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.



THE LAND OF GNOMES Heggnes, Norway

PHOTO: ROSIE TURBYVILLE

PERCHED ATOP A HILL overlooking the fjord below stands the quaint, cozy house of Heggnes. The first few days of camp, we were blessed by sun rays and parted clouds, allowing for a magical arrival in the Sunnfjord region of Western Norway. We were greeted by majestic mountains towering over the fjord and lush green moss blanketing rocks and trees, keeping them warm during the chillier Norwegian nights. As campers and counselors settled into our new community for the next four weeks, we quickly learned the sun would no longer be joining us.

Alas! We did not let our new friend, The Rain, stop us from thoroughly enjoying our time in this gnomeland. Each morning we promptly awoke from our slumber, cheering on our way to Morgensport! It would be unheard of for a house and barn full of teenagers to mumble and grumble their way out of bed to greet the fine misty mornings… After an energetic start, we went about our daily routine: cooking delicious meals, singing beautiful songs to serenade the fjord below, making cozy fires to keep us warm, and of course, swimming in pristine waters that felt like a tropical dip and never, ever like bathing in the icy waters of the North Pole.

Amid the flow of our everyday schedule, we uncovered the existence of Gnomes and were quickly initiated into Gnome Hood. With great power comes great responsibility, and we took this title very seriously. Split into three groups, we were tasked with a grand adventure to prove ourselves to the Gnomes once and for all. Traversing mountains, crossing raging rivers, and furiously baking for hungry adventurers while solving the mystery of Olaf, the Heggnes house ghost, each group went above and beyond to show their worthiness to the little woodland creatures who care for Heggnes when no one else is around.

Our time together this summer was nothing short of whimsical. If you are brave enough to befriend the pattering rain and the cold, piercing waters of Sunnfjord, you too might be welcomed into the mystical land of Heggnes, where you could be visited by more than just the local sheep.

- Rosie Turbyville, Heggnes 2026



PHOTO: ROSIE TURBYVILLE



PHOTO: ROSIE TURBYVILLE



PHOTO: ROSIE TURBYVILLE



PHOTO: ARLO BECKMAN

A HIKE TO REMEMBER Kiidi, Estonia

OUR BAGS ARE PACKED, AND WE ARE READY TO GO ON OUR overnight hike. Images of lake swimming and the perfect LPC sandwich float through our dreams. The morning sun cascades through the trees as we skirt past lakes and dodge the ticks in the long grass. At lunch we cool off in a refreshingly cold lake (with camping stove espresso for the staff), then rise and fall over the rolling hills of Estonia, singing, laughing, and inevitably complaining. Our cabin deep in the forest is sturdy and cosy, with one problem: no key! A few calls to our Estonian connections produce a comically large key, and we settle into campfire life with sausages and enough marshmallows for all. Campers break into spontaneous folkdancing as guitar and song carry us into the night. Then, just as our eyelids grow heavy: Bzzzz! The mosquitoes arrive in full force. So began the sleepless night of Sunday, July 26, a hike to remember, though some of it we would rather forget.

But Kiidi 26 was not just mosquito-infested nights. Laughter and joy easily outshone our biting friends, nowhere more than at the Kiidi 2026 Talent Show, with theatre and bands from the set courses, live barbershop singing, and Kendama displays. We also produced our own fashion magazine, several films, and exquisite plays. As the bus drove away at dawn, sadness filled our hearts, but we knew it was only because of the strong memories we made.



PHOTO: YONIT BEN-YEHUDA



PHOTO: SAM BORGE

A NIGHT WITH THE STARS
Birch Point, ME, USA

THIS YEAR THE OVERNIGHT HIKE WAS CANCELED due to an unfortunate rainy night, so the group spent the night at the house instead. It turned out to be one of the best nights of camp.

A director-led stargazing evening program excited all of the campers. Cozied up together in their sleeping bags, the campers listened as our director taught from a stargazing book, and every camper's eyes lit up learning about the constellations and the history behind their names.

The fun did not stop there. Most campers carried their blankets out into the dark night and gathered to look up at the sky. Together they picked out the Big Dipper, the Milky Way, and the brightly lit Summer Triangle. Seeing the curiosity and smiles on the campers' faces turned a canceled overnight hike into a memorable day at camp.

Although camp sadly came to an end, many campers told us how much they appreciated the astronomy course, which became a fan favorite.

- Sam Borge, Birch Point 2026



PHOTO: BIRCH POINT 2026



PHOTO: BIRCH POINT 2026

THE OLD WHITE FARMHOUSE Freedom, NH, USA

AND JUST LIKE THAT, THE LIVELY, SOMETIMES LOUD, OLD white farmhouse on Moulton Road seems eerily quiet. No more laughing at silly Bill Gates jokes or dancing the Connecticut dance. No more running up and down the old creaky wooden stairs during siesta. No more puzzling together in the music room, or playing Speed with comically oversized cards.

