

Surprise Lake Times

SURPRISE LAKE CAMP
COLD SPRING, NEW YORK

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In Open-Toed Revolt

by Felix, Journey's Way



If you went in front of the dining hall on the morning of July 28th, you could find campers protesting closed-toed shoes. When I asked Jordan Riak about the issue, he disagreed with closed-toed shoes immediately. "The rule is stupid," he said. The only reason we stopped is because the heads of camp yelled at our counselors. Many campers and counselors from Frontier got involved with the protest. Some held up signs, while most yelled. The protesting has ended and closed-toed shoes are still in use. There is no sign that these brave warriors will stop their fight for justice.

The Toy

by Georgie, Mountainview

Look at the toy
Play with the toy
Love the toy
That's the toy

A Hop, Skip & A Jump

By Jordan, Frontier

There are many frog species in SLC, nine to be exact. The frog you probably see the most is the Northern Leopard Frog. These are the blackish brown frogs with two yellow stripes going down its back. They are very fast and move in a zigzag pattern. The frog you will most likely never see is the Pickerel Frog. They look exactly like Leopard Frogs except the underside of their legs are yellow. Frogs can be found in many areas at SLC. Some areas are the upper seats of the Eddie Cantor, the stream by Teva, small muddy puddles by the side of the roads, the woods by the Climbing Tower, and the small pond on the path to tennis and archery. Another species of frogs in SLC are Bullfrogs and Green frogs. Green frogs can be found in small puddles or streams. Small green frogs are mostly brown except for their green chin. Bullfrogs are rare in the day but can be found easily at night. However, they are incredibly hard to catch. They are big and green with rounded snouts. The way to differentiate them from green frogs is that green frogs have a bumpy liner on its back when bull-

Some other frog species are Wood frogs and Fowler and are the only American toads in SLC. They are a slight brown color with black spots. Almost all of them are small babies but you might find a big brown one if you are lucky. Now stop reading this. Go out there and find some frogs!



frogs do not. species are Fowler toads. American toads in SLC. slight brown spots. Almost small babies but a big brown one. Now stop reading there and find

Fun Run by Zephie, Mountainview

The Fun Run is an annual marathon where campers and counselors run together. They run from Mainside to Teenside and complete obstacles during the marathon. Last year, they did not have obstacles but this year they did. Congratulations everyone!

These are the Fun Run Results:

Mountainview: Eli Raiffa, Jacob Seltzer, Bradley Feltingoff, Olivia Breder, Nomi Solmsen and Kinley Stevenson

Journey’s Way: Braden Grosshandler, Eli Kaufman and Ike Lorin

Highlands: Hayden Stover, Peyton Stevenson and Rayna Barnhill

Frontier: Max Hyman, Tyler Stevenson and Ben Weintraub

Idylwood: Jax Thayer, Sadie Levitt and Lexie Fishman



Camp Improvements

by Irving, Mountainview

Make the pool warmer

Do deep water test in the pool

More frequent family visits

Windows so I do not get wet when it rains

Softer beds and bigger bunks with desks

Let campers keep their own bug spray

Better scanner to scan mail

Culture in the Kitchen: Spotlight on Rachel Kalter

by Mimi, Highlands



One aspect about Camp that is often overlooked is our kitchen staff. They work hard all day to make sure that all campers and staff are fed. One thing that you may not know is that the kitchen is filled with people from many different cultures and backgrounds.

I interviewed Rachel Kalter, the Mainside Dining Room Manager, about the many cultures that exist in the kitchen. At home, Rachel Kalter is a junior at the University at Albany. She works as a front desk receptionist at the Global Studies & International Education Office where she helps international students succeed at school. Rachel has worked in the kitchen for four years non-consecutively. Each year, she has made lifelong friendships with people from all over the world.

“We have staff from America, Mexico, Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic,” said Rachel Kalter. “Ever since I was young, I knew I wanted to work with people on a team, and the kitchen staff is the perfect example of that.”

Through the many years Rachel Kalter has worked in the kitchen, she learned many valuable lessons.

“My experience at SLC has taught me the importance of different cultures joining together with one common goal: to make sure that we all have a great experience at SLC and that every camper and staff member are well cared for and fed.”

