

# RAINBOW CONNECTION



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## MY KAMAJI MEMORIES

*Abbey Alderman*

Camper '11-'17, Staff '23

The day after camp ended, my sister Vivian and I found ourselves in Minneapolis with a few days before we began our journey home. For those days we had only one concrete plan: a visit to the Mall of America's Croc Store. Upon arrival, we made our way through the maze of designer stores and chain restaurants before spotting the iconic green letters. Once in the store, we carefully selected our pairs: a new sky blue pair for me as my old tie-dyed ones had become worn through years of use and a dark purple pair for her – her first pair! Then came the most thrilling part – picking out our Jibbitz. If you are unfamiliar with Jibbitz, they are essentially small pieces of rubber that depict different objects or characters and fit perfectly into the holes of Crocs, which adds a little personality and flair. We carefully selected a few real Jibbitz – ones made by the Croc brand – before heading out of the store to a nearby kiosk that had bins filled with hundreds of “fakes” – knock-off Jibbitz. We spent almost half an hour digging through these bins in search of the perfect Jibbitz to adorn our Crocs that matched our respective personalities. Once we arrived home, we excitedly laid our Jibbitz in front of us and began the process of arranging the pieces on the shoe to create our desired aesthetic.

### Winter Address

PO Box 70  
Lake Bluff, IL 60044  
218-556-1805

### Summer Address

32054 Wolf Lake Rd  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
218-335-6612  
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### Kat & Jason Nelson

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Past me would be so incredibly confused. Crocs? Jibbitz? Before camp, Crocs were nothing more than comfortable slip-ons. But now they hold a new meaning. These bedazzled shoes bring me back to camp. To the rows of Croc-adorned feet dangling from the dining hall porch waiting patiently for the bell to ring. To the excitement of coming across a lost Jibbit on the stone steps. And of course to nights in Cocoon showcasing and trading the Jibbitz my girls had gained that day although no new treasure could top Josie's light-up peace sign or Lily's army of Minions. To me, Crocs have become one of the many metaphors for camp – objects and ideas that have no real meaning but take on a new life at camp – a piece of my Kamaji story. Throughout my seven summers at camp, hundreds of things have gained significance. Tarzan is more than a Disney character, a barge is not just a ship, and a Chipwich doesn't feel right unaccompanied by the breeze off Wolf Lake and a little nature spice.

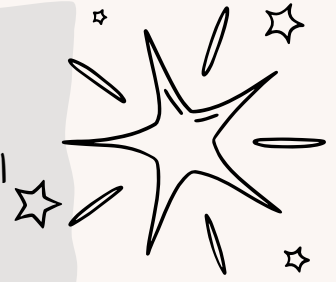
The Kamaji significance finds you wherever you may be. I will never eat Gardettos without thinking of my Pine Manor cabin who always picked out the bagel chips to eat them first—they are the best part after all. If I spot a canoer I find myself critiquing their strokes, which are usually substandard. I could do better; after all, I completed the Canadian. Speaking of the Canadian, the sweatshirt that I gained at the end of the journey, though just a piece of clothing etched with the name of an unknown town to all others, is a constant reminder to me not only of this accomplishment but of the memories made in the Canadian wilderness. Fruit loops will always be eaten by color, onesies are the perfect outfit for any occasion, and of course, no pine tree will ever be as grand as those in the North Woods. Each of these objects conjure fragmented stories that, pieced together, create the memories of camp that I hold so dear. I have held these memories tight as the years slip by. As I prepare to graduate from college this spring and begin the next phase of my life, these memories will serve as a source of comfort; a reminder of the place that shaped me into the confident person I have become. And though these memories may fade, as the Council Fire song has reminded us time and time again, they will never ever die.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Help spread the word about Kamaji!  
Volunteer to host friends in your hometown  
who want to learn more about camp and Kat will  
join you!

e-mail [kat@kamaji.com](mailto:kat@kamaji.com)



YOUR ONLINE  
REVIEWS ARE SO  
VALUABLE TO US!  
PLEASE CONSIDER  
TAKING A MOMENT  
TO LEAVE US A  
REVIEW ON GOOGLE.



