



Why I keep coming back to Camp Turner

By **BETHANY COATES**
Camp Counselor

I spend my summers in the woods. I wake up at 6:30 every morning with six hours of sleep after countless middle-of-the-night bathroom trips and at least one counseling session with a homesick 10-year-old. I live in a hot, humid cabin with no air conditioning. I spend the day scorching under the sun and under persistent bug attacks. I'm cut off from my family and friends for seven weeks, with no cell phone service. Many wonder why anyone would willingly do this all summer long.

The answer is simple. Being a camp counselor is an experience I can't get anywhere else. My six hours of sleep begin after priceless bonding with co-counselors while the campers are sleeping, lying under the stars or



FILE PHOTO

Archery is one of many activities camper take part in at Camp Turner in Allegany State Park.

having meaningful conversations on a porch with people I'd never interact with in my everyday life. I live in a cabin with 10 amazing

little girls each week, children that I can deeply impact and make lasting connections with. I don't notice the bug bites or sunburns

as I lead the kids in activities that they love all day, and that I love doing with them. I am cut off from where I live, but I am home, and I am with a family for seven weeks, closer than any blood or lifetime friendship could make us.

Camp Turner has taught me skills like how to build a fire, shoot a bow and arrow, and how to identify poison ivy. But it has taught me so much more about people and about myself. After three years as a camper and two years as a counselor, Camp Turner has become a place where I thrive and grow every day that I'm there. I've always thought that I was outgoing, but camp is the place where I learned to let go and really have fun, whether it be through a goofy skit or a silly song. I've always been willing to try new things, but camp is the place where I learned to be

See Turner page 34

SUMMER CAMPS

Canisius High School's BEST.SUMMER.EVER.
 four program choices for middle school boys:





Higher Achievement Program (HAP)



Robotics & Physics Olympics Workshop



Video Game Design & Animation Workshop



Sports Camps

www.canisiushigh.org/bestsummerever
 1180 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209 • 716-882-0466

Turner offers unique camping experiences

from page 33
 adventurous and take advantage of every opportunity, whether it be exploring pitch black, tightly enclosed bear caves or sleeping in the woods under the stars. I've always liked making friends, but camp is the place where I made my best friend and learned that I can form deep connections with just about anyone, from a 7-year-old child to an older counselor who remembers me as a young camper. I've always been one to take charge, but camp is the place where I learned what it really meant to be a leader, how listening is just as important as talking and each person in the group is just as important as I am.

I love camp because it's an experience I can't get anywhere else and one that I wish everyone could have. Everything I do helps a child in some way; the goofy skit makes a shy boy laugh, my willingness and excitement to sleep out creates courage in

the girl who was apprehensive at first, a connection with a temperamental young boy makes him feel understood and loved, and my leadership teaches a group of older girls to listen to each other and work together.

Our camp director often says, "It's important to do well, but it's more important to do good." In my two years as a counselor, I have really taken this saying to heart as I work with hundreds of children every summer. I once was a camper who cried and wanted to go home on the first day. I have become comfortable in a setting that can be uncomfortable. I have been able to appreciate the value in a situation that many would find unpleasant. Now I cry and dread going home on the last day.

Building on my experiences, I have grown as a person and created a foundation for future growth which will follow me wherever I go.

CAMP MERCY
 MOUNT MERCY ACADEMY




JULY 16-20, 2018
 A fun summer camp with something for every girl!
 For girls entering grades 3-8 | incoming freshman welcome
 Visit www.mtmercy.org/campmercy or contact Molly at (716) 825-8796 ext. 320 mgasuik@mtmercy.org



ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL
 ROUTE 5-HAMBURG, NY

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM 2018
 For boys entering 6th-8th grades
 Academics, Athletics & more
July 9-13, July 16-20 & July 23-27
 For more info call
 Admissions (716) 627-1200 x 582
 Visit our website www.stfrancishigh.org



FILE PHOTO

Campers use team work to navigate a rope maze at Camp Turner. the Allegany park offers many activities that allow campers to build their collaborative skills.

