

## Alumni Corner

### Camp Makes a Difference!

We all know that Camp makes a difference in lives...maybe our own if we attended, maybe our children's if we are parents of current or past campers, maybe the lives of Sunday School students we've taught. We also all know that Camp makes a difference in the lives of both campers and counselors from our own experiences or the experiences of people we know. The American Camp Association (ACA) recently published a study that they've been working on for the past five years that specifically tracks the ways that camps impact campers and staff members. The ACA study reinforced what we all already knew: Camp Makes a Difference in measurable, definable ways!

We asked some of our recent staff members how Newfound and Owatonna have made a difference in their lives, both as campers and as counselors, and we received many excellent responses. Here are some of them!

"Newfound taught me how to make Christian Science my own. It gave me the space to learn, explore, and test the teachings of Christian Science for myself, and see if it's something I really believed in. I had some of my first major significant healings at Camp, and I'll never forget them. There's really no other place where you have such a beautiful, loving, and supportive environment to learn about your spiritual identity, among your peers, for an extended period of time like that! Camp has undoubtedly made me a better person — more unselfish, more principled, and more loving."

"Camp has made a difference in my life because it has taught me a new perspective to expect good, see the beauty in everything, and Camp introduced me to self love. I have made friendships that will last a long time and have connections with people I can always depend on."

"A difference Camp has made in my life is teaching me about measuring time according to the good that unfolds. I think about friends I knew for only one summer (both as a camper and a counselor) and how close we became after only 7 weeks with each other! It shows me that the time we've known each other doesn't have to limit or define sisterhood. It is a lesson I love to carry with me during the time I'm not at Camp."

"I know for us as parents, we felt Camp was an important part of college preparation. It gave our boys an opportunity to learn to be independent and responsible in a loving, protected environment. It's also an opportunity for kids to live with others and learn how to interact and work together to create an environment that is beneficial and happy. While guidance is given, it's given by someone other than a parent. All of this is part of the college experience. I know that my children were well prepared to attend college quite some distance from home. I can't say enough good things about Camp."

“Camp has made a difference in my life by giving me a strong model of what being a young woman should look like. Being surrounded by positive examples of womanhood during my teenage years helped shape me into the woman that I am today. Also, spending my summers outdoors away from technology allowed me to make meaningful connections and lasting relationships with others. I am deeply appreciative of the summers that I spent in an environment that challenged me to grow while helping me embrace the unique qualities that make me, me!”

“Camp has taught me how to love and be loved. I know, without a doubt, that each summer has made me a better person and has prepared me to share joy and kindness with every person I encounter in my life. I would not be me without Camp.”

“Camp was one of the only constants in my life. No matter what happened that school year, whether it was transitioning from middle to high school, or moving to a new house, Camp and my fellow cabin mates were always there. I would always look forward to seeing the beautiful green grass on Coomber Field and to find out who my counselors were.”

“Camp has made me more fearless, more compassionate, and open to trying new things. I’ve not only learned more about myself every year at Camp but also more about my relationship with God. I’ve met some of the best friends of my life and made the best memories.”

“In teaching tennis or in other activities, camp is an opportunity to serve, serve, serve.”

“The biggest difference Camp has made in my life is the influence it has had on me and the way I see the world. Camp has given me the tools and strength, both physical and mental, to always see the light and the beauty even in the darkest of situations and to always see the beauty and light in every person I meet. Being given those tools and practicing from a young age has dramatically shaped the life I live and has guided me as I entered my teenage years and now adulthood. I am who I am today 100% because of Camp and I could not be more grateful!!”

“Camp has provided a place that has strengthened my relationship with God and allowed me to meet some of my very best friends.”

“Newfound has shaped me into the woman I am today. I've loved learning in Christian Science more about myself and from all my sisters around me. Camp has grown me in my strength, courage, confidence, and helped me spread my joy.”