## ENROLL EARLY

When you do....it helps us  
tremendously for our  
summer 2024 planning!

## NEW BLOG POST!!!!

We are starting up our  
Blog again. We want it to  
be fun for our Kamaji  
families and a way for  
NEW families to discover  
Kamaji, too. Share with  
your friends and on your  
socials!

[Kamaji Blog](#)

## CHICAGO REUNION

Saturday, Nov. 18 @3:00 pm  
The Heller Nature Center  
Highland Park, IL

\*Bring any new or  
gently used book to  
donate to Bernie's  
Book Bank\*

We love and appreciate our Kamaji families more than you could  
ever know....ALL YEAR LONG. That said, this always feels like  
a great time of year to tell you again how your support and  
love for Kamaji helps to make our world go 'round. Thank you  
thank you thank you, from the bottom of our Kami hearts.

Kat & Jason



# CAMPER ENROLLMENT

THE FOLLOWING CAMPERS HAVE ALREADY ENROLLED FOR SUMMER 2024!

## FIRST SESSION

NAME	GRADE	HOMETOWN
Annie Alcorn	9th	Washington DC
Avery Bargfeldt	4th	Franklin
Emery Beffa	4th	Brookfield, IL
*Juniper Bussen	2nd	Lake Bluff, IL*
Chandler Goodman	5th	Deerfield, IL
Noa Jacoby	5th	Chicago, IL
Hope Jernagan	7th	Saint Louis, MO
Maude Jernagan	5th	Saint Louis, MO
*Ellie Laragh	5th	Chicago, IL*
*Julia Laragh	3rd	Chicago, IL*
Akari Lema	6th	Tokyo, Japan
Addison Novak	9th	Naples, FL
Lulu Pearl	7th	Encinitas, CA
Amelia Rabb	4th	Rockford, MI
Hannah Rabb	2nd	Rockford, MI
Sarina Rontal	9th	Birmingham, MI
Jo Rouspil	5th	Des Moines, IA
*Ella Sanders	4th	Deerfield, IL*
*Addie Schaffner	7th	Highland Park, IL*
*Taylor Schaffner	4th	Highland Park, IL*
Julia Showalter	5th	Tulsa, OK
Ade Stern	9th	Minneapolis, MN
Oakley Thiesen	7th	Brainerd, MN
Mirabelle Threadgold	9th	Brooklyn, NY
Brooke Willhite	6th	Albuquerque, MN
*Genevieve Worley	2nd	Chicago, IL*
Lorelei Worley	5th	Chicago, IL



## EIGHT WEEKERS

NAME	GRADE	HOMETOWN
Celeste Belmonti	3rd	Chicago, IL
Hadley Bussen	4th	Lake Bluff, IL
Kaleesi Greene	4th	Minnetrissa, MN
Lilly Greene	2nd	Minnetrissa, MN
Maddie Hernandez	6th	Northbrook, IL
Kendall Richards	6th	St. Louis, MO



**\*NEW TO CAMP KAMAJI  
FOR SUMMER 2024**

# CAMPER ENROLLMENT

THE FOLLOWING CAMPERS HAVE ALREADY ENROLLED FOR SUMMER 2024!