Olympics Recap 2019

by Emily, Highlands

Breaking News: Blue Team has broken the curse of the Losing Blue Team. In every other year, according to Whammy, the Olympic expert, the blue team would chant "We're Blue. We're Jews. We're not going to lose!". This year, that chant was notably absent from the Blue Teams list of cheers. They didn't chant this chant, and they won!

To add on to that, in the years past when the White Team won they chanted "We're white. We'll fight. We're going to win tonight." They didn't sing this chat this year and white placed third. Weird, right?

On plaques, the Blue Team had a painting of Whammy with a laffy-taffy on his tongue and a blue background. Red had a red Mike n' Ike box with a different shade of red and different flavors. White Team had a skittle bag pouring skittles. Black Team had a shooting star full of starbursts. Which plaque did you like the most?

by Matan, Journey's Way

For the first time in forever Blue Team has won the 2019 SLC Olympics. It has been 12 years since Blue Team has won SLC Olympics. Some people on different teams are saying that blue team should not have won.

These are the two sporting events blue team won: soccer and volleyball.

In my opinion, white team plaque was the best. I also think the blue team deserved to win the dance. Blue team, red team, white team, and black team, you all did a good job we are all winners.

Questions J-Po Answered

By Joyel, Idyllwood

Q1. What year is this for you and what was your favorite year and why?

Answer: This is my 23rd summer at Camp and my favorite summer was 2001 because I had a great group and a great supervisor. It is tied with last year, 2018.

Q2. What unit would you want to be a part of if you could?

Answer: Guppies because they get nap time.

Q3. What job would you want at Camp if you weren't Head Counselor?

Answer: I would want to be a Mountainview Lower counselor.

Questions J-Po Refused to Answer

Is he a llama herder during the year?

Is his real name Joel Potato?

Why does he have a beard?

Is it true that he was raised by a family of koalas?

Does he actually work at Camp?

Is J-Po over 5 ft tall?

Who invented the name J-Po?

Why is he obsessed with bingo?

Does J-Po even really exist or is he a figment of our imagination?



The Man, The Myth, The Legend?

by Alex, Journey's Way

The Barren is Neil's identical twin cousin. The Barren was born in the year 1185. He was born in Sweden and is currently 836 years old and lives in Bald Spot. There is also proof that the Barren is real. During my phone interview with the Barren, Neil walked into the Canteen. A human simply cannot be in two places at once.

The Barren's dad was the 2nd Duke of the Von Klean Estate in Austria. Growing up, Neil and the Barren did not like each other. Neil still prefers to stay away from the Barren. In the Canteen, Shea, a fellow camper, asked Neil, "why doesn't Sheryl send the cops after the Barren?" Neil said it is too risky, the cops will be endangered by all the Barren's traps. When the Barren was a kid, he loved ruining kids ecosystems. The Barren had no siblings. The closest thing he had was Neil: his identical twin cousin. The Barren had many jobs but one really important one was the 3rd Duke of the Klean Estate, but his first job in America was a butterfly hunter for the C.I.A. Now he inspects our bunks. But when he messes up our bunks, it is because he is mad that the stuffed animals are staring at him!

We also have one more thing to share. The Barren's real name is Sylvester Van Klean.

Exclusive: Story of the Purple Hippo

by Daniela, Highlands

It was July 4, 1902 and Surprise Lake Camp was having its first session war! One counselor's name was Jerry Hippo, and he was walking to the lake to go boating. When the campers got there, Jerry decided to go kayaking. After Jerry got his paddle and kayak, he tried to get in the kayak but could not. Finally, after 20 minutes, he got in when he was really far out in the lake. However, the kayak got a hole and he started to sink. Jerry tried and tried to get out, but he was stuck. He started to yell for help, but he was too far out for anybody to hear him. When he was underwater and holding his breath, he saw something glowing coming towards him. Jerry reached out. To this day, Jerry still lurks in the lake...

Playground

By Kol and Joyel, Idyllwood

The new playground that was built almost a week ago is a big hit, or is it? The playground offers two slides, a small zip line, monkey bars, a seesaw, 4 swings, 2 climbing ropes, fire pole, and a climbing wall. But is the playground really a great idea? Here is what some people think:

Lara K. (Highlands): It can be a distraction, but it does more good than bad.

