I was able to grow close to some of the funniest and kindest people I've ever met. Despite my shaky start to this summer, it was soon filled with joyful late nights on the tennis courts listening to music, banana time, and documentary watches about boy bands amongst many other things.

The reason I keep coming back year after year is because of these friendships that form at camp. In my long camp career, I've been lucky to have made so many friends. Some of the closest friendships I made as a camper came from seemingly insignificant things: being late for an activity together, being the two youngest campers going 8 weeks, or even just being a friend of a friend. None of these things felt like they would lead to an outstanding friendship, and yet it's these friendships I treasure the most. At camp, so many different experiences can bring two people together to become friends.

These old friendships are not forgotten when I make new ones. My friends are all with me whether in the way I still eat my chucks mac and cheese with hot sauce like my friend Karina Held showed me, or how I wear my boxers that Lia Wilson got me for my birthday every night to bed, or even the signatures and tribe day predictions from friends over the years that I've kept in my journal. All my friends I've made are still with me one way or another. And when I leave camp this session I know the friends I've made this summer will stay with me forever.

All around me, I see campers forming new friendships with fellow campers as well as with counselors. It always makes me smile whenever I walk around camp and listen to how the sound of unbridled laughter echoes through the air as new friends find something fun to do together. There's no exact science to making a friend at camp, and I find that most of the time all one needs is a laugh, smile, and two people willing to share with one another.

Thinking back on all the sweet and crazy memories from over these past two sessions, it's hard to believe that at the start of this summer I didn't know most of these people. Now it feels as though I've known them for a lifetime. I can never truly express how much all these friendships I've made this summer mean to me. I love this camp and all the people in it. Kamaji has created a special place for campers and counselors alike to come every year and rekindle those special friendships and continue to make new ones.

As the summer comes to a close and we all go our separate ways, I hope you will cherish your friendships as much as I will. Know that even when your friends are not standing right beside you, they will still always be with you in your memories and in your heart.



# What's the latest at Kamaji?

**2024  
ENROLLMENT  
IS OPEN!!**

(WOO HOO!!!)

**"EARLY BIRD"  
ENROLLMENT  
DISCOUNT**

enroll before October 1st and  
save \$1,000 on 8 week tuition  
and \$300 on 4 week tuition

Log in to your  
**CampInTouch**  
account  
to get signed  
up!

Don't forget to  
spread the word  
about Kamaji to  
your friends,  
cousins and  
neighbors!

WANT TO DO  
SOMETHING  
*super duper*  
NICE FOR US?

In a world where online  
reviews are so important,  
a 5 star review from  
YOU would mean the  
world to us!

(LEAVING US A REVIEW  
ON GOOGLE IS THE  
MOST HELPFUL!)



WE CELEBRATED A FEW 10 YEAR  
CAMPIVERSARIES THIS SUMMER!  
THESE KAMI GIRLS HAVE SPENT 10  
SUMMERS WITH US AT KAMAJI AND  
WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THEIR  
LOVE AND COMMITMENT TO THIS  
SPECIAL PLACE!!

*Sophie Bogucki  
Naomi Amacher  
Lexi 'Links' Markham  
Sam Niesenboim  
Bri Humphries*



# CAMPER ENROLLMENT

THE FOLLOWING CAMPERS HAVE ALREADY ENROLLED FOR SUMMER 2024!

## FIRST SESSION

NAME	GRADE	HOMETOWN
Juniper Bussent*	2nd	Lake Bluff, IL
Ade Stern	9th	Minneapolis, MN
Julia Showalter	5th	Tulsa, OK

