

... and you can do something about it.

Kids need camp. Period.

It's time outside. Running around with new people. Doing things they're unable to try at home, away from a phone, in the woods, on a lake.

To me at least, it's pretty obvious. But sometimes obvious truths still need acknowledgement.

Why Kids Need Camp

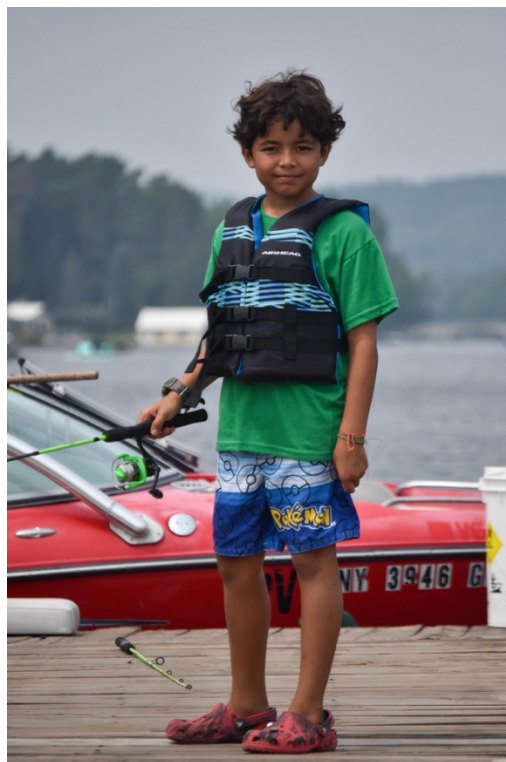
A kid at camp gets something they can't get anywhere else. They get to live for a summer without somebody ready to fix every perceived problem.

They get to figure things out. They get to fail at small things and recover. They get to find out who they are when there's nobody around them telling them who to be. We call that process "expansion."

It doesn't only impact the camper. When a child goes to camp, the whole family expands. The camper leaves for a few weeks, then comes home with a whole set of new skills. Everyone grows.

Honestly, I think the only real problem with camp is that it's only a summer long.

The Camp Chateaugay Scholarship Foundation



Children need camp, and there's now something we can do something about it.

About a month ago, the Camp Chateaugay Scholarship Foundation officially became a 501(c)(3). It's an alumni-led nonprofit, legally separate from camp, with one job: get kids to Chateaugay who couldn't otherwise get here.

David Wyman is heading it up. He was a camper in the 90s, staff in 00s and now works as an environmental advocate in DC.

Kimmy Heilpern is on the board. Her three kids are at Chateaugay this summer.

A handful of other alumni, including another nonprofit CEO, round out the group. These are alumni who got something from camp and want to pay it forward.

What Merit Means Here

The scholarships are merit-based. Let me explain what that means.

There's a rubric: stuff like GPA, involvement in and/or outside school, adult references who can vouch for the kid. And the signal weighted heaviest is resilience in the face of hardship.

Kids who are out there being exceptional humans inside difficult circumstances, often without the kind of adult support many people take for granted.

That kind of child deserves an opportunity to come to camp. The Foundation wants to celebrate it and reward it.

The Foundation isn't only paying for a summer of camp, either. Recipients get a year-round support program that is there for them on the harder days through the school year.

The seven weeks at camp is the reward for staying resilient the rest of the time. Then they go home and become a small ripple of Chateaugay inside their own community.

These kids will be good for camp, and camp will be good for them. That's the whole equation.

How You Can Help



If you're an alumnus reading this, this Foundation is yours. It runs on alumni energy.

You can give once, you can give monthly, you can tell another alum, you can bring it up next time you're thinking about end-of-year giving. Anything helps.

The website is live and donations are open: ChateaugayScholarship.org.

David and Kimmy have a great crew. If you want to lend your time, reach out to either of them at chateaugaysf@gmail.com.

Whether you want to engage alumni, help administer scholarships, or you have bookkeeping experience...they can use more hands as they work to help more kids benefit from the Chateaugay experience.

Send it to the alumni in your life. Send it to anyone who knows these places are the best places for people to spend weeks in July and August.

Because kids need camp.

See you this summer.

Mitch

PS - Want to chat about camp, schedule a call with me [here](#).