Evy R. (Idylwood): It is nicer, but not as fun.

Justine S. (Highlands): It is fun, but some things could work better.

Avery M. (Idylwood): The old playground was more exciting.

So people think that the old playground was better! Maybe Camp can bring some of the best things back. We will see in the following years.

Mysteriously Missing by Daniela, Highlands

Fictional Short Story

“Aaah!” Jayla screamed as she awoke in a cold sweat to a piercing scream. It was coming from the bunk next door. She rushed into the bunk and Tanya was gone. Jayla was really worried because in the last few days at sleepaway camp four people have gone missing. Liana, Ryan, George and now Tanya. The kids have tried to warn their counselors, but all they ever say is “It’s under control.” Everyone knows that it is not. Jayla was just trying to not think about it. Putting that aside, today Camp was holding auditions for this years play, “Peter Pan.” Jayla was really excited.

Finally, the clock struck 9:00am, and a counselor rounded up all of the kids who wanted to audition. Jemma, the Drama Director, was waiting for everyone at the theater with an eerie smile painted across her face. “Kids, you are going to sing a song and then act out a scene from ‘Aladdin.’ Line up and grab a paper.” she croaked. Her voice sounded like nails on a chalkboard accompanied by long heavy breaths in between almost every word. It is so weird Jayla thought.

45 minutes later... auditions were over! Even though Jayla was excited, she was thinking about all the missing kids so she decided to pull an all-nighter trying to figure out where they went. Who could be taking these kids?

Was it a counselor, or maybe the basketball coach? It could be the Camp Director -- no one could be ruled out. As people were beginning to go to bed, Jayla continued thinking. Hours passed and Jayla tried to stay awake as long as she could, but she felt her eyes close and her mind drift away. She fell asleep.

The next morning when she woke up nobody was missing. Jayla was tired and relieved. She was also very excited for the results of the audition to be published. Walking to breakfast she passed the cast list and found out she landed the lead female role in the play: Wendy! She was so ecstatic that she forgot all about all the missing children and being scared.

Today was a very long play practice; everyone had to go over their lines! All day people were learning songs. Dances, lines, stage placement and everything else you could imagine. After a long, tiring day of practice everyone was tired and ready to go shower and go to bed -- everyone except for Jayla. Jayla was determined to stay up for one more night. Many hours passed but nobody came.

Jayla heard a creak as a beam of moonlight grew from the doorway, extending into the bunk. In the shadows she saw Jemma, the Drama Director, in a long, black cloak. Jemma looked at Jayla and said in a deep voice “Come with me.” Jayla screamed to try and wake up her counselor, but her counselor was in on it too! They ran off into the night as quickly as they could because they knew that they were no match for Jayla.

A few days later all of the kids were thankfully found unharmed. Jemma and Jayla’s counselor were never seen again, but they are rumored to still be lurking in the woods waiting for the next camper to eat!

Should we play baseball at camp? by Zephi, Mounainview

Have you realized that we do not play baseball at camp? Well, we do not and here is why.

The main reason is safety, says Asaf, the Sports Aide. The baseballs are way too hard and they hurt a lot if they hit you. However, I do not think it is the right to not have baseball at Camp. I think if we had it, it would be a successful sport and our Camp would be good at it.

I would like baseball to be a sport at camp because I played it growing up and I still do and so have a bunch of my friends. Our camp would be good at softball and baseball and softball are very similar. I think it would be cool and fun to have a baseball team at Camp!

Canteen Speciality by Justine, Highlands



In the Newspaper Speciality orientation, the Canteen was mentioned. So, a few people got this idea called “Canteen Speciality,” so this is dedicated to my friends in Highlands. Here are the pros and cons of Canteen Speciality.

For most people, Canteen is a favorite activity. I can’t blame them, as it is the same for me. Why? Because it has things that kids are craving at camp: air conditioning, TV, games, and of course, CANDY! What more could you need at a Camp surrounded by nature?

But of course, all good things come with a price. First of all, if this were a speciality, you would be hyping yourself up with snacks right before snack! Plus, there would be too many people joining this speciality! Not convinced? Well, what about your money? If you were getting snacks on a daily specialty basis, you want to have enough money on the actual activity and who’s getting snacks now? Not you. Here’s an obvious one: you’d be hearing startling noises echoed through the room.

