

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.



STAMMTISCH SESH, Oriolo, Italy

THE LARGE RED HOUSE WE STAYED IN IS located on the outskirts of the lovely town of Oriolo Romano.

The house was equipped with a large kitchen, a nice and shady dining area outside, and a big patio we called the piazza. We had a hazelnut orchard, two volleyball fields and a wide space without trees where we could play games that required lots of space. The sunny Italian summer allowed us to benefit from these extensive outside areas, although we had to fight the ever-present heat.

This summer in Oriolo, we folk-danced, sang, and cleaned every day. The courses that were offered ranged from sport courses (especially football, volleyball, and Ultimate Frisbee) to crafty courses (necklaces, nature art, post cards and bracelets) to artistic courses (expressive dancing, improv theater). One particular course created a mafia inspired movie, which we took an excursion to a local bar to watch on a projector and build some town relations. Another part of our daily life was Stammtisch which was a sesh where campers and counselors could bring up points they would like to talk about doing/having at camp, or saying something nice. One example of

that is campers coming up with the idea for parties and having an active discussion about how they would go. This summer we had a wonderful open day with many guests, an amazing three-course dinner with a spontaneous dance party to cap off the night.



We had many highlights this camp and one of them was the 2-day hike where we split into 4 different groups, hiked and stayed the night separately from each other. We surprised the campers with gelato at different parts of our hikes as well, which they seemed to very much enjoy after hiking under the Italian sun. Another highlight was our family day trip to La Mola, which is a small but picturesque pond with low hanging tree branches and a stunning waterfall. We set off on a sunny morning armed with hats and sunscreen and walked the comfortable distance there. After arriving we swam in the icy water. We spent some hours there then walked back towards home picking blackberries along the way and finishing the night with a dinner of chili with protein (meat).

Overall, this summer was special in so many ways.

- The Oriolo 2023 Staff



30TH LPC IN MAINE Birch Point, Maine, USA

AFTER FOUR YEARS OF NO CAMPS AT BIRCH Point, it was so exciting to see the house filled with campers, counselors and directors again. We had a jam-packed summer with new adventures and activities everyday.

Upon welcoming the campers on July 8th we immediately jumped into all things LPC. Already on our fourth day of camp we packed up our bags, laced up our hiking boots, and set off to the mountains for our overnight hike. After an eventful day, we ended with a relaxing swim in a beautiful Maine lake. After our hike we enjoyed some days of rest and jam sessions that filled the house with beautiful music. All rested, we set off on our next big adventure to Nash Island. Under a blanket of fog we traveled by boat to an island that houses flocks of sheep! We helped locals who manage the island to weed and pick up trash along the shoreline. The campers were then surprised with a massive fresh lobster boil that was a highlight we will never forget.

Next we enjoyed some regular LPC days including singing, folk dancing, together time and of course can't forget about putz! Before we departed for our next hike Tim and CJ joined us for a Blackwoods Band concert that put us all in the mood for our next adventure. Early the next morning we split our ways for two days where we all got to experience more of all the beauty Maine has to offer. Followed by another rest day it was now time to start our set courses where campers signed up for one course to focus on for the next few days. Some enjoyed planning a special party, or working on the trailer that was once an office, and designing our camp t-shirts as well as our memories book. We finished off the week with our alien/astronaut themed party celebrating the 30th camp at Birch Point!

All in all we definitely kept ourselves busy this summer with a lot of really exciting and wonderful experiences unique to LPC. We are all so grateful to have been able to spend our summer here surrounded by all of the beautiful nature and share our time together with LPC Birch Point camp 2023.

- Rosie Turbyville, Maryland, USA

MAGICAL SUMMER Freedom, New Hampshire, USA

WHAT A PLEASURE IT HAS BEEN TO SPEND A month in this magical place! The house welcomed us back as it always has, with its creaky stairs, long, green grass, fabulous acoustics, and birds singing to the sun. We danced, we sang, we ate, we cleaned, we chattered and we hiked. Our camper group was unusually passionate about cooking, and we had some really talented cooks, so good food has accompanied us for the whole summer.

One of the highlights of camp was our overnight hike over Prospect Mountain which we can see from our house. It was a long hot day with beautiful views and we all worked hard to get to our final destination. The evening was spent setting up camp in a field, cooking dinner over a fire, and singing around the campfire together. It was a special moment that we capped the next day by all swimming at our beautiful Loon lake!

The second half of camp was dotted with a continuous sequence of highlights. The second Hike was a big success: we split up into three different groups and then reunited after 2 days celebrating with a fantastic three-course meal for everyone. Then we marched in colourful costumes through the streets of Freedom in occasion of the local Parade, proudly exhibiting a beautiful banner and singing LPC songs from the top of our lungs - this performance earned us a prize as "outstanding entry"!

After the Parade we had our Open Day, which was a delight: we had at least a dozen visitors, who were treated to a theatre performance about the history of LPC, a performance of a selection of songs and folkdances, and delicious home-made popsicles. Finally, on the last day everybody cleaned the house with great efficiency, and we even managed to squeeze in an epic water fight.

- The Freedom 2023 Staff



PHOTO: PAUL MUSSO



PHOTO: MELISSA LABONTE

BRINGING CULTURES TOGETHER: THE LEGACY OF A CAMP BORN AFTER WORLD WAR II

Translated from Swedish, photos/text excerpts from:
Kungsälvs-Posten, 06 August 2023, by Frida Ekborg

In the idyllic setting of Sundhammar, 28 children from diverse corners of the world have spent nearly four weeks together at a camp. For many, the bonds forged here will last a lifetime.

