

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 children from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

November 2016

LUETHI PETERSON CAMPS, INC.

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LPC in Maine

Photo: Becky Jiron

REPORTS FROM THE CAMPS

Birch Point, Maine—USA

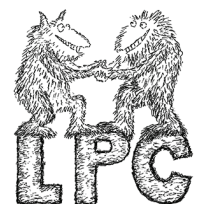
On our excursion to visit the LPC camp in Freedom, New Hampshire, we met old friends again, new friendships were formed, and the Birch Point campers organized and ran an entire day for the younger kids in Freedom. The campers planned and led all the courses, meals, singing, etc. They capped off the day with an LPC birthday party with decorations, cakes, and a dance performance of Adele's "Hello." It was rewarding to see how well they all listened to each other and respected what everyone had to say when figuring out logistics for over 50 people.

In a stroke of luck this summer, the Delta Aquarid meteor shower was highly visible in the sky above our beloved Birch Point. For one evening program, we laid down to look at the stunning clear sky while we heard the story of how the heavens and stars became the heavens and stars. As soon as the story was finished, a bright rock shot across the sky to communal gasps. The meteors continued to fly. We gazed up at them well past bedtime, in awe of the magic in Space. Once we were cold and mosquito-bitten enough, we sang good night to each other and went off to bed.

Some other highlights were a week of language courses and Awareness Day, which included discussions to increase our awareness of several issues (such as food security, terrorism, climate change, and the refugee crisis) chosen by the campers. We also celebrated Camp Birthday, which, in addition to a party (of course), included a visit from long-time LPC director Dan Streit, who shared his knowledge and experience of LPC history with us.

What really made Birch Point 2016 special? It was all the little moments we shared: doing dishes outside in front of a gorgeous sunset, tossing the Frisbee, spontaneous music jam sessions, eating with the family, laughing, learning, singing.... and the people with whom we shared those moments and the community we built.

Staff of Birch Point



Hegnes—Norway

When my mind wanders back to Hegnes ten days after camp, fresh memories pop up immediately. I remember, how my clothes were completely soaked after a ride in the little yellow Hegnes boat and how the heavy rain didn't bother me at all. How I enjoyed eating an apple on a mountain ridge in the bright sun, seeing Hegnes in a distance. And I remember feeling dissatisfied because the laundry on the porch just would not dry, even though it had been hanging there for days. I remember the moments, when I stepped into the "cozy room" and everybody was singing and enjoying the togetherness. Or the moments I just couldn't stop laughing when casual announcements after meals became impromptu skits.

When I think back, it is like looking into a kaleidoscope and seeing a colorful mix of memories and feelings. And when I think about camp a little longer it is like turning the kaleidoscope. More and more memories continue to appear in full color.

One of my highlights was definitely the 3-day hike. First we crossed the fjord with the little yellow Hegnes boat. From there we climbed the mountain ridge, which can be seen from the camp house. We looked over endless rows of treeless mountaintops, some of them still covered in snow, and to the west you could see the ocean in the distance. After walking along the ridge, we strolled down the other side. We made our way through little forests and valleys until we reached Nipebu, a lovely hut by a mountain lake, where we bathed and then dried ourselves in the sun. In the evening we enjoyed sausages that friendly local hikers offered us when we were sitting around the campfire. When I went to bed shortly before midnight, it still wasn't really dark, but the stars started to shimmer through. The next days the hike continued as great as it had started. People got stuck in a mud river, mountaintops were climbed, trees were cut down and transported, and a shelter was built on a beach.

And after the hike, camp life awaited us with crazy dance parties, thoughtful conversations and hilarious tales. There are so many stories hidden in this Hegnes kaleidoscope and I just can't stop looking into it, turning it and enjoying it....