So, apparently, the cons outweigh the pros. So maybe, Canteen Speciality isn’t a very good idea, and it might stress out the Canteen workers with their busy schedules. Emma Canteen says “there are usually three or four groups, but sometimes we only have two groups.” Emma also said that snacks that were sold often had to be restored. Twix, Kit-Kat, Hersheys, M&M’s, and others are sold often. However, Raisinettes and Fig Newtons are barely sold.

A Case for Apple at Camp

by Irving, Mountainview

Why? Well there are a lot of things you can do with electronics like call, text, email, and much more! Oh and you call, text, email, and other things on your device yourself. You would not have to send mail. Mail takes five years!

Do you have an Apple Watch? Well, I actually have a good number of Apple products, but enough about me. If you had an Apple Watch at Camp, you could track your steps on a hike. I like Apple. Apple is a good company. They have a lot of products. Apple is also always crowded so that means they make a lot of money. Apple is the most popular phone company. There are a lot of things you can do with Apple devices.

Horoscopes by Sydney, Frontier

Aries: Don't put all your eggs in one basketball. Try out another sport.

Taurus: Lose anything lately? Check the bottom of the laundry bag. That is where all your socks are.

Gemini: The new playground is nice; treat it with respect or I see splinters in your future.

Cancer: Visit the Camp Museum. It will give you a greater sense of perspective.

Leo: Do not forget to wear your deep swimmer bracelet at the pool. You will need it soon.

Virgo: Two items every Canteen can add up, right? Your balance is running low -- spend wisely.

Libra: Seriously, clean your bunk.

Scorpio: Do not forget to thank your friends, especially when they go out of their way to send you something nice.

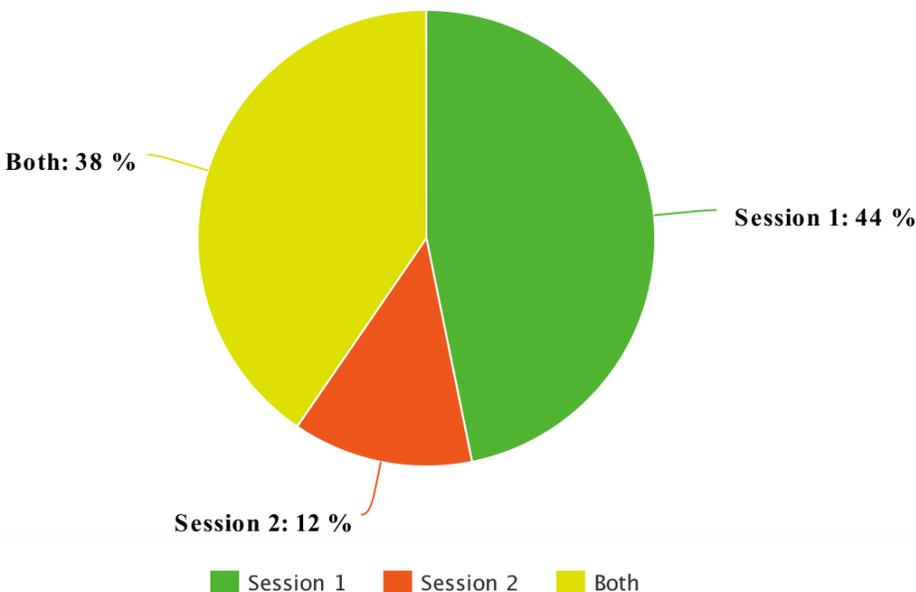
Sagittarius: You may have lost the Olympics, but you should not lose sight of your greater goals.

Capricorn: Walk a mile in someone else's closed-toed shoes. You will think twice about passing judgment.

Aquarius: Keep your options open and your water bottles full. Camp is almost over, but anything can happen.

Pisces: Stress is radiating off of you. Take a long, cold shower. Clear your energy and reset. You need it.

During your first summer at camp, which session did you stay?



