

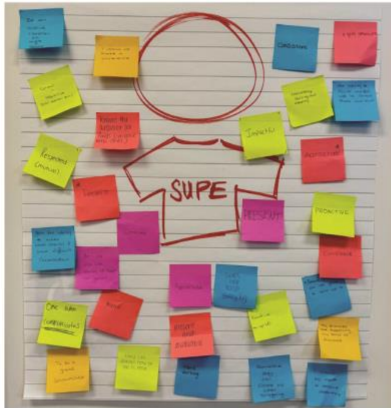
Campfire Tales

2026

JUNE

Three reflections before Opening Day

A compact print collection of Aaron Selkow's 2026 Campfire Tales. Scan any QR code to read the complete original post.



JUNE 12

Before the Campers Arrive

Before campers arrive, leadership training turns toward the kind of adults we want to be. A SUPES exercise about being present, approachable, consistent and impactful becomes a reminder that growth - for campers and leaders alike - is something we practice.



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JUNE 21

Camp is a Gift

A Staff Week address about choice, service and legacy: why every role matters, why mistakes are part of growth, and why the gifts of camp often reveal themselves years after the summer ends.



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JUNE 26

Our Stewardship

As Opening Day approaches, the focus shifts from plans and schedules to the children families entrust to us. This reflection is about earning that trust, creating the right challenges, and remembering that every camper is the center of someone else's world.



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Campfire Tales 2026

JULY

Four stories from the heart of the summer



JULY 4

Seen

A birthday at camp becomes a reflection on one of the deepest human needs: to be noticed for who we are and what we bring. The most meaningful recognition is often simply knowing that someone saw the best in us.



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JULY 11

Practicing Character

Character is built in the quiet moments - inviting someone in, trying again, telling the truth, choosing kindness. Chestnut Lake's character language and beads make visible what camp has always tried to practice every day.



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JULY 17

What Kids Already Know

Six campers answer a simple question about what they love most. Their answers point beyond activities toward friendship, belonging and the people who make camp matter long after the schedule itself is forgotten.



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JULY 23

Bring Camp Home

Camp does not end when the bus pulls away. This piece explores how parents can help children make meaning of their summer - through patient questions, reflection, and room for the stories and growth to keep unfolding at home.



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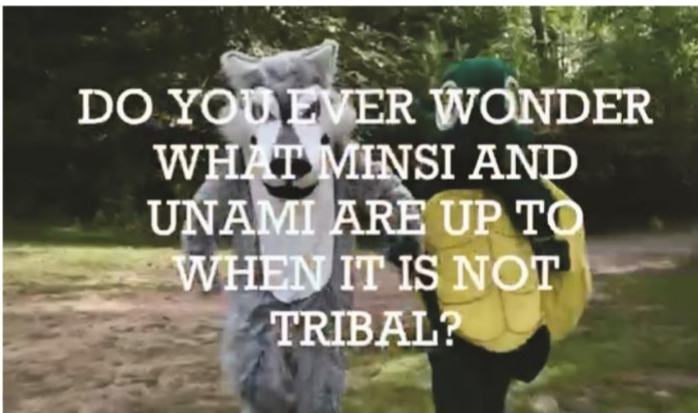
AUGUST 1

Forever Camps

When families face unexpected change at a beloved camp, the instinct is to preserve what mattered. This reflection is about honoring old friendships while helping children become part of something larger, and about growing Chestnut Lake carefully enough to keep it feeling like home.



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AUGUST 8

Doing the Math

The annual guessing game around Tribal reveals something bigger than the date itself: anticipation is part of the joy. The rituals, clues and not-knowing help make a tradition feel larger before it ever begins.



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AUGUST 14

Just Camp

At summer's end, a simple question - what is it about camp? - leads back to the essentials: time away from home, shared life, freedom, relationships, resilience and belonging. For all that changes, the heart of camp remains remarkably simple.



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About Campfire Tales

Aaron & Ann Selkow | Owners/Directors



Several times before campers arrive - and then each week throughout the summer - Aaron writes to Chestnut Lake families about something he has been noticing, thinking about, or experiencing at camp. These are not weekly recaps. They are reflections on growing up, belonging, independence, friendship, leadership and community - the moments that help explain why camp matters.

Writing has long been part of Aaron's way of making sense of meaningful experiences. He is the author of *Robust Cloud: A Journey Through China to Parenthood*, about the journey he and Ann took to becoming parents and bringing their daughter Lily home from China. *Campfire Tales* grows from the same instinct: notice the moments that matter, reflect on what they might mean, and preserve some of them in words.

chestnutlakecamp.com

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