"I really like it, it's fun and people here are so nice," says 13-year-old Ingerlin Ongulas from Estonia, attending the LPC summer camp for the first time.

Founded after the end of World War II, Luethi-Peterson Camps is hosting its first international summer camp in Sundhammar. The organization's mission is to unite individuals from varied cultures to foster mutual learning.

The camps cater to children aged 9 to 17 and have previously been held in Sweden near Uppsala, yet this marks the first on the West Coast.

"This is one of the largest camps we've had in terms of the number of children, and this place suits our purpose perfectly... Hopefully, we can return here multiple times," shares counselor Russell Carlson-Stadler, hailing from Texas, USA.

...At this camp, most children hail from Poland, Italy, Spain, and the USA.

"You learn folk dancing and history from each other's countries; we live together, learning from each other's cultures. It's invaluable," Russell expresses.

Ingerlin, inspired by family members' past camp experiences, finds this adventure enjoyable and eagerly looks forward to

more such camps in the future. "I really like it. I have heard a lot about the campsite in Switzerland, situated in the beautiful mountains. I would really like to go there," she shares...

When asked about the best part of the camp so far, Ingerlin reflects on the exhilarating three-day hike and the recent legendary water fight: "My pants are still wet," she chuckles.

Ona, only eleven, hailing from Austria, shares her extensive camp history. "Both my mum and dad have been directors at other camps, so I have been going with them since I was five years old. I love it, and I seldom get homesick; there are always many things to do," she affirms.

Bartek, a twelve-year-old from Poland, agrees wholeheartedly: "I will absolutely go to another camp. This has been so much fun."

As the weeks progress in Sundhammar, the camp not only provides a platform for global connections but also becomes a cherished memory for these young minds, uniting them in a shared spirit of exploration and camaraderie.

kungalvsposten.se/nyheter/lagret-for-samman-kulturer-bildades-efter-andra-varldskriget.771a6d65-ba14-45a0-8099-a421d5f199bf

ADVENTURE. LEARNING. COMMUNITY. Sundhammar, Sweden

GREETINGS FROM SUNDHAMMAR, SWEDEN! We have been enjoying exciting sunny, windy, and rainy days in our lovely house by the sea.

We have just come back from our second overnight hike, for which we split into four groups: the home hike, one medium difficulty hike, and two more difficult hikes. The home hike stayed back at the house and enjoyed the lovely weather by the sea, baking cookies, picking blueberries, and walking local trails. The three longer hikes took the new and well established Bohusleden trail through Swedish nature preservation lands. The hikers took a bus from Karna to the town of Kungälv. From there we walked through hilly terrain, berry-filled forests, and gorgeous lakes and ponds. The campers stayed the night in amazing shelters built and maintained by the Swedish government. The campers were all very happy to return to their beds, tired, and having enjoyed the hikes very much.

In the first week of camp we took the whole camper group on an overnight hike to the island of Marstrand. Located on an island accessible by ferry is the local holiday destination, equipped with small caves and a recently retired military fort established in the 1800. There the high winds and rain attempted to dampen our spirits, but we persevered, and all had an amazing time camping on a hill top overlooking the sea and neighboring islands.

During our normal days at the camp site, we accomplished many courses including bracelet making, arts and crafts, learning card games, site exploration, cartography, football, baseball, bread baking, meal cooking, and many others. We also went swimming in the sea which is only 200 meters walk from the campsite. The campsite comes equipped with a huge sound system with which we had a western-themed camp party. Campers dressed like cowboys and cowgirls, ate a themed dinner, and danced to music spun by one of our camp directors, Colin Townes-Anderson. Other special memories were three "Chilly Dag" evening programs where campers have shared stories of their own creation, songs, poems, and other talents.

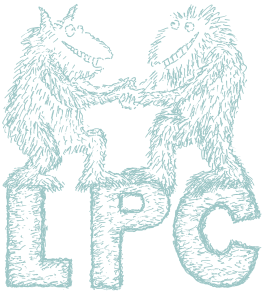
On the 4th of August we had our open day. The town's local paper published an article about our camp, and we invited the people living in the area to join us for an afternoon experience of camp life. We taught folk dancing and folk songs, as well as performed songs and dances. [See side panel for excerpts from the article.]

The bonds we have all formed have been the highlight of our days, and we are grateful for a wonderful summer



- The Sundhammar 2023 Staff

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LPC INTERNATIONAL
(luethipetersoncamps.org)
is the organizational arm of
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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.

LPC WORLD GATHERING 2023 Hasliberg Goldern, Switzerland

The World Gathering, our big LPC reunion that is held every five years, took place in July at the Ecole d'Humanité in Switzerland and was a great success! 136 of us, living in 19 countries and representing 633 camps through the years, spent four days experiencing the joy of LPC traditional camp activities - singing, dancing, doing courses,

hiking, eating, discussing and playing together. Old friends caught up with each other, new friendships were formed, and we had a fabulous party on the Saturday night! Throughout the gathering, the LPC values of learning about each other's cultures, building community, and establishing lasting friendships burned brightly.

- Sara Bartholomew, San Francisco, USA



PHOTO: SARA BARTHOLOMEW

SUMMER 2024
LPC CAMPER & COUNSELOR APPLICATIONS NOW ONLINE!
luethipetersoncamps.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@luethipetersoncamps.org.

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