Surprise

by Henry, Journey's Way

Surprise Lake Camp is the best
 Unbelievable fun
 Pool is awesome
 Really is a cool place
 I can have fun
 Sports are great
 Everyone are friends

Take a Dip

by Izzy, Highlands

Liz and Dylan, as most of us know, are in charge of Surprise Lake Camp's Waterfront and Pool. They work all day, everyday making sure that campers and staff can safely enjoy the water. But think about it -- how much do your REALLY know about Liz and Dylan? I interviewed them both to learn a little more about them:

Izzy: Hello, Liz. Hello, Dylan. It is a pleasure to have you both.

Liz: Thank you, Izzy. I am happy to be here.

Dylan: The pleasure is all mine.

Izzy: Let's jump right into this. Why did you want to become a lifeguard in the first place?

Liz: Swimming is always something that just makes me happy when I am in the water.

Dylan: I've always loved the water. I would swim with my dad when I was very young. My sister and cousins were also all lifeguards at SLC, so it runs in the family.

Izzy: Very interesting. How long have you both been working at SLC?

Liz: This is actually only my second year!

Dylan: This is my 10th summer in total. Two as a camper and eight as staff!

Izzy: It is nice to know we have a diverse range of experience here. Who purchased the stuff for the waterfront and the pool?

Liz: The pool was donated to us by Joy and Harry Henshel. We are very grateful to them.

Dylan: It is a mixture between our generous alumni and supporters of Camp, as well as Camp itself.

Izzy: If you had to choose between the Pool and the Lake, which would you choose?

Liz: Pool, obviously!

Dylan: The lake is way better.

Izzy: No surprises there. What is your least favorite part of the job?

Liz: Waking up so early. I am not a morning person.

Dylan: That part is hard, but I dislike having to be strict and correcting people.

Izzy: If that is your least favorite, what do you enjoy most?

Liz: I get to have fun while doing my job. What could be better than that?

Dylan: Being able to get to use whatever toys or other things we have at the waterfront whenever I want. (Continued on next page...)

Izzy: If I wanted to become a lifeguard, what sort of training would I have to go through?
 Liz: Learn all the ways to save someone if they need it, and learn all the swimming techniques.
 Dylan: You can go through the American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification Course, and do some additional training with Harry Vogel and the other lifeguards.
 Izzy: Woah! Maybe I'll be the newest SLC lifeguard. Have you done any lifeguarding outside of Camp?
 Liz: I do! I lifeguard and coach swimming!
 Dylan: I lifeguard for private parties.
 Izzy: Very cool. If you couldn't be a lifeguard, what other job would you be doing?
 Liz: I would definitely be running a pizza place.
 Dylan: I would want to be working as a math teacher.
 Izzy: My last question to you both is what would you like to do once you can no longer be a lifeguard?
 Liz: If the mermaid thing doesn't work out, I want to be a sign language interpreter.
 Dylan: I would want to have Harry Vogel's job.
 Izzy: Thank you both so much. I am sure all of Camp will learn from this.

Which Session is Better?

By Jordan R, Frontier

Jack Mantell of Lower Mountainview says “definitely first session because I have more friends in first session.” It seems like more people come first session meaning you have more opportunities to make more friends. Unfortunately, more people also means less opportunities to develop close, meaningful connections. At the same time, first session has the carnival and Israel Day. On the other hand, Ally Shapiro says, “second session because there are less people so you know everyone in your unit and because the counselors are more chill and laid back.” Less people also means you can know everyone in the unit and possibly become friends with a lot of them. The counselors are also more laid back and don't care as much. Unfortunately, you probably missed out on a lot of good things first session. People who went the full summer probably talk about a lot that happened first session which makes you feel left out. For campers, it is about a 50/50 split. However, the majority of staff say second session is better because it is more laid back. I personally like second session more but that is just my opinion.

