

Founded in 1949, the Luethi-Peterson Camps are nonprofit co-ed summer camps in different countries whose aim is to foster international understanding by bringing together young people from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

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OCTOBER 2022

LUETHI-PETERSON CAMPS LPC-US, Inc.



"PSST WAKE UP!" Heggnes, Norway

HEGGNES / ARLO BECKMAN

IN THE BARN AT HEGGNES, CAMPERS ROLLED over, legs twitching as I struggled to wake them from deep slumber. I imagined that this was not the wake up they had been expecting: 6 hours before morgensport would begin. Naturally, the enthusiasm to leave the comfort of their warm bedroom was low; and for a brief moment I questioned the motives of the staff, waking the whole camp up in the middle of the night when sleep is one of the most precious resources at LPC. But after getting a couple heads up, eyes visibly glazed in the twilight of the room, I headed back outside confident that they would rise.

Stepping outside I immediately remembered the urgency with which we had woken everybody up. Outside, campers were streaming out of the house to gaze up in wonder at what had been a fantasy to me merely 30 minutes earlier. Above us, blue lights danced in the sky, making an already bright night in Heggnes even brighter. There were streams of color that slowly grew in intensity and piled up into flowing green waves along the far corners of the horizon. I stood below, and watched sleepiness fade as campers turned to the heavens to gaze upon one of the coolest natural phenomena I have ever experienced.

Beneath the sky, discussions bounced between campers who were slowly waking more and more. There was awe, skepticism, talk of what causes aurora borealis. Between them, they shared more experience than I could have ever anticipated; and these discussions reminded me again of the beauty of the place we were all so lucky to have found ourselves in this summer. Heggnes is an uncut gem hidden amongst the mountains of Norway. It is a place I have found raw power not only within the landscape, but within the people as

well. A place where we share fascination and wonder with others whom we share so little life experience with. But it is shared experiences like this one that ultimately form inseparable bonds amongst the campers and counselors. In fact, looking around at all the faces that night, I starkly noticed how the hesitation I had seen at the airport had disappeared already, less than one week into camp!

This summer, I had the privilege of attending my seventh LPC camp; and counseling my second. Yet in my seven years of camp, I have never seen a group of campers bond more quickly than they did at Heggnes '22. Between handling a difficult logging situation at the site this summer, a lack of clean well water, and handling reportedly the worst summer weather Norway has experienced in 60 years, our camper group remained tough, laughing at the struggles we faced together and growing from them. Witnessing this upbeat resilience, and pure joy within a group of teenagers who have been isolated and unable to partake in camp for the past several years was a healing, and truly inspiring experience. For this reason I found the LPC experience this summer to be particularly powerful, and it was pleasing to the entire staff to see how significantly our core LPC values spoke to the campers. I hope that each camper has continued to immerse themselves in these ideologies at home, but I have no doubt that they have.

Looking up into the heavens, I noted how much different my experience was here, a part of this beautiful multicultural group, than it would have been in my hometown of Saint Paul, Minnesota; and how much better we all are for having experienced this brief chapter of life in Heggnes this summer.

**- Arlo Beckman
22 years old, USA**



ECOLE / TOMEK CHILARSKI

END OF CAMP LETTER Ecole d'Humanité, Hasliberg-Goldern, Switzerland

WE ARE WRITING FROM HASLIBERG GOLDERN where we, as staff, are in the quiet and empty house, doing our final reflections of the summer, writing reports, and preparing to travel home.

When we last wrote, we were in the middle of the camp. A few days later we split the campers into four separate hikes, named “Blueberry” (staying at the campus and enjoying short walks in the surroundings, swimming in the lake and blueberry picking) “Sherlock Holmes” (going along the trail of a famous fictional detective character) “Lake” (going to the vicinity of beautiful lake of Brienz) and “Top of the World” (intense hike along the range of peak called Planplatten). The hikes all had fabulous but different experiences at various parts of the beautiful Swiss mountains and they were definitely a highlight for many campers. It was also very nice to reconnect again with the entire group and share all the stories and adventures including wild animals we met, beautiful views, blisters and tired feet! After the hike we all enjoyed a rest day with a special mellow evening programme during which we could share songs in our mother tongue, read a book or a poem.