Simon Thoeni, Switzerland

Can Pierrac, Catalunya—Spain

LPC returned to Can Pierrac for a second year and the site remains as magical and captivating as ever. It was wonderful to see everyone spending free time facing the spectacular views of this mountain range. Campers often sat beside an olive tree preparing songs for an evening program or simply having a chat. It provided the perfect natural backdrop for a great summer. We spent many an evening watching the sunset fall beyond the peaks of the Pyrenees. We also continued a great feature from the previous year called "Cultural Sharing". This was a daily presentation where both campers and counselors took turns speaking and answering questions about their home. It was an amazing summer full of laughter, singing, hugs, hiking, togetherness, games, folk dancing, sharing and discovering. Our camp was filled with many unforgettable moments:

- A 3-day hike to the picture-perfect medieval town of Besalú, a charming mix of cobblestone streets, quiet squares and historic buildings
- A sunset that was so spectacular that everyone immediately stopped what they were doing and gathered outside to witness this incredible show by Mother Nature
- Waking up to the roar of a hot air balloon, floating overhead
- A 3-day hike to Can Agusti in Alta Garrotxa, a picturesque mountain region known as the City of Volcanoes
- A visit to the Ruins of Empúries, the most famous Greek and Roman ruins on the Mediterranean coast, and a surprise beach excursion to L'Escala, one of the most beautiful bays in the world according to UNESCO
- Several visits from local guests who were happy to share their Catalan traditions, culture, and food

Jason Cyrus, UK

Kiidi—Estonia

From arrival day onward, the spirit of the camp found its way into the twenty-five campers and nine staff representing sixteen nationalities. By the time they arrived, these once strangers seemed to have already created a closely-knit community eager to take charge of the daily schedule.

Cooking courses were taught in various languages, the surroundings yielded opportunities for campers to seek out mushrooms and berries, and the expansive campus offered several great facilities for crafts and thought-provoking discussions. Campers were eager to lead and teach folkdance classics, but also introduce, and in some cases invent, new folkdances.

We had the privilege to learn some of the complex history of Estonia, along with getting acquainted with the language, songs, and dances. LPC is often an experience that is difficult to put into words, and this year was no different. It was truly an unforgettable summer for us all.

Philip Oechsli, USA and Tom Speirs, Australia



Hegnes hike view. Photo: Felicia Fritzson

IN MEMORIAM

Silas C. (Pete) Peterson died of heart failure on February 26, 2016. He was 86. Pete was Natalie Luethi-Peterson's younger brother. Throughout Natalie's life, he was her biggest fan, and he supported LPC from its conception until his death. Pete was a commercial pilot, based in Northfield, Minnesota where he lived with his wife Kathy and where they raised their two children, Natalie and Pete, who were both LPC-ers and Ecolianers. Over the years, Pete contributed many thousands of dollars to LPC. His donations helped to pay for everything from camp scholarships to repainting the Freedom house and everything in between. It is impossible to add up all the ways LPC has benefitted from his generosity. This wise, loving, big-hearted man (known simply as Unk to Molly, Chris, Doey, and Piet Luethi) will long be remembered for the huge but quiet part he played in LPC's story.

Mary Streit died on July 13 this year. Her husband of 72 years, Vic Streit, had died in 2014. They were the parents of long-time LPCers Rob, Andy, Dan, Tom, and Lydia Streit. They sent all their children to the Ecole in 1961 and instilled a spirit of international adventure and responsibility in them that was further fostered by LPC. In the early years Mary and Vic hosted a number of LPC gatherings at their home and many counselors coming to Freedom spent a day or two with the Streits in Bellmore, NY. They sought to contribute to the goals of LPC in every way possible. Both were educators and lifetime learners – they visited over 100 countries and passed along their passion for travel and international understanding. Vic and Mary Streit are sorely missed, as parents, as teachers, as friends and supporters of LPC.

YOU CAN HELP.....

- By contributing to the repair of the Freedom house, which needs a new roof!
- By donating supplies: for example, backpacking tents for 4-6 people
- By making a bequest to LPC in your will and help LPC last forever. The larger our endowment, the more financial aid we can offer every year to deserving kids.
- By coming to the Freedom Work Weekend in spring or fall, to help clean up the Freedom house. It's hard work but great fun!!

