

From the Director... August 3, 2010

Lost and Found...

The other evening I was doing the camp laundry! A few years of unmarked lost and found from 3 or 4 years ago – about 13 loads – just part of the glamour of being a camp director! Always the optimist, each summer I hoped it would be claimed but instead it moved further into a corner. Since it had been taking up some valuable space, I wanted to get it cleaned and donated. As I was watching the clothes suds then tumble dry I thought about those three words, “lost and found.”

As children grow up they often become lost. I don't mean lost in the physical sense, we hope that never happens, but instead they become misdirected, unsure of which way to go, befuddled by choices, overwhelmed by the scale of what is presented to them. Maybe it's better to say they lose their way! It is by no means fun, but these missteps are part of what help children grow and mature. In many situations, children can make the choice themselves to get back on the familiar track. But occasionally the path is unfamiliar, the choices too overwhelming. That's when a parent, older sibling, grandparent or teacher can step in and help – not to make the choice for the child, but to help direct them to make the correct choice. As a result children learn the patterns and strategies necessary to make wise choices when they feel “lost!” In the process, they've been “found!” Unfortunately there are many children who, for whatever reasons, don't have the good fortune to have those perceptive adults in their lives to “find” them when they lose their way. That's something that we, as adults, need to work towards: finding effective means to provide all children with someone in their lives who can “find” them when they become lost.

Here at Nonesuch, we celebrate the opportunity for children to choose and to help find their way when they feel a bit lost. The most difficult part of camp is when campers have to select their activities! As parents know, it can take some time and that's why we want parents to be part of the process! Once in their activities, there are times when campers might become a little “lost!” Maybe it's deciding whether or not to re-cut a board in woodworking (and learning that valuable lesson – measure twice, cut once!), or going up to bat again to try and hit that screwball whiffleball pitch! Perhaps it's rolling the pinch pot back into a ball and starting over to make sure it doesn't collapse on itself. Whatever might cause campers to be lost, we want to help “find” them, and in the process help them find themselves!

The “lost and found” can be an important place to check in on for missing items! But more importantly we need to always check in on our children to be sure that when they are “lost” someone is there to “find” them.

Paul

A few quick announcements...

- Please take a look at our new website, www.camponesuch.org . We've designed it to be “family friendly” with a downloads page that has the *activity sign up forms* (available during their publish periods), *activity descriptions*, and *guest forms*, a page that highlights the events of each week, “*This week at Camp Nonesuch*,” a photo gallery, a procedure and policy page and a frequently asked questions page (with answers!). We hope that it can become a resource for families and campers as they become part of the greater Nonesuch family!

- We still have openings in the fourth session. If you are interested in extending your child's camp experience for another session, please email me p.karasch@rivers.org or call 508-655-8118.