The last week of camp went by in a flash as we packed in many activities and enjoyed each other's company more and more. We feel we managed to create a close community in the last week, with friendships strengthening and shyer campers flourishing. We had many new courses (including karate, theatre or crafts), some of them led by campers, fun games for evening programmes and

another excursion to the lake. We also organized a talent show where campers could show different talents or things they learned or practiced at camp, such as dances, songs, acroyoga and a theatre play. It was lovely to see them having accomplished so much in a limited amount of time and having enjoyed it at the same time. After the talent show we had pizza dinner followed by a party!

The very last day of camp was spent doing “Big Putz” which is a thorough cleaning of the houses—for several hours the campers and counselors scrubbed, swept, wiped, mopped, brushed, and washed every corner of the houses we used! (Hopefully the campers bring home the same motivation for cleaning they had on Big Putz!) In the afternoon, we had our final assembly in which we all reflected on our summer together in LPC. We were very touched to hear how the campers felt so positively impacted by living together simply in such a close community.

Finally they all gathered in the big hall of the Ecole (Grossensal) where we sang songs together, played guitar and wrote messages to the good-bye books the campers prepared.

The group has filled Ecole d'Humanité with memories, laughter, and good times. We hope that the campers are slowly readjusting to their lives back at home, and of course, that you are happy to have them back again! We truly miss them and feel a strong sense of achievement after this wonderful 3 weeks of living together.

- Staff of LPC Ecole 2022



ECOLE / JAIME LUCA MUSSO



ECOLE / JAIME LUCA MUSSO

REFLECTIONS OF AN ARTIST IN RESIDENCE Freedom, New Hampshire, USA

I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM SPENDING A week at LPC/Freedom as “artist in residence,” during which I worked with the campers on a large mural (10’ x 8’) on canvas attached to the barn door. This experience has left me personally reinvigorated and also re-inspired by LPC to the point of weepiness!

When my wife Deb decided to direct, I was pretty excited because I knew how important it was to her to see LPC up and running again after COVID. When we talked about me joining camp to do art activities during the day for a week, I got even more excited. Unfortunately, no sooner had Deb departed than things at home got complicated and stressful. Deb’s sister Loie, who lives with us, fell and went from the emergency room to the hospital, to rehabilitation. (She is much better and will be home very soon.) Additionally, I’d been having hip problems that cause me a good deal of pain and remind me that I’m an old guy. I was feeling pretty whiny. However, in about 5 minutes, the energy and enthusiasm of the kids and the focus and effort I put in just wiped all that negativity away. I had fun every day. In fact, every day was joyful! By the end of the week, I left feeling light on my feet and ready to take on whatever comes my way. I hope that shows through in the finished mural.

I came to LPC through marriage and until now my personal experience has been limited to brief visits. However, five days of being at camp from 9:00 to 5:00 and having a role that let me be a part of things, but slightly separate, was a revelation. I cannot imagine a better way for a 10-14-year-old to spend a few weeks of their summer than in an international community that emphasizes fun, responsibility, respect, simple living, cooperation, problem solving, etc. And with an organization that has been doing it for 70+

years so they really know what they are up to. I want to describe two aspects of camp that stood out for me.

At least in the US, activities for young people are almost exclusively adult organized and adult regulated. There is little opportunity for kids to think about what they really want to do and then figure out how to go about doing it. However, at LPC, this opportunity is there all day, every day. The campers have an amazing level of authentic responsibility for their own community and over and over you can see them excel at it. Of course, they goof off, fool around, show bad judgment, overdo mischievousness, make too much noise, etc. They’re kids! At LPC they are kids in an environment that gives them the opportunity and guidance, in my opinion, to be their very best selves.