Our last week of camp was one of excitement and adventure. Birch Point joined us for the Old Home Week parade, and every camper and counselor dove into the overflowing costume closet and dressed in their most creative attire: rainbow clown wigs with baseball gloves, luchador masks with Japanese kimonos and chef hats, princess dresses with sombreros. The usually quiet streets of Freedom filled with townspeople cheering and handing out candy. As number 47 in the parade, we sang songs, collected candy, and waved to onlookers all the way through town, confusing some and delighting others with our wild, colorful, international entourage.

Back at camp, we welcomed family, townspeople, and past LPCers for Open Day. Together we sang "Molly Malone" and "Signor Abate," danced the Jiffy Mixer and Mayim, and closed with a potluck at picnic tables decorated with candles and buckets of wildflowers picked by campers in the surrounding forest.

The very next day was the long-awaited Tsunami Day. What started as a random drawing on our camp calendar became a weeks-long mystery, and finally a camper-invented mashup of April Fools', Valentine's Day, and Christmas, with themed games and meals and a camp-wide Secret Santa of handmade gifts: a hanging origami crane ornament, earrings and bracelets of wire and beads, a hand-drawn comic strip, and a miniature Coraline-style doll of one of the counselors in a hand-sewn yellow outfit.

The following evening, once the dishes were clean and the campers had finished their two-minute showers, the whole camp gathered on mattresses in the cozy, somewhat cramped and dimly lit Cozy Room. Four campers had written a story to guide the evening, introducing each person brave enough to share a song, a poem, jokes, or even a self-written screenplay, while everyone sipped hot milk with Oreos.

On the last day, after a full day of "putzing" the big old house, we gathered around the campfire at the far edge of the field. Some sharpened sticks for their hot dogs, others wrote in each other's goodbye books. By the flickering firelight, to the chirping of crickets in the dark, every member of the community reflected on their time in Freedom and ceremonially burned a handwritten wish in the fire. The next morning at dawn, we said our teary goodbyes to the old white farmhouse on Moulton Road.

- Luca Jacobs, Freedom 2026



PHOTO: FREEDOM 2026



PHOTO: AUGUST RUNDE

PRÁŠILY POST

Prášily, Czech Republic

This is your yearly update from the journalism team at the Prášily Post, bringing you news hot off the press about the comings and goings of our sleepy little village!

The talk of the town this month is the summer camp known as LPC, who have been making use of a beautiful old 'penzion' in the middle of the village. They have been seen dancing, singing, playing games, toasting marshmallows and setting off on regular excursions and hikes with many bags of dynamite.

The sports fans among us will have had an exciting month with the football (or soccer, depending on who you ask) World Cup. The local sports scene has been even more lively, with football, frisbee, basketball, running, volleyball and more at the local sports centre. A word of advice for the sportspeople among us: do not use the basketball hoop on one end. Need we remind you, it is home to a family of wasps.

On the subject of nature, make sure to sing, dance, click and clap extra loudly while hiking around the stunning Šumava National Park, as you're sharing the land with the locals: the common European adder. There has been only mutual respect and kindness with these beautiful and scary creatures thus far, but keep an eye out nonetheless.

As I'm sure you've heard, everyone's favourite weekly festival is coming to town soon. The lineup for 'Rest Day EP' is better than ever. Tell all your family and friends and expect poetry, songs, s'mores and Winnie the Pooh readings.

Police report that while most of the village was out hiking, a mystery took place among those left behind at home. The detectives are putting all their energy into unraveling the thread that links some local witches, a woodland blueberry picking trip and an old lady's grandson, missing on a dark Monday night. They assure us they have their best people on the case (with the help of a jury of hikers) and will undoubtedly have answers soon.

Those are the highlights. Please keep yourself updated by reading next year's edition of the Prášily Post!

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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 nonprofit which maintains the Freedom House and property, collects donations for scholarships, and supports LPC International.

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.**

SUMMER 2027 LPC CAMPER & COUNSELOR APPLICATIONS: DUE DECEMBER 1ST!

Apply: luethipetersoncamps.org/apply-to-lpc Questions? Contact office@luethipetersoncamps.org



PHOTO: FREEDOM 2026

VL for Van Life. The van was huge, and so was summer at Freedom. It even made the T-shirts.

WELCOME BACK TO FREEDOM!

After time down for repairs, camp returned to the Freedom House this July. Thank you to every donor and to our caretaker, Michael Gaudette, for giving our 1799 farmhouse the care it needed.

Together you made possible: A rebuilt shower room • Outdoor rinse-off showers • A refinished dining room and Dutch door • A mildew-free Cozy Room • Refurbished original windows • A new range and fridge • Fiber-optic Wi-Fi • A French drain and a dry basement • New pump, water heater, and filter • A repaired septic system • A barn laundry and slop sink • Wildflowers behind the house