## SECOND SESSION

NAME	GRADE	HOMETOWN	NAME	GRADE	HOMETOWN
Abbiel Anderson	7th	Lake Forest, IL	Willa Limbert	5th	Berkeley, CA
*Eloise Baker	2nd	Washington, DC*	Flo Lloyd	6th	Washington DC
Cami Bales	7th	Manhattan Beach, CA	Eve Mason	5th	Deerfield, IL
Clio Bandle	8th	Winterthur, Switzerland	Evie McWilliams	6th	Ann Arbor, MI
Iris Barringer-Mills	10th	Ixelles, Belgium	*Gracie Mervis	4th	Arlington, VA*
Julia Bizhko	6th	Bethesda, MD	Lucia Mijangos Guzzardo	7th	México City, Mexico
Eliana Brown	6th	Shaker Heights, OH	Willa Nash	6th	Chicago, IL
Zoey Caine	7th	St. Louis, MO	*Abby Reyzin	3rd	Glencoe, IL*
Cate Cassidy	9th	Evanston, IL	Kai Richards	3rd	St. Louis, MO
Elle Cassidy	6th	Evanston, IL	Kennedy Richards	6th	St. Louis, MO
Eva Cytron	9th	Deerfield, IL	Rosalie Rissman	7th	Berkeley, CA
Rosie DeWein	5th	Rolling Hills Estates, CA	Scarlett Rissman	4th	Highland Park, IL
Zoe DeWein	6th	Rolling Hills Estates, CA	Violet Rissman	5th	Berkeley, CA
Dylan Ditto	4th	Chicago, IL	Ella Rubenstein	7th	Glencoe, IL
*Val Dobric	5th	Lake Forest, IL*	Olivia Rubenstein	4th	Glencoe, IL
Blake Eldridge	4th	Highland Park, IL	Eva Saddleton	6th	River Forest, IL
Dylan Eldridge	8th	Highland Park, IL	Emma Sagett	7th	Highland Park, IL
Lia Fleischer	6th	Chevy Chase, MD	Serenity Sanchez	5th	Deerfield, IL
Kinley Garfield	7th	New York, NY	Mae Severn	5th	Washington DC
Orly Garfield	3rd	New York, NY	Mary Elizabeth Stewart	6th	Austin, TX
Lily Genser	4th	Highland Park, IL	Ivy Swartz	6th	Chicago, IL
Sydney Genser	7th	Highland Park, IL	Juliet Trueger	5th	Chicago, IL
*Layla Greenwood	2nd	Glencoe, IL*	Lillian Wall	6th	Oklahoma City, OK
Mollie Hirsh	6th	Glencoe, IL	Reese Warticovschi	6th	St. Louis, MO
Allegra Hurtgen	6th	Wilmette, IL	Zoe Warticovschi	9th	St. Louis, MO
Eve Jackson	6th	Kansas City, MO	Nora Williams	6th	Ann Arbor, MI
Millie Jackson	6th	Kansas City, MO	Mae Yawitz	6th	St. Louis, MO
*Mia Jimenez	6th	Riverwoods, IL*	Lexi Young	6th	Deerfield, IL
*Valentina Jimenez	8th	Riverwoods, IL*			
*Olivia Kansupada	2nd	Chicago, IL*			
Eliza Kettenring	9th	Stamping Ground, KY			
Molly Latimer	9th	Glencoe, IL			
Kassidy Leonard	8th	St Louis, MO			

\*NEW TO CAMP KAMAJI FOR  
SUMMER 2024



# 2024 STAFF

## SIGNED ON FOR THE SUMMER!

NAME	POSITION	HOMETOWN
Madi Burrows	Cabin Counselor & Ropes/Wall Instructor	Nelson, New Zealand
Sandra Lopez Davila	Kitchen Assistant	Puebla, Mexico
Shannon Kettenring	Program Director	Stamping Ground, KY
Laney Magure	Staff Coach and Development Director	Oklahoma City, OK
Linzi Moran	Office Manager	Machester, United Kingdom
Jessica Zilm	Cabin Counselor & Ropes/Wall Instructor	Clapham, Australia



Employment applications for summer 2024 are OPEN! Connect with others, grow your skills, and make an impact. Learn more on our website or our new Instagram account @CampKamaji\_Staff

During this season of Thanks and Giving, support **Camp for All Kids** & Camp Kamaji by making a donation of any size to help send more kids to camp!



# KAMAJI KAPTURED

★ send YOUR Kamaji "in the wild" pics to [jen@kamaji.com](mailto:jen@kamaji.com) for the next newsletter!



Campers Alice Grant, Amelia and Hannah Rabb met up in San Diego! (along with everyone's favorite camp nurse, Julie Grant and the 2023 Kitchen Manager, Jen Rabb)



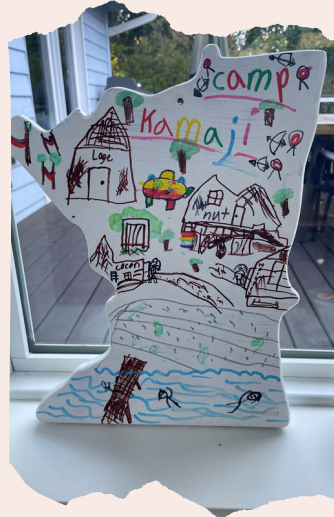
Metra run-in for Kat and Sophie Alanis!!