Canisius camps help ease transition to high school

By GINGER GEOFFERY
 Communications Director,
 Canisius High School

The transition from middle school to high school can be a big adjustment for some students, but there is a way to ease the transition during the summer between grades seven and eight. Camps such as the Higher Achievement Program (HAP) at Canisius High School offer boys heading into eighth grade a glimpse ahead to high school life.

“Using the classrooms, the auditorium, the fields and gym helps familiarize you with the school and that makes you more comfortable when you start freshman year,” says Noah Spiesz, who attended HAP in 2014 and is now a junior at Canisius High School.

HAP is a five-week program that blends academics, athletics and other fun activities each day. “I loved the sports, but even the classroom sessions didn’t feel like school,”



COURTESY OF CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

The Higher Achievement Program at Canisius High School is a five-week program that blends academics, athletics and other fun activities.

said Noah. “It was a genuine, fun experience.”

Developing friendships that

continue into high school is another benefit of a program such as HAP.

“The majority of the kids I went to

HAP with are still my friends today,” Noah said. “By the end of the five weeks we all knew each other well and had bonded. That was my first real sample of what Canisius is all about and the community you are immersed in when you come to this school. Whether or not you are considering Canisius for high school, HAP is a super experience.”

Canisius has other options for boys who will be entering grades six or seven in the fall and are interested in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). They can explore video game design and animation concepts at a workshop that runs July 9-13. There’s also a Robotics and Science Olympics workshop offered July 16-20. Students can do one or both of the workshops.

This year’s HAP runs from June 25 to July 26. Space is limited. Learn more at canisiushigh.org/hap and canisiushigh.org/bestsummerever.

CAMP TURNER

Overnight camping for
boys and girls ages 7-16

Operated by the
Catholic Diocese of Buffalo

716-354-4555

CampTurner@gmail.com





www.CampTurner.com

Archery • Arts & Crafts • Basketball
 Beach Club • Court Hockey • Creek Walks
 Fishing • Ga-ga Ball • Games-in-the-woods
 Indoor Gaming • Hiking • Horseback Riding
 Horse Grooming & Care • Human Foosball
 Low Ropes Course • Nature Education
 Wood Shop • 9 Square in the Air

Our location in Allegany State Park offers an abundance of outdoor education and recreational opportunities in a heavily wooded area with beautiful mountain lakes and streams.

Catholic Camping guides campers to seek the presence of God in all things, especially themselves, each other and nature.

Open House
 Sat., July 7, 1-4 pm
 Come meet our staff!

MAKE IT A ST. JOE'S SUMMER

COLLEGIATE SUMMER!

Popular 4-week program for boys between their 7th and 8th grade year

June 25 – July 20

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day



Find information about all of our summer programs including Innovation Camp and Sports Camps at sjci.com/admissions or call 716.874.4953.



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
845 Kenmore Avenue, Buffalo NY 14223
sjci.com • 716.874.4953

NU accepting registration for Summer Youth Camp

LEWISTON — Niagara University's recreation department is now accepting registrations for its popular Summer Youth Camp. Camp will be held on campus from June 25-Aug. 10.

Geared toward children ages 6-12, the camp is conducted in a safe, fun environment by an experienced and friendly staff, and features access to university facilities, tours of the Castellani Art Museum, and a wide range of themed weekly activities, including Adventure Week, Sports Week, Around the World Week, Game Show Week, Holiday Week and Wacky Week.

With the exception of the abbreviated July 4 week (\$120), the cost to register for a week of camp is \$150. Campers may

enroll for as many or as few of the seven weeks as they wish. Pre-registration is required, at which time a \$50 deposit per week is due.

The camp operates Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. while extended care services will be available in the morning (7:30-8:45 a.m.) and afternoon (3:45-5:30 p.m.) for an additional fee.

Participating children should bring a lunch and snacks that do not need to be refrigerated. An option to purchase lunches for \$5 per day is also offered.

For registration forms and additional information, please call 716.286.8055 or visit www.niagara.edu/summer-youth-camp. Online registrations can be submitted by visiting www.niagara.edu/summercamp.



