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## KitKat's Korner

This Spring has been a beautiful journey at Camp, as we had the pleasure of hosting 19 schools for Outdoor Education over a 10-week season. All of the students, teachers, and chaperones that came through the program were wonderful, and the staff was truly topnotch. I can't wait to continue sharing camp with more students in the fall!

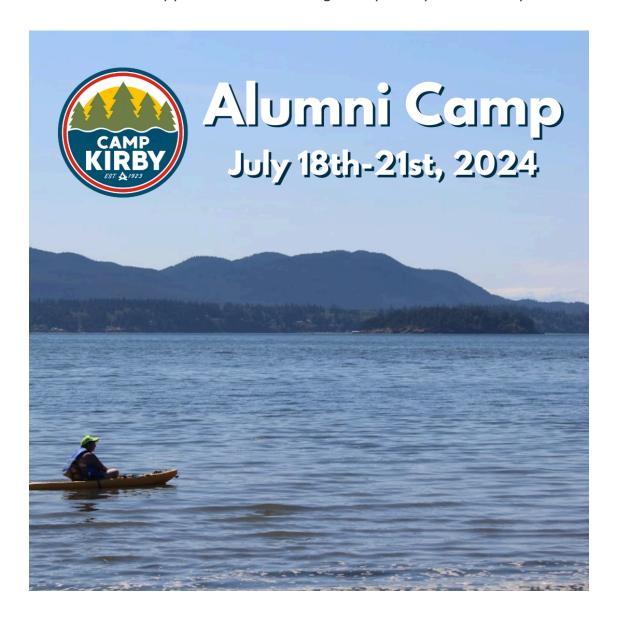
As one season and program winds down, another is hot on its heels! Summer will soon arrive, bringing magic, joy, and connection to hundreds of campers and staff. Staff Training for our 101st summer kicks off next week, and we will welcome 50 energetic, passionate, and dedicated individuals who are ready to spend a summer filling the roles of mentor, entertainer, playmaker, and caregiver for our campers.

As I prepare to welcome this summer's campers and staff, I can't help but think back on my 16 previous summers on staff, and reflect on the growth that Camp has seen in that time. I am so appreciative of those who came before me, and who paved the way for us to continue to be the value-driven organization that we are today. Each year looks slightly different than the last, but the vision of equity, inclusion, and a true sense of belonging remains the same. That is where the true Kirby magic lies.

Kathryn "KitKat" Deshaies Executive Camp Director



If you're interested in supporting our staff and campers this summer, a great way to do so is by purchasing much needed items off of our Amazon wishlist, linked above. I (KitKat) recently added items intended to help restock our toiletry closet, where anyone in camp can get items like deodorant and toothbrushes that they may need in order to have a successful week at camp. We greatly appreciate the continued support of our amazing Camp Kirby community!



Every year we welcome our Alumni of all ages back to Camp Kirby. Come reminisce and stay for a day, a night, or the whole weekend! We will have a variety of classic Camp activities open, and provide all the meals!

Register

# **A Note from Gopher**

I love working with KitKat not just because she is a wonderful person who is great at her job, but because we bring such different perspectives to our work. She shared in KitKat's Korner that will be her seventeenth season at Camp, while for me, it is season number one! I'm so thankful to be a part of the work we do in the lives of young people and excited to see Camp Kirby filled with campers!

With the summer season fast approaching, I wanted to share an overview of our summer programs. This might not be new information for many of you, but it's a great reminder of the enormous impact that Camp Kirby has over the course of one summer!

#### **OVERNIGHT CAMP**

- There are seven sessions. The first session begins on June 23, and the last session ends on August 10.
- We can accommodate approximately 110 campers each session.
  This summer we are at 100% capacity, with waiting lists for many of the sessions!

#### DAY CAMP

- There are seven sessions that run concurrently with Overnight Camp. Day Camp goes from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM each day.
- Each session has 30 campers, and we are currently at 96% capacity.

### **ALUMNI CAMP**

- Takes place July 18-21. The first part of that week is a halfsession of Overnight and Day Camp.
- Alumni Camp is a fantastic opportunity for former campers, friends, and family to come and experience the magic of Kirby again!

## COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING (CIT) PROGRAM

- Juniors and Seniors in high school are eligible for our six-week CIT program. The program is intended to help campers make the transition from camper to counselor.
- The program takes place over two summers, with your first year called CIT 1 and your second year called CIT 2.

This summer we have 10 CIT 2's and 23 CIT 1's.

In total, we have an opportunity to serve over 1,000 young people in our 2024 summer season!

Thank you all for your support of Camp Kirby! Let's have a great summer!

## Marcus "Gopher" Roskamp

Executive Director



## Meet our New Bookkeeper!



## Noah "Pinch" Rogers

Noah has called Bellingham home for five years. After graduating from Western Washington University with a bachelor's in finance, he moved to Arizona briefly. He missed the trees and his community, so he decided to move back closer to his family.

His main joy in life comes from spending time outdoors and exploring what is out there! Noah also has a cat named Henny that he also spends a lot of his time with when he is not outside.

With a background in finance and a love for the outdoors, he really feels at home in his position!

# Mission

We inspire and empower all youth to discover their spark, connect with others, develop leadership skills, build character, and thrive in the natural world.

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