Violet and Rosie Rissman dressed up for Halloween...or Tribe Day?!



Kamaji campers: Past, Present & Future!



INCREDIBLE artwork by Kaleesi and Lilly Greene!

## (BAD) JOKES WITH JASON



What do you call rain on Turkey Day?

FOWL WEATHER

How do little pumpkins cross the road?

WITH A CROSSING GOURD

What do sweet potatoes wear to bed?

YAMMIES



Thankful *Thankful* thankful

This time of year, your Kamaji staff is thankful for you AND.....

Wonderful friends and family.  
-Shannon

Family. friends. coffee and all my Kamaji people.  
-Kat

Amazing teachers for my kids!  
-Nurse Julie

Friends and coffee!  
-Bri

Health. family. and travel opportunities.  
-Jen

My family!  
-Jason

Friends. family. gummy worms. Diet Coke. & Bravo TV.  
-Laney



# 2024

HAPPY  
*New Year*

For years and years, Camp Kamaji campers and staff from all over the world have joined together in relighting their O'Naug-She-Nodin candles during the holiday season.

We invite you to take part in this tradition, with us and the rest of the Kamaji family, on New Year's Eve. Relight your O'Naug-She-Nodin candle to celebrate the year ahead and reflect on your camp memories.

(If you can't find your final O'Naug candle, no worries. You can still participate by lighting another candle in your home!)

Please send  
pics of your lit  
candles to  
[jen@kamaji.com](mailto:jen@kamaji.com)!

WHEN I LIGHT MY CANDLE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE  
THERE'LL BE MUCH GREATER WARMTH THAN ONE FLAME  
FOR THE FRIENDSHIPS I MADE AT CAMP KAMAJI  
WILL BE CLOSE AROUND ME AGAIN.

ALTHOUGH I KNOW THERE'S SO FAR BETWEEN US  
I NEVER FEEL CUT OFF AT HOME  
FOR I KNOW THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT WE MADE TOGETHER  
HELP ME THROUGH THOSE TIMES ALONE.

SO LET YOUR DREAMS BURN AS BRIGHT AS THIS FLAME  
AND LET YOUR MEMORIES RUN FREE  
FOR SOON ENOUGH THE SUMMER WILL RETURN  
AND BACK AT KAMAJI WE CAN BE.





# What's up with Kat?

It has been a busy Fall!!! Jason has been driving all around Wisconsin and Minnesota picking up the new sail boats we are adding to Kamaji's fleet. Two of the new Barnetts even have a jib sheet- it will be exciting to see Addison and Mira, Jessie and Olivia sailing them around Wolf Lake! 😊

I have been busy working on the video scrapbook from last summer and meeting with families interested in coming to Kamaji next summer. I'm hoping you can all help me connect with other families all over the country who might be interested in joining us at camp next summer (if you want to host an info session at your home, I would be happy to join you for that!)

It has been really fun for me to continue to talk with future Kamaji campers, I like to imagine what each new camper will bring to camp and the friendships they have ahead of them. It is always this time of year when I think about how important those camp relationships are during camp but also during the off-season. I want you each to remember how much you matter. If you are feeling bored, lonely, or even happy- take the time to reach out to someone from camp! And if someone has reached out to you, take the time to respond, because that connection is a special and important one- that person was thinking about you- you matter! Recently, I have been lucky enough to meet with a few prospective campers whose moms attended Kamaji around the same time I did. Even if we weren't necessarily friends as campers, it is really fun to have that connection. We have a language, a bond, a shared culture. Building that community and maintaining that community and legacy is just one part of what makes Kamaji so special!