SLC

by Henry, Journey's Way
 SLC is a place of fun
 Playing all day in the hot, hot sun
 Archery, sports, and lake swim too
 The best part is being with you

Chew gum

by Georgie, Mountainview
 Blow bubbles
 Pop bubble
 So sticky

An Ode to Open-Toed Shoes

by Natalie, Highlands

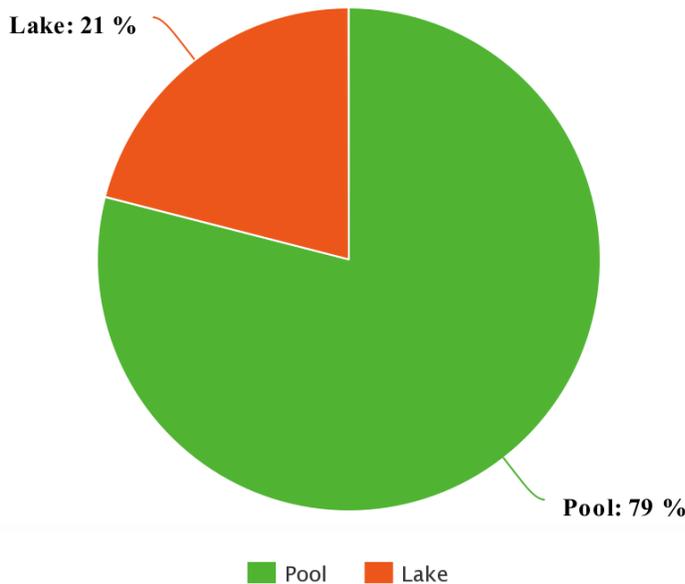
Oh open toed shoes how much we miss you
 Every night and every day, who ever did this to us
 shall pay
 We are fighting for your right and we are not leaving
 without a fight
 Sports we understand
 But breakfast, now that is out of hand
 Wearing you is like a dream that is why we are trying
 to let you free
 Flip flops, sandals, slides we love wearing you all the
 time
 Wearing sneakers is not so bad but wearing socks
 when you get out of bed that is awful
 That is what you don't understand

Main or Teen: Pick a Side

by Sarah, Highlands

I did two interviews one with Lara Klein and one with Roni Lerner. Lara has mostly worked on Mainside but she did work on Teenside a little as a parent helper in 2016. Other than that she worked on Mainside and liked it better than working on Teenside. Roni and Lara were both campers. Both of them were also on Mainside and Teenside. Each of them generally liked Teenside better but they also liked something on Mainside. For example, Mainside has a better Canteen, according to Lara. Also, we have the Pool and the Climbing Tower and High Ropes. The list goes on and on. Activity wise, Mainside is better but Teenside may be better in terms of more flexible rules. For example, Teenside campers can have food and they can go to the bathroom by themselves. On Mainside, you have to do more things with a counselor. By reading this article, you can decide for yourself which you think is better.

Do you prefer the Pool or the Lake?



How It Feels to be a Four-Year Camper

by Peter, Journey's Way

Over my four year of being here, I have had many friends and Counselors who are here today. Jason, a current Frontier Counselor, Tyler, the Journey's Way Supervisor, Jessie, the Idyllwood Supervisor, and Tyler, the Frontier Counselor. Jason was here for my first year of Camp. All together, the staff at SLC are always nice. I feel very excited to be a five year camper. It has been very exciting every year to drive up the Camp road. I love it here at SLC!

Visiting Day 2019

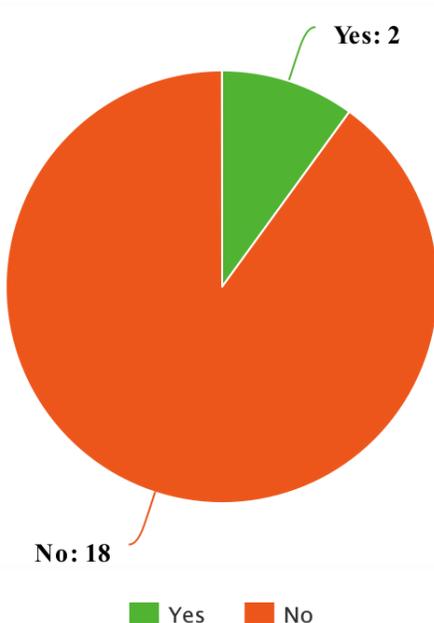
by Daniela, Highlands

Do you think that there should be two Visiting Days? Well, there used to be and I asked Head Counselor Neil some questions on this topic. I asked Neil why they took one of the Visiting Days away and Neil explained that other camps only had one Visiting Day, so they decided to do the same. Also, he told me how kids get homesick when there were multiple Visiting Days and parents did not like seeing their kids cry when saying goodbye. I also asked Neil how they came up with the idea to take away a Visiting Day and he told me they had discussed the topic in 2017 and finally agreed to put the decision to play and take away Visiting Day.

