

May 2007



# Birch Pond Beacon

## Special Parent Edition

### Get a taste of Netop!

#### *A unique invitation to visit*

If you are considering Netop for your son(s), here is your chance to experience it first-hand. We are taking reservations now for a *complimentary* one-night stay at Netop this summer. This enables parents and sons who are considering Netop for the future the opportunity to experience it for a day or two.

Accommodations are provided in a "guest tent" and food and activities are included. One of the advantages of this program is that a family can get a taste of Netop before enrolling. A reservation is required, as there is limited space/days available. Send email to: [info@netopsummercamp.com](mailto:info@netopsummercamp.com) if interested.



### Campers select morning activities

The three morning activity periods at Netop offer campers the opportunity to learn and develop in areas of their choice. Scheduled in 4-day blocks, the emphasis is on skill development from "beginner" to "advanced". Instructors work with campers on levels of progression. Campers may choose to repeat activities in successive 4-day blocks.

### Most popular at camp?

#### *An interview with Nurse Beth*



Beth Hallowell, RN; the nurse makes her daily rounds

During the school year, Beth is the nurse at a local elementary school where she has responsibility for 550 kids ages 5-12. Let's get some insights about her role at Netop.

**Q:** What do you like about your Netop job?

**A:** *"That's easy; the kids of course. I enjoy getting to know each of them. Being a mom of three kids helps me understand and appreciate the campers' day to day needs".*

**Q:** What is your typical day like at camp?

**A:** *"I try to check in with as many campers as I can every day. Of course, I'm there for any health issues, but I also enjoy working on the big picture, helping make sure everyone is happy, safe, comfortable and having fun".*

**Q:** What are your greatest challenges?

**A:** *"It's similar to being a school nurse, in that the range of issues is so vast. It requires knowledge and experience, everything from handling an injury or illness to helping campers with smaller issues. But, I try to teach campers good health and wellness practices that will serve them well long term. I am generally busy at camp, but that is mostly my choice."*

## Netop values & culture

There are thousands of camps in the U.S. Many have similarities, but there are also differences in culture and values. The values modeled at Netop are an important part of the experience; these include:

- Friendship – Netop means “friend”
- Inclusiveness – one community
- Respect – others, diversity, nature
- Responsibility – cooperation, choices
- Encouragement – positive, supportive
- Sportsmanship – conduct, teamwork
- Learning – new skills, experiences
- Balance – being well-rounded



Camper and staff perform a skit on the Netop stage

## Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness, by Edward Hallowell, M.D. (good book!)

Dr. Edward Hallowell (no relation to this Hallowell) spoke at a recent camp conference about his book, *The Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness*. He cites 5 steps to raising children with the capacity to create and sustain joy and deal with adversity:

1. *Connection* – feeling connected; builds security and trust; leads to optimism
2. *Play* – develops imagination, capacity to daydream; builds creativity; joy
3. *Practice* – learning persistence and discipline; ability to receive help
4. *Mastery* – accomplishment; developing confidence, initiative, leadership
5. *Recognition* – feeling part of the group; builds self-esteem, identity

Dr. Hallowell believes camp is an ideal place to experience these important steps.

## Netop appeals to new campers

In a month or two, campers will be heading to Netop. For many, it will be their *first* camp experience. Consider: 90% of our campers from 2006 and 2007 chose Netop for their first overnight camp experience. In addition, 80% of campers from 2006 are returning in 2007. What do these numbers mean?

1. Netop is ideal for a first-time camper.
  - Smaller size makes it easy to adjust and feel comfortable
  - Supportive, nurturing community
  - Emphasis on values, friendship
2. Campers return because of Netop's:
  - People – outstanding staff
  - Place – beautiful setting
  - Program – broad appeal
  - Philosophy – “four spokes”

Parents might fear their son is “not quite ready for camp” or “has never been away from home”. These are common concerns. But, when parents, kids and camps work together to create a fun, meaningful, and memorable experience, kids develop incredible skills and confidence that is valuable throughout their lives. Consider this formula:

**Confidence + Opportunity = Growth**

When parents express *confidence* (versus anxiety), it transfers to the kids. When kids get an *opportunity* in the *right* environment, incredible *growth* takes place.



Inter-camp competition: Mike Griffin, Netop's Program Director, is already scheduling games with other camps for the 2007 season in baseball, kickball, basketball, soccer and volleyball. Games are scheduled by age level and campers may sign up as interested.