

Founded in 1949, Luethi-Peterson Camps promote understanding through international summer camps where young people of diverse backgrounds build community and lasting friendships.

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LUETHI-PETERSON CAMPS

LPC-US, Inc.



LPC MAGIC Sundhammar, Sweden

PHOTO: BETH MOORHOUSE

WHAT A RIDE IT HAS BEEN! AS A COUNSELOR group before camp, we do our best to plan out the best possible summer, but we are not quite capable of adding one key ingredient, *LPC magic.* That is something we can only source with the help of the campers, and boy did we. Days on the camp calendar that hung in the dining room went from loose plans, to anticipated adventures, and finally, to magical memories.

In a way that I've only ever seen happen in LPC, this magic reared its head throughout camp in a variety of ways. It carried the group morale on an overnight hike that stretched an already long day well into the evening of bus station folk dancing, parking lot volleyball, and late night car shuttling. It existed throughout our three Chillydåg (Rest day) evening programs, where the campers shared poems, songs, and ill-fated acrobatics. Through it all, the group of once strangers gelled into a cohesive camp bound by shared exhaustion, arguably the perfect amount of beans, and a splash of magic.

In the second half of camp, we found that magic all over the place. In the delicious meals that campers brought from their home cultures, in the courses that brought joy, adventure, and creative expression, in the uncommonly consistent sunny Swedish weather, in the wild adventures of our three day hikes, and in the melancholic last days of camp.

Some of the mealtime hits included traditional Polish pierogis, which took all day but managed to be on time for dinner, a true feast. The Spanish crew treated us to some classic Tortilla de Patatas. One of the American counselors brought out his best Hawaiian shirt to do some classic cookouts in the nice weather.

Campers especially enjoyed the visible mending courses, where they embroidered, altered, fixed, and generally made their clothes unique.

Exploration, nature photography, walk and talk, and other courses that got campers out into the surroundings were also particularly popular. Campers particularly loved sharing and learning about languages and cultures from each other's homes.

Whenever the sun comes out, the doors and windows open and the whole house embraces the beautiful surroundings. We could have meals on the lawn. We could sing on the front steps. We could take over the neighborhood sounds with our rowdy folk dancing. (I've never seen a camper group that loved folk dancing so much.)

Our three day hikes split us up into small groups for some varied adventures. The B-Hike ventured up to the island of Tjörn for a couple days of coastal bicycling which featured a giant head sculpture, for some reason. The Viking hike ventured through the woods and eventually cowboy camped under the stars on the shore of a picturesque lake. The Pirate hike ended up spending less time on boats than expected, but made up for it with a classic teen film instead. Not quite as pirate themed, but a joy nonetheless.

As always, the last few days of camp were jam-packed. We held a rowdy, sweet, and at times unprepared talent show that attracted the attention of some of our neighbors. We made each other thoughtful and personal gifts for our secret Santa exchange, and we capped it all off with thoughtful deliberations of how to remember our time here with goodbye books and camp t-shirts.

Through it all, the LPC magic that the camp exuded never failed to bring joy to the campers, even in the toughest moments, and never failed to remind the staff why we love giving LPC everything we have each summer. We are so grateful. What a wonderful, wild ride.

-The Sundhammar 2024 Staff

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PHOTO: BP STAFF

There's something about the habit of simple living... that makes you feel so connected, not only to nature, but to yourself.



PHOTO: BP STAFF



PHOTO: CLARA RAXACH

SIMPLE LIVING Birch Point, Maine, USA

SUMMER AT BIRCH POINT WAS UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER experienced before. The community here was so unique and special and I'm very lucky to have experienced it.

Some highlights for me were leading a drum course where I got to share some of my music from home, going for a two day "canoe hike" in the river by the house, and our family days, where we got to spend some quality time with our camp families. Family day was particularly special to me because I was given the opportunity to organize a field day, where the entire camp participated in games and trivia against each other.

With LPC, you are given so many opportunities to explore your own ideas and bring them to life. The campers are given just as much say in the community as the staff, which is something you don't see often but really makes a difference in the atmosphere and overall togetherness of the camp.