I reflected a lot on role modeling during the week. The counselors, including my granddaughter Tess, were an exceptional group. This is no accident, nor unusual, right? It is by design. There is a process of self-selection, selection, training, and supervision that results in campers having contact with counselors that are on board with LPC values and philosophy. The counselors work incredibly hard to make camp successful, but another way they contribute is just by being who they are. It may be unspoken, but I don’t think it is lost on the campers, that the counselors are a model of who they might become in a few years. I have connections of friends and family with a few of this year’s campers, and I’m thrilled that they have spent part of their summer learning from and about people who have organized their lives so that they can be of service to camp and the values of camp.

What a week I had! I am so grateful for the experience!

- John Kotula

Peace Dale, Rhode Island, USA



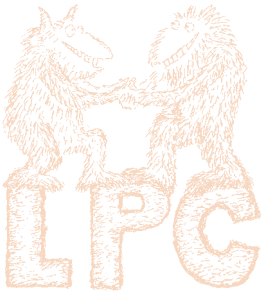
A SHORT STORY Freedom, New Hampshire, USA

MY SUNKEN, CHIPPED FLOORBOARDS SUPPORT MANY GRUBBY, barefoot feet. Those of youngsters, scrambling for food, for counselors, for attention-always scrambling. The dirt between the folds of their feet smears my couches, their raucous laughter brightening my flickering lamps. Teenagers sweep my floors with straw brooms, their supple, manicured, and bandaged feet tangoing in a dance of words and laughter. Hairy feet pad through my body at all hours of day and night, chasing young’uns, reprimanding naughty teens, planning activities way after the sun has bid goodnight, and the moon has taken its regal, serene hold of the sky. I care for all of them. For the primal youngsters, the mischievous teens, and the counselors who corral them all. I am the LPC camp house.

- Lillian Howells

14 years old, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

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LPC INTERNATIONAL
(luethipetersoncamps.org)
is the organizational arm of LPC,
based in Switzerland.

LPC-US INC. (lpcinc.org)
is the U.S.-based Board which
oversees the maintenance of
the Freedom House and collects
donations for camperships.



SILENT AUCTION Fundraiser

October 28 - November 6, 2022

THE LPC FUNDRAISING GROUP is organizing a third LPC Silent Auction to benefit the Luethi-Peterson Camps. Last year was a big success, thanks to all donations contributed - the auction raised 7,157 euros, just over \$7,000 for LPC!

galabid.com/lpcauction2022/items
This year's Silent Auction will be open from October 28 - November 6. Please check out the exciting range of donations on the site galabid.com/lpcauction2022/items, and bid often to support LPC!

- The LPC International Fundraising Committee



SUMMER 2023

Applications for 2023
LPC summer camps are
due December 1, 2022.
For an application, please
contact the LPC office at
lpc.office@ecole.ch.

DONATIONS

We appreciate all donations!
Make checks to "LPC-US, Inc."
and mail to address above.
Or click on our PayPal link at
LPCinc.org/donations.

IN MEMORIAM



"REMEMBERING VERA"
[luethipetersoncamps.org/
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8:40-8:55 ROCK	+ Snack 18:15	8:30 WAKE UP	21:45
Prep DIEGO HEGON MAX	2 ^o Course: 6:15-7:45	9:00 PBS	22:20
9:00-9:30 PAUL		9:00 Bf prep, SKOOTERS	22:20
F: 9:30 → 10:00		9:30 BF	22:45
Room 10:00 → 10:15	Dimm: 7:45 8:30	10:00 Room check	22:45
check:		10:15 SINGING	22:45
Language Course	Dishes 8:30-9:15	PLANNING CONFERENCE	22:30
Singing: 10:15-11:00	EP: 9:15-10:15	11:00 PUTE	22:30
12: 11:00-11:45	GNC: → 30	11:45 FREE TIME	22:45
Free time: 11:45-		12:45 1 st COURSE	22:45
Conference 12:45		LUNCH	23:15
2 ^o Course: 12:45		XTREME ED	23:15
		NAIL ART	
		LOUPEL	
		LUNCH	











Freedom 2022