Remember you can buy LPC T-shirts, bags, stickers, and other items with the "LPC Fuzzies" at www.cafepress.com/luethipetersoncampstore

Please consider a donation to LPC Inc.

Send checks made out to "LPC Inc." to
LPC Inc., PO Box 40714, Providence, RI 02940

Your contribution is tax-deductible!

Hensford Farm, Devon—England

"But where is the house?" cried Marina.
"The forest is our house," replied Saskia.

Deep in the rolling hills of southern England, we were so lucky to have the freedom to create a unique camp community this summer. This new site was full of mysteries, set in an orchard close to the sea. The campers and counselors came together and went truly 'back to basics'. We lived simply, sleeping in Geodesic domes and cooking on rocket stoves. We showered as the Vikings did, in a terrifying wooden tepee. In the mornings we worked, improving this site for future LPC generations. Our afternoons were full of folk dancing, creativity, sports, craftsmanship, musical fun, and games.

We carried out many projects on the site. We made a beautiful mosaic to surround the pizza oven, putting our LPC stamp on the clay monolith. We rendered the straw bale walls of our eco-roundhouse with clay from the river. This job of applying the clay to the straw bale walls proved to be far more time consuming than we had expected. We soon discovered that we should make clay while the sun shines. We needed to clay; we needed to clay ALL day. Clay Day! The first annual Hensford Clay Day took place on the 22nd of July and involved clay-related folk dances, clay-themed songs, and chicken racing.

The amazing weather allowed us to have three wonderful hikes. One group ventured across the wild landscape of Dartmoor, camping and bushwhacking their way through the dreaded gorse bushes. The second group adventured around the Jurassic coast of the southwest, encountering one too many hills for their hamstrings. The final group took to their saddles and pedaled their way into the history books as the best-fed LPC hike of all time; feasting on fish and chips, fried eggs, and quesadillas.

Olivia Bailey, UK and Steven Brace, UK



Birch Point, face painting course. Photo: Ala Dorobis

Freedom, New Hampshire—USA

Camp was full of loud and enthusiastic campers, frisbee, and ice cream. With it being a shorter camp (just over 3 weeks), it was packed with activities and events. The kids jumped right into our wild schedule. Even on most rest days when courses were optional, campers would lead bracelet, football, and card playing courses. Our most popular courses were piñata, bread making, bracelets, Frisbee golf, solar system model building, and lake appreciation. We started with our overnight hike, to the trailhead for Durgin Hill and up and over to Prospect Mountain.

We also had a surprise excursion. For this we took an American school bus to Higgins Beach in Portland Maine, singing all the way. There we all played games, built sand castles, looked for birds, and swam in a perfectly clear ocean. We all ate LPC sandwiches with a coating of sand and salt on top.

Our third and final week together consisted of our three-day hike to the White Mountains. Then it was time for the traditional Freedom Cardboard Boat Race. At the race we cheered and cheered as Marco and Quinn paddled our handmade cardboard boat in the water. This year we won first place for team spirit and second place for speed in our division. It was a great splash of fun and everyone was thrilled our boat didn't sink!

And then it was time for 'big putz'. We cleaned until the whole big, big house was spic and span from top to bottom. The kids left happy, singing songs and playing cards.

Kai Migliaccio, USA



Freedom staff discussing "what LPC is to us." Photo: Nina Horakova

Applications for camps are due on December 1, 2016. If you wish to receive an application or any further information, please contact the LPC office. Our address is: lpc.office@ecole.ch

We continually update our database of LPC contacts. As we now send a digital copy of the newsletter (**with more photos and in color!**) to everyone for whom we have an email address, please make sure we have yours, as well as any physical address changes. Email the LPC Board at: lpcboard@gmail.com. Thank you!!



Birch Point Pizza Smiles. Photo: Julia



Hegnes Peace: Zoe Kimbwaka



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