These camps are so unique in the way they allow people to share so much about themselves and learn just as much from others. Leading courses, for me, was so exciting, knowing that people were giving you their undivided attention to learn something that you're passionate about. Having singing and folk dancing regularly created a fun opportunity to share more about yourself and your culture. We learned so many songs and dances in our time here.

This site in particular is very special to me and my family and anyone who's been there knows just how beautiful it is. Waking up to a quiet house, going outside and taking in all of the sounds and feelings of nature is something I will deeply miss. There's something about the habit of simple living, with no phones, no electricity, no running water that makes you feel so connected, not only to nature, but to yourself.

Throughout this camp, I learned so many things from so many different people. Languages, recipes, songs, dances, the list goes on. This camp brings out the better in people, allowing them to be creative and just have fun. You get so close with the people at camp that it feels like you've known them forever. Knowing that now I have friends all over the world is so cool and exciting.

I am incredibly lucky to have been a part of this camp with such amazing wonderful people. All 22 of them hold a special place in my heart, and I look forward further opportunities within this organization where I may get to see some of them again. This opportunity was again, so amazing.

- Alexandra Adams (USA), Birch Point 2024 Camper

LAST DAYS OF CAMP Freedom, New Hampshire, USA

OUR LAST DAYS OF CAMP WERE FILLED WITH EVENTS, emotion and camper participation! First, we had an overnight hike in smaller groups: "Jurassic Park", "Treasure Island" and "Narnia." Jurassic Park and Treasure Island went hiking in the White Mountains, a big and beautiful natural park one hour's drive from the camp house. Jurassic Park walked long distances with heavy bags, climbed some rocks, slept in a wooden shelter and came back home extremely tired, with incredible views in their eyes and infinitely proud. Treasure Island walked to a lake, where they went swimming and had a fun adventure crossing a river on their way home; they came back with smiling faces and so many stories to tell!

Narnia was based at the camp house. Instead of sleeping in their rooms, the campers camped out in the camp's "cozy room," had a refreshing water fight and group games, went for a dip in the lake by the camp house and, on the morning of the second day, took part in the Freedom village Parade (an event organized by the Freedom Town as part of a yearly celebration called "Old Home Week"). The home hike had a relaxing time, and welcomed back the other groups, excited to spend the rest of camp all together.

Additionally, during the last days of camp, many campers signed up to cook some recipes they had brought from home; three brave kids and one counselor woke up very early one morning to prepare Polish pancakes for the whole camp (yum!); a camper cooked some incredible Romanian cabbage rolls for dinner.

Finally, many campers stepped up to plan and organize a final "Sunday EP," where we shared for one last time songs, stories, skits, magic tricks and much more, and a final camp party (featuring an ice cream surprise) which was a camp highlight for so many!

We had a summer full of events and emotion, and we lived and loved through it together. For three weeks, we shared joys and sorrows and learned a bit more about how to support each other and be a community. We saw homesick campers find their stride, become more confident, make new friends, and start leading activities. We saw introverted campers open up to the community. We saw campers who had never done so, learn to cook meals and help clean our common house. We realized (as a group) that living all together is a mix of work, play, lots of listening, and mutual respect.

- The Freedom 2024 Staff

MYSTICAL BEAUTY Heggnes, Norway

THIS MORNING AT 3 AM, TWENTY-TWO CAMPERS departed from Heggnes after three and a half weeks filled with fun, challenges, community-building, and lots and lots of rain. The camper group will return to a dozen countries, where they will surely bring new spirit, confidence, and traditions.

The campers of Heggnes '24 were an absolute highlight, bringing a strong sense of maturity and cohesiveness from day one. The campers were enthusiastic about camp life and interested in each other, allowing the broader camper-counselor group to really learn and grow from each other this summer. They were a skilled group, excelling in the kitchen and on the guitar, mastering harmonies in singing and complex folk dancing sequences, and pushing their boundaries on the ever-difficult three-day hikes in the mountains looking over Sunnfjord. As a group, they also made beautiful and significant improvements to the site, by building shoe racks, soap boxes, trash cans and painting murals.