## SECOND SESSION

NAME	GRADE	HOMETOWN
Eloise Baker*	2nd	Washington DC
Cami Bales	7th	Manhattan Beach, CA
Eliana Brown	6th	Shaker Heights, OH
Zoey Caine	7th	St Louis, MO
Eva Cytron	9th	Deerfield, IL
Dylan Ditto	4th	Chicago, IL
Valentina Dobric*	5th	Lake Forest, IL
Orly Garfield	3rd	New York, NY
Lily Genser	4th	Highland Park, IL
Sydney Genser	7th	Highland Park, IL
Eve Jackson	6th	Kansas City, MO
Millie Jackson	6th	Kansas City, MO
Valentina Jimenez*	8th	Riverwoods, IL
Eliza Kettenring	9th	Stamping Ground, KY
Molly Latimer	9th	Glencoe, IL
Kassidy Leonard	8th	St Louis, MO
Willa Limbert	5th	Berkeley, CA
Eve Mason	5th	Deerfield, IL
Evie McWilliams	6th	Ann Arbor, MI
Abby Reyzin*	3rd	Glencoe, IL
Rosie Rissman	7th	Berkeley, CA
Violet Rissman	5th	Berkeley, CA
Ella Rubenstein	7th	Glencoe, IL
Olivia Rubenstein	4th	Glencoe, IL
Eva Saddleton	6th	River Forest, IL
Emma Sagett	7th	Highland Park, IL
Mae Severn	5th	Washington DC
Juliet Trueger	5th	Chicago, IL
Nora Williams	6th	Ann Arbor, MI
Lexi Young	6th	Deerfield, IL

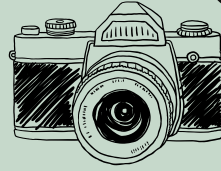
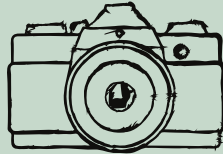
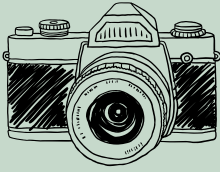
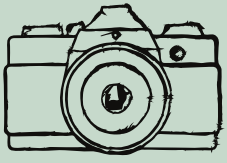
## EIGHT WEEKERS

NAME	GRADE	HOMETOWN
Hadley Bussen	4th	Lake Bluff, IL
Kaleesi Greene	4th	Minnetrista, MN
Lilly Greene	2nd	Minnetrista, MN

\*NEW TO CAMP KAMAJI FOR SUMMER 2024



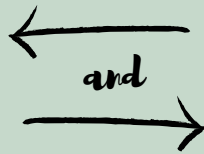
# KAMAJI KAPTURED



We love seeing pictures of our Kamaji family out in the wild! Send your pics to [jen@kamaji.com](mailto:jen@kamaji.com) to be in our next newsletter!



Amelia Rabb sporting her tribe colors in the Redwood Forest!



Akari Lema showing off her tribe colors in Austria!



Kat and Evie Bass run into each other in Lake Bluff, IL!



How do you fix a broken pumpkin?  
With a pumpkin patch

What do lumberjacks shout at the start of Fall?  
Sep-timberrrrrrr!

What happens when winter arrives?  
Autumn leaves

What room are ghosts not allowed to enter?  
The living room

(BAD)  
JOKES  
WITH  
JASON



Why did the scarecrow win a Nobel Prize?

HE WAS  
OUTSTANDING IN  
HIS FIELD.

# HAPPY Birthday

## September

Eva Cytron	3
Zoe Warticovschi	3
Madeline Margol	4
Lily Genser	6
Andy Galan Angel	6
Kate Pearson	6
Zoey Vaglio	7
Scout Chomas	9
Greta Gimbel	9
Dylan Ditto	13
Eliana Brown	14
Carys Moynihan	16
Yamaris Cabrera	18
Vicki Flegg	19
Venla Laukkanen	20
Ruby Hall	22
Elise Amsbaugh	25
Brooke Willhite	25
Greta Grossman	26
Dani Rodriguez Anzurez	28
Linzi Moran	29
Lexi Thompson	30
Mirabelle Threadgold	26
Iris Barringer-Mills	30

## October

Ella Arnold	3
Julia Bizhko	6
Alexa Romero	8
Andrea Romero	8
Bibi Tobias	10
Zoe DeWein	11
Aria Basford	13
Sylvia Rontal	13
Avery Lipschultz	14
Rosie Rissman	14
Garnet Tobin	16
Eve Jackson	19
Millie Jackson	19
Sophia Storino	19
Molly Latimer	22
Ella Tadesse	22
Sylvia Harvin	22
Dammy Gamboa Noriega	24
Ade Cronk-Gebbia	25
Ella Rubenstein	26
Kate Rogula	28
Laney Maguire	29



LOG ON TO  
CAMPINTOUCH TO  
GET YOUR FRIENDS'  
CONTACT INFO AND  
SEND SOME  
BIRTHDAY LOVE!

# RANDY'S RAMBLINGS

How can it be that another summer has come and gone?! If I do my math correctly, I have been at camp for 16 years and this was my 17th summer! Soon I will have worked at camp longer than I was in the Air Force.

