



Laurel Leaves

Fall & Winter 2022

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Looking Back and Looking Forward

The summer of 2022 was a great success- beautiful weather, happy campers, and a great staff!

In 2019, we had almost constant rain – the exact opposite was true this past summer. Our days were filled with sunshine and the rain we did have typically fell at mealtime or at night. In fact, we did not have a single full day of rain at camp so there was no need to pull out the “rainy day” activity plans! It was so warm that campers even commented that they never needed to use their cold weather clothes or extras blankets.

While we did have Covid protocols of testing and podding in place for camper arrival and the first few days of each session, we were quickly able to move into a camp experience that was just as it has always been at Fleur de Lis. Our campers continued to love activities at camp with favorites being archery and ceramics, closely followed by all waterfront activities, riflery, stained glass, firebuilding and outdoor cooking. Evening Programs and Sunday and Wednesday special events and trips were fun for all. The days were

filled with laughter and singing, campers chatting as they walked the camp road arm in arm, and celebrating our special camp traditions as a community. Joy, belonging, and friendship were constant themes of the summer of 2022.

The staff of 2022 were truly remarkable! The staff were fortunate to have a great group of CTs to assist them in activities and the Fields and those young leaders were well-loved by campers. The Farmhouse staff brought incredible talent, experience, dedication, and a “we can do this” attitude to their daily work. Our Unit Heads were passionate, committed, and enthusiastic leaders and our Field Counselors consistently brought a high level of energy, understanding, and fun to their connection with campers. No matter how beautiful a camp is or the quality of activities offered, camp staff are the key to the success of a summer, and this was absolutely true in 2022!

It was sad to see the summer end, but the sadness was tempered with the knowledge that so many members of our community would be back in 2023. As we look ahead to next summer (only 6 months away!), we are thrilled that the vast majority of our 2022 campers will be back with us. Most of the graduating 2nd year seniors have applied to be 1st year CTs and they will join our 2nd year CTs as our young adult leaders in camp. We’ll have a very strong returning staff and we’re excited to welcome our CTs that graduated last summer to staff positions. We’re working on some new arts initiatives and service projects, and we hope to add some great trips to our schedule.

Our new Assistant Director, Molly Couch Ward, and I are excited for the winter and spring filled with recruitment of new campers, hiring staff, planning program, and taking care of all the details that will make Fleur de Lis 2023 a summer to remember!

Best wishes until we see you again on the shores of Laurel Lake! MJ

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Circle Week Celebrates its 10th Summer!



After two summers of unique camp experiences, Circle Week was back in-person for its 10th summer! The hugs and laughter from the campers as they exited the bus at camp was so welcoming and an encouraging sign for the week ahead. The fun continued as everyone enjoyed singing in the dining hall, jumping into Laurel Lake, and skipping up and down the camp road.

The summer of 2022 was a small group of campers and staff, each with their own story, their own experience, and their own celebration of completing another week of camp. Each camper was given the opportunity to work through their grief and remember their parent that died each day during an activity block. Each activity was planned and led by our grief team of Ladies Julie and Sarah. As always the entire staff group was volunteers. People came from all walks of life to participate and guide the campers in camp activities. The cheers from the point dock were heard each afternoon as campers enjoyed their ride around the lake in the tube - always a favored activity.

On Thursday night we donned party hats, sang happy birthday, and participated in birthday games for evening program to celebrate Circle Week's tenth summer. Not only were cupcakes served for dessert, but many rounds of musical chairs were played, pinatas were hit, and a huge dance party with glow sticks concluded the evening. A wonderful celebration was enjoyed by all, and we look forward to the next birthday party!

The summer of 2022 was made possible by the generous monetary donations, the donated supplies, and all the people that were able to give their time during the week to participate or volunteer. We thank everyone for their continued support of the program. Please consider donating money or your time to ensure that Circle Week is able to continue for another ten summers. We look forward to another joyous week of camp in 2023.

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Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion at Fleur de Lis



The DEI Core Committee is excited to share that our committee is expanding! We are looking forward to additional members of our community joining us as we work towards making Fleur de Lis an even more welcoming and supportive place where each one of our campers and families feels a strong sense of belonging.

A big welcome to Tess Gordon, Katherine (Collier) Zuber, Julie Raye Horton, & Kate Gladstone! More members to be announced soon!

The group will officially kick off this January as we continue to collaborate with our consultants from [Strength Perspectives](#). With the addition of the new members, the committee will start with training so that we can all work together with a similar understanding and working knowledge. Following the training, the group will begin to reach out to the larger community to gather additional information to help guide us as we move forward on this journey.

If you have any questions or think you might be interested in learning more about the DEI Committee, please reach out to Allie McCartney at dei@fleurdeliscamp.org.