BASKETBALL

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP

for boys entering 6th, 7th or 8th grade in the fall of 2018.

Learn skills and drills from St. Francis coaches.

ONLY \$150

JULY 30TH - AUGUST 3RD

8:30AM - 3:30PM

Visit us at stfranchishigh.org to register online.

Call 716-627-1200 x 582 for more information.

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINES

IN ORDER TO ADVERTISE IN OUR

Back to School

SECTION FOR THE

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Contact Darryl Tills:

716-847-8736

dtills@buffalodiocese.org

Deadlines

Ad reservations: Aug. 6th
Article submissions: Aug. 10th



CARDINAL O'HARA High School

2018 SUMMER CAMPS



- › ACTING & SINGING
- › BAND CAMP
- › PHYSICS & ENGINEERING
- › SOCCER
- › ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT
- › GIRLS BASKETBALL
- › FOOTBALL
- › GOLD GLOVE BASEBALL

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFO. PLEASE VISIT WWW.CARDINALOHARA.COM

716-695-2600

What it means for girls to be a part of Camp Mercy

By **BRI SIKORASKA**
Camp Mercy

For the past three years, I have been a Camp Mercy counselor. This camp is truly my favorite part of summer because I get to connect with future Mercy girls and develop leadership skills as well. During this time, we take the girls on field trips and get to see what Buffalo truly looks like, some of the girls have never been to places like Canalside. Seeing their faces when we go makes it all worthwhile.

This is our fourth year of the camp, which was created to reach out to potential Mercy girls and provide an enjoyable, educational, experiential five-day program during the summer.

Student campers are able to participate in sessions on scientific discovery, dance, cheerleading, art, and other activities. They also attend field trips to Canalside and other local attractions.

Mount Mercy Academy of Buffalo sponsors Camp Mercy to girls in third through eighth grade. The weeklong camp offers fun projects based in science, technology, fine arts, creative arts and world cultures.

The 2018 Camp Mercy is held from July 16-July 20.

Visit www.mtmercy.org/campmercy or contact Molly at (716) 825-8796 ext. 320 or mgasuik@mtmercy.org

At Camp Mercy, campers connect with future Mercy girls and develop leadership skills as well.

COURTESY OF BETH FEENEY



St. Joe's summer programs offer academics and sports

KENMORE — By late June, students, and sometimes faculty, are anxious for that final bell to ring on the last day before summer recess. But just a few days later, the St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute campus comes alive again as summer programs begin for boys of all ages. The school prides itself on the quality of the programs it offers each year, and all are led by St. Joe's faculty and coaches.

Collegiate Summer is the lengthiest program at four weeks in total, giving young men entering eighth grade in the fall a chance to experience St. Joe's up close. Part of the goal of the program is to help these young men avoid "summer slide" by offering a few hours of engaging academics. The rest of the day is spent in recreational activities while the boys form friendships with others the same age from all over Western New York. Simply put, the campers rave about their experience.

At the same time, boys can be enrolled in



PATRICK McPARTLAND/MANAGING EDITOR

Collegiate Summer at St. Joseph Collegiate campers get to work in the computer learning center.

one of nine unique sports camps offered by the coaches at St. Joe's. New this year is a sports performance camp offered by the school's strength and conditioning partner, IMPACT Sports

Performance of Buffalo. The expert trainers will guide young athletes through programs implemented currently at the high school to keep student-athletes healthy while increasing their strength and skills. The age requirements vary among the nine sports camp offerings, but there is an opportunity for boys from grades two to 12.

And in 2017, St. Joe's launched Innovation Camp, open to boys entering seventh and eighth grades. Each day, campers explored a different technology. Led by St. Joe's director of technology, the campers experienced game coding, virtual reality, drone flying, augmented reality, robotics and more. Alumni working in various tech fields were also on hand each day to work with the campers and elevate the experience. The camp sold out very quickly, so the school is offering two sessions this year.

For more information visit www.sjci.com/admissions.