After everyone left camp, my family took our annual trip to Colorado Springs to see my youngest son at the USAF Academy for Parent Weekend. I went to the Air Force Falcon football game (win), hiked up a mountain to visit a place called Seven Falls-Garden of the Gods for the fourth time just because it's beautiful, and finished off with a Rockies baseball game in Denver. It was quite the trip with 10 of us, and of course, Josh said not to come if we didn't bring his dog, Ollie! Hard to believe that only one more Parent Weekend next year and then graduation. Time really does fly!

I should tell you what has been happening at camp! Winterizing all buildings and boats is the first thing I have done. I'm not finished but will have to be done by the end of the month because we start getting freezing temps in October. I've also been cutting up a few downed trees so we have wood for camp and for my wood stove in the shop to keep me warm this winter. The new middle shower house has a fresh coat of stain on it also. Hopefully all of you had a great summer and are enjoying the new school year!

That's enough ramblings from me! Until next time!

**-Randy  
&  
Ollie**



## THINGS WE CAN'T FORGET

### First Session

- TREEHOUSE SLEEPOVERS
- FIREWORKS
- TRIP SONGS
- THE BELL
- TAYLOR SWIFT
- TABLESETTING WITH ALANA
- GAGA
- TRIBE LEADERS
- RASPBERRY TRUFFLE ICE CREAM
- BUCKET LIST

### Second Session

- SHOWER PARTIES
- FROGS
- LATE NIGHT MAFIA
- WALL OF FAME
- THE NUT 3 BEAT
- ISLAND POINT TRIP
- RISE AND SHINE
- COUNTDOWN BEAT
- TRIBE DAY
- 'MERICA DAY
- STAFF SHOW
- PLAYING CARDS
- PUMP RUNS
- BUG JUICE
- HAMILTON PARTY
- NIGHT OUT



# What's up with Kat?

John Jacob, swim checks, health checks, canoeing, Rainbow Burgers, sailing, Capture the Flag, archery, deli day, tennis, Sponge Wars, horseback riding, gooey rolls, Adventure Days, low ropes, nurses telling you to drink more water, Rainy Days, cookie dough brownies, the Birthday Song, dance, laundry, mail, Council Fire... these are just some of the aspects of Kamaji that mark the beats, the metronome, of camp. There is a cadence to camp, a predictability, a safety to these things we have come to know to expect.

Tucked away between these predictable beats of camp is the staccato that make each summer a unique song...quite literally the sound of Mira's low, hoarse voice cutting through the crowd, it is Eden Morison's Public Service Announcements, the Nutshell spa, the surprise weddings, Zoe DeWein leading her boy band, hilarious John Quinones impressions, the slapping of Anastasia's flippers on the dock, and plays performed with a twist ending. And that's the point, isn't it? We have this beautiful camp, tucked away in the woods, the lake, the program equipment, the buildings, and the typical day routine... THEN between we have the crescendos and vibratos that make each summer, each session, each day, special.

When listening to this past summer I hear the cheering for Gaby and Ada when they passed her swim test, the homesick tears transforming into laughter in the Nutshell, Elise singing Tarzan. I hear the hard work and determination when celebrating Margot and Sona cruising thru their sailing levels, watching Ella Arnold's shocked face when getting up at wake surfing her very first try, Mikah Haywood's smile when returning from her canoe trip, Akari collecting all the level cards, Annie Alcorn passing levels in waterskiing when I could remember how hard it was for her to hang onto the rope!

In between the meals and Kat Chats I can sit back and enjoy watching old friends like El and Katelyn, Mirabelle and Zoe, Annie and Bogucki, Rosie and Clio, Eliza and Iris, reveling in their every minute back together and marveling at the duets being created between friends like Sarina and Bibi, Avery and Kendall, Piper and Rowan, Sarah and Sylvia, Julia and Kate, Celeste and Hannah.

Camp provides the sheet of music, the notes are all there, but it is up to you how you play it. It takes your enthusiasm, your courage, your willingness to laugh, your grit, your silly costumes, your dance moves, your friendships, your forgiveness, your communication, your effort, your grace and your open-mind to make it all play in harmony. You are the musicians, you are the ones, ultimately, who make each song, each summer, special and sound exactly the way you want it performed.

