

A Summer to Remember

Summer has come and gone once again, and this really was a summer to remember. The campers and staff enjoyed the laughter, fun and activities making lasting memories. On the list of summer highlights are playing water balloon volley ball during *Hollywood Stars* week, a toilet paper wedding dress fashion show during *Viva Las Vegas* week, joining in the “Wet, Wild & Wacky” water games during *Circus*, *Circus Week*, and “The Game of Life” scavenger hunt during *60s/70s Flashback* week.

The creative, dynamic and diverse summer staff were phenomenal. We welcomed 10 international staff to camp this year from England, Scotland, Mexico, New Zealand, The Netherlands and Colombia. In addition, we welcomed American staff from the local area as well as from California, Alabama, Ohio, and New Jersey. Overall, the summer was wonderful. Many thanks go out to all the staff, campers and volunteers for their smiles and laughter that made this summer a huge success.



Going Green

Clover Patch Camp is “Going Green”. We will be sending all 2011 applications and correspondence via email. We will still mail hardcopies, when necessary. If you have a new or preferred email address please send it to the camp office. In addition, camp documents will be posted on the website for your convenience.

www.cloverpatchcamp.org

Friends & Neighbors

We would like to thank all of our amazing volunteers for their generous donation of time and talents. You put smiles on our faces and provided us with memories we will never forget. Many thanks to the Schenectady County Probation Department for organizing a group of youths to help with our spring clean-up. In collaboration with our friends and neighbors from the Center for Disability Services, they swarmed all over camp gardening, raking, landscaping and generally making us look great.

We were very pleased to receive numerous gift card donations from local businesses again this year. These generous gifts came from Malta Drive-In Theater, Glenville Mini Sportsplex, WalMart of Halfmoon, WalMart of Latham, Ben & Jerry’s and the Glenville Queen diner. These gifts give our staff incentive and recognition for a job well done.

Throughout the summer many entertainers volunteered their talents to amuse the campers and staff. Among these generous people were DJ Cap Capello, All Them Chops, the Nisky Dixie Cats, Albany Police Pipe & Drum band, Kramer’s Hot Air Balloons, Therapy Dog International, SNAP Ensemble, Connie DuBois, Brian the Hippie, and the Colonie Town Band.

In September we collaborated with Smile Monster (www.smilemonster.com) and the United States Marine Corp to complete facility refurbishments. The Marines assisted us with an extensive painting project in Steven’s Hall and our sleeping cabins. In addition, they seal-coated our ramps and decking, split and stacked firewood, and began winterizing the facility. Local Boy Scout Troop 56 rounded out our volunteer groups for the season by continuing our painting projects.

We provided an outdoor living experience for 208 campers this season. We are honored to continue the long-standing tradition of enhancing the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities.

Camper Spotlight

Joseph began attending Clover Patch Camp over 30 years ago. "I love camp because it gives me something to do during the summer and I get to meet all the beautiful girls," he says.

When Joseph began attending Clover Patch as a young boy it was a natural fit. Camp allowed him to enjoy the outdoors, meet new people, and develop his independence while receiving necessary medical and physical support. Now, 30 years later, Joseph is a leader among his peers. He promotes self-advocacy, loves volunteering, and is active in his community.

In his free time Joseph enjoys going to the movies, dining out, reading, and cheering on the New York Yankees.

What activities do you like best at camp?

Swimming and the campfires

What is the worst thing about camp?

The sessions are too short.

What are your fondest memories of camp?

I have two. The first is the time that I was sleeping on the top bunk and fell out of bed right into a mud puddle...at 4 o'clock in the morning! The second is being part of the Clover Patch Camp 40th anniversary celebration (2005). I hope that I will be at the 50th anniversary celebration too.

Is there anything else that you would like to mention?

Yes. Chris (Schelin, Camp Administrator) has been a great friend to me, even though he's a Mets fan.



Joseph then.



Joseph now.

Camp Business

- ♣ We continue to explore new funding options for our campers. Campers are encouraged to seek out funding through other sources such as their sponsoring agency, local businesses and community groups.
- ♣ We have many volunteer opportunities for community groups, businesses, school groups and individuals. If you or your group is interested in volunteering please contact Laura for details.
- ♣ Camper, employment and volunteer applications and information will be available for download in the New Year. Stay up-to-date on all the latest news and information. If you would like to be included on the camp email list please contact the camp office. As always, don't forget to check out our website for the latest news, pictures, upcoming events and much more!

www.cloverpatchcamp.org



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