Then, I decided to get campers point of view so I interviewed Sarah Kipnis (five-year camper). I asked Sarah if she wanted to have two Visiting Days back and what she thought about them taking away one of the Visiting Days. Sarah told me she would want two Visiting Days back and she thinks that kids that come both sessions should not only get to see their parents for four hours in between sessions and they should bring back the old Visiting Day so kids can be happier. They might get homesick, but at least they have something to look forward to. Those were some thoughts on having two Visiting Days.

Pro	Con
Get to see parents	Can make some kids homesick
Kids friends and family get to see camp and might want to come the next year	A bit chaotic
Makes some kids less homesick	Not like other camps

Have you attended Mini-camp?



Tennis with Teddy

by Jacob S, Mountainview

Teddy is the Tennis Specialist here at SLC. Teddy has been playing this sport for four years now. Teddy has grown up playing tennis with his grandfather. At the age of twelve, Teddy not only started to play tennis, but also was playing soccer as well as golf. Teddy likes that you can hit different shots in tennis. His inspiration was his grandfather. Teddy said that he was the fourth best in the United Kingdom! Teddy has lots of friends he either made here at SLC or knows them out of Camp, including my counselors Dylan Goldstein Oliver Adler. I'd also like to thank Teddy for making tennis and soccer better here at SLC.

A Player's Perspective

By Emily, Highlands

We all remember Mainside vs. Teenside soccer game? For everyone that wanted a better understanding of the game we have interviewed April G. to give us some greater perspective.

April, a Highlands counselor in Sports specialty, was feeling a little nervous but also very excited to get on the field and start playing. There was a spark of happiness as she kicked the ball, and she was happy to be contributing to the team. She was relieved when she saw the crowd cheering and all of her nervousness went away.

Her advice to future Mainside vs. Teenside soccer participants is to just get out there and play!

Refrigerated Dill Pickles

by Julia Farm

Ingredients:

2 1-pint wide-mouth jars with lids
1 pound small cucumbers or zucchini or green beans
1 tablespoon whole peppercorns
1 tablespoon of sugar (optional)
1 ½ tablespoons kosher salt
⅔ cup white or apple cider vinegar
1 cup water
1 larger handful fresh dill
2 sprigs of parsley
1 chopped green onion
1 hot pepper

Directions:

1. Wash 2 mason jars and lids in hot, soapy water, rinse and let air dry
2. In a spare mason jar, combined black pepper, sugar, salt, vinegar. Tightly cover the jar and shake vigorously until the salt and sugar dissolve. Add one cup of water to the mixture.
3. In the two clean mason jars add dill, parsley, sliced garlic and hot pepper. Tightly pack the cucumbers into the jar.
4. Pour the brine mixture over the cucumbers. Tap the jar on the counter to release any air bubbles and top off the jar with extra water if any veggies are exposed.
5. Place the lids on the jars and screw until the rings are tight. Leave the jar in the fridge for at least 24 hours before tasting, although we recommend 4 days of refrigeration. The pickles last up to 1 month refrigerated.

We would like to thank all of our talented writers and editors for their hard work and dedication to the Surprise Lake Times. This paper would not be possible without them.

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SLC by the Numbers: Survey conducted by Ally, Idyllwood

Survey tabulation and data visualization by Sydney, Frontier

Survey was conducted utilizing a randomized sample of Upper Seniors in the Senior Dining Hall on 08/08/2019. (n=25) (Response rate = .57). Survey was conducted by in-person interviews. No landline or cellular phones were used. Data was not weighted by any metric including age and education. For further details on methodology please contact Sydney or Ally.

From Our Desk to Yours

Surprise Lake Times, established in 2016, is setting the standard for the institution of Jewish sleepaway camp journalism. With an award-winning team of reporters, we are blazing the way to a free and independent press where children can express themselves through their writing. If you are interested in joining our team, we are happy to have you -- camper or staff. Whether you want to hold truth to power, or just voice your opinion, you always have a home at the Surprise Lake Times.