# HAPPY Birthday



## NOVEMBER

Eliana Laragh	4
Lucy Carmel	6
Noa Jacoby	6
Soad Ibrahim	6
Julia Showalter	7
Lia Fleischer	9
Zoey Caine	9
Mollie Hirsh	10
Priya Kwatra	11
Olivia Latimer	14
Claire Windom	15
Piper Vasey	15
Sofia Chevaile Canseco	16
Katelyn Rosen	17
Cecilia Pekow	19
Orly Garfield	22
Vera Treviño Armenta	22
Lauren McIntire	25
Penelope Sipe	28
Eva Saddleton	29
Yahaira Cabrera	29

## DECEMBER

Audrey Kaplan	5
Juliette Sagett	5
Amelia Kettenring	10
Nora Miller	11
Ana Gonzalez	13
Jane Geeting	13
Rowan Safer	13
Shorouq Ibrahim	15
Madison Robinson	16
Alexa Young	18
Alexa Young	18
ana gutierrez garza	20
Eloise Baker	22
Rose Vaglio	27
Zoe Goshko	29
Catherine Cassidy	30
Sydney Genser	31

## STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Karla Tapia Zarate	Nov 4	Karla Vidal Rodriguez	Nov 27
Annie Rogula	Nov 7	Luna Domiciano	Nov 27
Tamara Barran	Nov 12	Lexi "Links" Markham	Dec 2
Katia Cacho Silva	Nov 13	Jason Nelson	Dec 4
Fernando Bravo Feria	Nov 17	Ana Ramirez Narvaez	Dec 11
Rachael Walton	Nov 21	Leah "Fred" Irvin	Dec 16
Emi Trevino	Nov 22	Jennifer Rabb	Dec 23
Abbey Alderman	Nov 24		



Log on to  
CampInTouch to get  
your friends' contact  
info and send some  
birthday love!

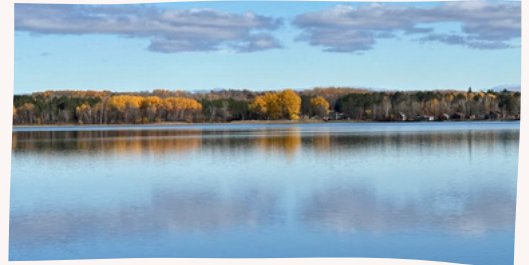
# RANDY'S RAMBLINGS

Fall at Kamaji is in full swing! Trees have changed to many colors, leaves are falling, pine needles are falling, and temperatures are falling! I have all the buildings, boats and cars put away and ready for winter's cold. As I am writing it is in the low 40's but come this weekend the high will be 32 degrees! Brrrr. Soon ice will overtake the lake and snow will blanket the land. I have been collecting a lot of wood to keep the shop warm this winter. The back wall of the shop is completely stacked with old trees that I cut up to fit in the small fireplace that is in the shop.

I have been working hard to finish siding on a couple of the Cubes (support staff housing) so they look as beautiful as the camper cabins. Once that is done then I can move inside and finish the flooring so the cabins will be fully updated. Jason arrives at camp today; he is hauling up the last of the new sailboats Kamaji has added to update the fleet. We will store those so they will be ready for 2024 sailors to take them out on their maiden voyages this summer!

Ollie (the pup!) has joined me at camp and loves running around and doing dog things. I don't know how he does it, but he sure finds a lot of treasures to bring to me. You guys must lose a lot of clothes in the woods because he sure has brought me a lot of clothing items 😊! Well, that's enough Ramblin's from me! Until next time.

-Randy & Ollie



## THINGS WE CAN'T FORGET

### First Session

- PLAYING CARDS
- THE LIBRARY
- CAPTURE THE FLAG!!
- FOOTLONG HOTDOGS
- SKI STAFF
- "LATE" NIGHT PUMP RUNS
- JOHN JACOB
- CHICKEN TENDERS NIGHT
- BOY OH BOY WHAT A DAY ITS BEEN

### Second Session

- WRITING OUR TRIP SONG
- JIBBETS
- WATER BALLOON BABIES
- RULE #13
- WACKY BALLS
- CABIN NOT CLEAN-UP
- DUCK 1. DUCK 2. DUCK 3. DUCK GO
- TUBING
- TOAST TOWN
- YOGA
- JASON SITTING WITH US AT LUNCH
- BIRCH LAKE