They let their creativity shine further during four 'set courses', or week-spanning projects including theatrical and dance/acro-yoga performances, a cover and music video for hip-hop classic "Just A Friend," and beautiful decorations to the dining room tables. The campers were warm and compassionate to each other, preferring to snuggle all together in the barn for special occasions and happily piling into Heggnes' small cozy room to plan days of camp.

The mystical beauty of Western Norway was as impressive as ever, even through relentless rain. On our first sunny day, we got to know each other while enjoying an all-camp excursion over a mountain to nearby pools. On our second, we each enjoyed Day 2 of our respective three-day hikes: canoeing through alpine lakes, summiting the formidable mountain "Kringla" looking over the fjord and nearby ocean and eating in the sunshine outside of the house. For the rest of the days, campers pushed themselves to 'fjord' in the rain (a.k.a., washing themselves in the fjord), drench themselves while searching for forest mushrooms and flowers, or simply enjoying the calm sound of the rain on the barn's metal roof. On days when the rain seemed a little too long and heavy, the campers distracted themselves by becoming very excited about LPC party planning and dancing, and sharing their contagious laughter.

The group was lucky to engage with and experience the hospitality of the nearby Dale community, which includes some very gracious families with LPC connections. In Dale, we learned and shared folk dances with community members during a town celebration of the local poet Jakob Sande, and later invited neighbors of all ages to Heggnes for a classic LPC 'open day' including lunch and folk dancing.

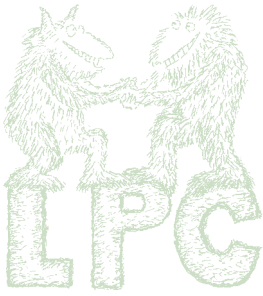
We were so lucky to spend our summer with this group and cannot wait for them to return to LPC as campers and counselors.

- The Heggnes 2024 Staff



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LPC INTERNATIONAL
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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.

"The only thing better than singing is more singing." ~Ella Fitzgerald

SUMMER 2025 LPC CAMPER & COUNSELOR APPLICATIONS NOW ONLINE! luethipersoncamps.org/apply-to-lpc

Campers and counselors now apply to LPC through the LPC website. Find important information on the new application process as well as on the history and mission of LPC, life in camp, news and events, and much more. The deadline for camp applications is December 1st! Thank you for your patience as we transition to this new system. If you need assistance with the application process, contact the office at Office@luethipersoncamps.org.

NEW LPC MERCH lpcinc.org/store

Show your LPC spirit with fresh LPC clothing and accessories. Prints and ships on demand!



PHOTO: CLARA RAXACH



PHOTO: BETH MOORHOUSE

LPC SONGBOOKS AVAILABLE

We have a limited number of LPC songbooks available for holiday gift-giving – for your friends and family members, or for yourself! The songbook is a collection of over 30 of the most beloved songs sung at camp and at the Ecole d'Humanité in Switzerland. The book is illustrated in full color with gorgeous and fun drawings and paintings by gifted artists within our LPC community. If you would like to order a copy of the song book, please email our LPC-US Administrator, June Vinhateiro at lpc.us.office@gmail.com. June will provide instructions on how to order. The cost of the song book is \$20 and the shipping and handling fee (US only) is \$5. Song books will be available on a first-come first-served basis.



PHOTO: ALIDA BATTAGLIA



Crucial to LPC running camps is our “sister” organization, the Ecole d’Humanité, an international boarding school in the Swiss Alps. Since the beginnings of LPC, the Ecole has hosted our annual meeting each year where the camps are organized. Natalie Luethi-Peterson and her husband Armin Lüthi directed and taught at the Ecole for over 50 years. The Ecole and our camps share many of the same ideals and practices, including experiencing nature and living as a community. Situated in the scenic Berner Oberland, it offers an unique educational experience for those interested in obtaining a US high school diploma or preparation for the Swiss Matura. Please find more information at www.ecole.ch if you or someone you may know is interested.

www.ecole.ch