

Official Newsletter of Camp Duffield

# THE OUTPOST

DECEMBER 2025



Wishing you a Merry Christmas from your friends at  
Camp Duffield!

Save these dates! Summer 2026!

Challenge Camp  
Children's Science Camp  
Children's Music Camp  
Annual Meeting

July 5-11  
July 12-18  
July 19-25  
Feb 11

Night Owls July 26-Aug 1  
Children's Impact 716 Aug 2- Aug 7  
First Timers July 12-15 or July 19-22





# Camp Friendships That Echo Through the Years

There are friendships born beneath the pines and stars that feel different from all the rest. At camp, laughter carries across the lake, secrets are whispered in cabins, and bonds are tied with the simple thread of shared adventure. These are not fleeting connections; they are the kind that linger, like the scent of woodsmoke on a favorite sweatshirt.

Each summer, children race back to familiar trails, finding the same faces waiting at their cabins. They pick up conversations as if no time has passed, weaving new memories into the old. Counselors and adults, too, return year after year, drawn not only by the camp itself but by the circle of friends who have become family.

Camp friendships are timeless. They survive distance, outlast school years, and grow into adulthood. They show up at weddings, reunions, and even in the quiet phone calls that bridge decades. Camp friends meet every summer, sometimes at reunions, sometimes just for a weekend by the pines. They laugh about the mosquito bites, the burnt marshmallows, the silly songs. And when they sit around the fire, they feel it again—that timeless circle of friendship, glowing as brightly as the embers.

Because camp isn't just a place you go. It's a place you return to, again and again, for friends who became family and to be surrounded by nature, laughter, and shared adventures that last far beyond the final campfire. memories are the friends we made at camp!



# Celebrating a Summer of Friendship, Learning, and Fun

What an incredible summer we've had together! Each week brought new adventures, laughter, and learning. From music and science to challenges and night traditions, our campers discovered new skills, built lasting friendships, and created memories that will stay with them for years to come. We're excited to share some of the highlights with you.

## 🎵 Challenge Camp

Challenge Camp kept our spirits high with Rockin' Robin and Jazzline. Their music had us all on our feet—because when the beat drops, we can't help but dance!



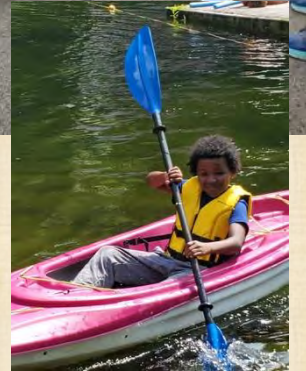
## 🔬 Science Camp

Science Camp was a journey of exploration and hands-on fun. Campers planted a pollinator garden along the pond, and guest Val Macer taught us the importance of pollinator gardens while helping us grow one at camp. She also generously donated two kayaks and provided instruction- opening up the pond for new adventures. Chris Dabney amazed us with samples from his bug collection and giant pinecones from his forestry days. Luke Bouthillier wowed us with a fire spinning demonstration.



## Music Camp

Music Camp struck a joyful chord this summer. Micah Nutter Dowling returned to continue ukulele lessons, and thanks to Micah and Diane Cookfair, every camper had a ukulele to play. Nikki Casseri and her husband, Brandon Schraml, joined us from NYC to teach steel tongue drums—each camper received one to take home—and shared skills from their acting careers. Stephen Bell brought his drums and led an unforgettable all-camp drum circle. Robin presented a lesson in *Music in Nature* and continued canoeing instruction, blending creativity with outdoor adventure.



## 🌙 Night Owls

Night Owls week is always special—a time when young people and their staff form strong bonds through games, discussions, and friendship. This year included the beloved Flour War and Watermelon War in the pond, exciting Night Games of Wolf under the stars, and a brand-new cardboard boat race in the pond—a challenge that had everyone cheering as boats were built, launched, and sank!



## 🌟 Closing Reflection

Across all camps, friendships grew stronger, campfires glowed brighter, and every day ended with stories and smiles. This summer reminded us that camp isn't just about activities—it's about the connections we make, the traditions we carry forward, and the new adventures we create together.

Thank you for being part of our camp family. We can't wait to see what next summer brings!

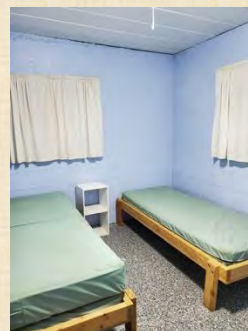
In October, some of Camp Duffield's alumni came together to reconnect, share memories, and celebrate lasting friendships. They introduced their children to the joy and traditions of camp, passing along the magic to a new generation eager to experience the fun their parents cherished.



## Rental News

Duffield has had a busy year! We've had many rental groups. Local schools, churches, families, and groups have come to camp. Thank you to Do Over Dog Training, Earth Spirit, Belfast and Amherst School districts for holding their events with us! Thanks to Bread of Life, OLHC Church, New Vision, St. Bartholomew, Alden Presbyterian Church, Lancaster Presbyterian Church, Amherst Presbyterian Church, Greater Works Church, Hamburg Presbyterian Church, North Presbyterian Church and Lancaster Presbyterian Church for using Duffield for your reunions, weddings, and get togethers. As our 2027 begins to fill up with rentals, we encourage you to reach out to secure your date.

Overton, one of the original building at Camp Duffield, is now available for rentals. The cabin is a stand-alone cabin, with a kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, and a shared living space. Next time you visit camp, check it out!



Thanks to our dedicated volunteers we not only worked through our yearly maintenance of the camp but forged ahead to clean, repair and spruce up the camp, keeping it good condition. Many thanks to the work crews that showed up on our Spring And Fall Workdays. We always welcome volunteers to clean up, get equipment ready for the next season, split wood, turn on/off water to buildings that are not winterized. Many hands make light work!

We continue to look for volunteers to volunteer as summer staff, with marketing and fundraising, and to help on workdays.

## Your Board of Directors

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# Thank You to Our 2025 Donors!

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Donors are the heart of Camp Duffield, making it possible for us to provide life-changing outdoor experiences and a welcoming place for all who visit.

Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11 at University Presbyterian Church at the corner of Niagara Falls Blvd. and Main Street (3330 Main St.) in Buffalo, beginning with appetizers at 5:30, a free meal at 6:00 and the formal meeting at 7:00. Please plan on attending. Please RSVP 716-440-9833 (Pat) or [contactus@campduffield.net](mailto:contactus@campduffield.net)

## Camp Duffield is beautiful in the Fall!



Thanks to Tom Bardo and Norm McLeod for creating and installing beautiful new signs for us!