Fleur de Lis DEI Core Committee

Allison McCartney, DEI Core Committee Chair

Diane (Di) Foster (Board President)

Samantha Keogh

Linda Wickenden O'Malley

MJ Parry (Executive Director)

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CT News



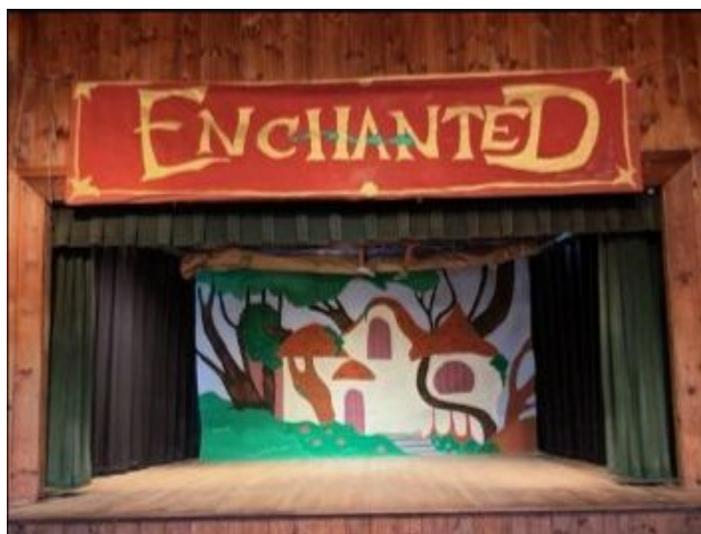
We are so proud of the 16 CTs that worked hard and laughed harder at camp this summer. This year the CTs were able to take on more traditional CT roles and responsibilities - participating in field life with their tents and cabins; managing squad duties, including getting to know the dishroom dishwasher Jackson and his sidekick Gertie; and assisting with and teaching classes. Some highlights of the summer were hosting CT Dinners with Slumber Party and Color War themed EPs, painting amazing backdrops for all camp productions and wrangling them from the rafters, helping set up the corn hole tournament fundraiser in memory of Danny Baker, lighting flares around the lake for the 4th of July, and surprising and celebrating each other during SS week. We were excited to present our 9 second year CTs with Lady sweatshirts at the end of the summer and hope our 7 first years come back to complete the program this

summer.

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News From the Unit Heads

Throughout the summer, each age group puts on one play each session. Junior Production, Mid Birthday, and Senior Banquet are loved traditions at Fleur de Lis Camp for Juniors, Mids, and Seniors respectively. Campers, CTs, and Staff look forward to these traditions and the opportunity for each field to be celebrated. These seemingly silly plays are ways to help bring the individual fields together. Campers learn acting and theatrical pointers while also learning the importance of working together. This tradition assists the campers in building a supportive community and learning how to cheer each other on. Junior Production, Mid Birthday, and Senior Banquet fill Fleur de Lis with laughter and are an important part of the building our strong FDL community.



In the July 2022 session at camp, the Junior Field set the production bar rather high by kicking off the summer's performances with the hit movie, *Trolls*. The Junior staff knew almost instantly that this would be a perfect choice for the wildly entertaining Junior Field to star in. Much like the Juniors, the *Trolls* in the movie spend their days laughing, dancing, singing and are described as “perpetually-happy”. Showcasing the unique personalities and talents of each of the July session Juniors, the hilariously taught lessons about friendship and adventure within the play culminated in a phenomenal song and dance number featuring all the Juniors on stage singing “Can’t Stop the Feeling”.

The August session Junior Field put on a hilarious and highly anticipated production of the classic movie, *Despicable Me*. From the Juniors practicing their super silly character voices to wearing their perfectly hilarious costumes, this play was a huge hit! There were many scenes through the show in which we could

barely contain our laughter (including the directors backstage).

Junior Production is always a massive success and loads of fun for everyone involved. Being the first and youngest age group to perform, the Juniors receive mountains of praise from the entire camp community and are definitely treated like the superstars they are following their production! We cannot wait to see what next year's shows will bring to everyone at Fleur de Lis!

During the July session, the Mid Field put on the hilarious movie *Sing*. This adaptation allowed each Mid camper to have a moment to shine on stage. *Sing* was filled with funny one-liners and star-studded solos from all the Mids. The music had everyone in camp singing along due to the many snippets of popular hit songs such as "Bad Romance" and "Shake it Off". The Mid staff was in awe of the effort and determination that the entire field demonstrated to put on the fantastic production.

Mid Birthday in the August session was the iconic *Hercules*. The Mid Field came together and worked hard throughout the week to put on this production for the rest of camp. This production showcased the beautiful singing that this talented Mid Field had. The show had many group dances that bonded the field. *Hercules* left the barn in a roar of applause and a standing ovation as the rest of camp sang "We'll cheer for the Mids". All of the hard work put into this production truly paid off and left a lasting impression.

In July, the Senior Field performed their rendition of *Hannah Montana the Movie*. The show was full of iconic musical moments including the "Hoedown Throwdown" and the "Cheese Jerky Song". Seniors, Mids, and Juniors alike could be seen singing and dancing to these fun songs for the rest of the summer. The July Senior Banquet was truly a fun filled and hilarious performance. The Senior Staff could not have been more proud of the dedication shown by each camper in the week leading up to the outstanding performance.

In August, the Senior Field continued to amaze with their spectacular performance of the film *Enchanted*. Each senior brought their own twist to their character and shined bright no matter how big or small their role. During rec time and rest hour, seniors could be seen in the fields and in the barn helping each other practice their lines and dance moves in preparation for the show. It was so wonderful to see their hard work pay off as they had the whole barn erupting in laughter and cheers with each dramatic scene. This production truly brought the Senior Field together and was a great way to end a successful summer.

The Unit Heads,

L. Caroline Jones L. Rachel Cass L. Alex Putney

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Corporation Nomination

Dear Fleur de Lis Community,

Fleur de Lis Camp invites nominations and self-nominations to serve on the Fleur de Lis Corporation.

The Fleur de Lis Camp Corporation is a dynamic group of alumnae, community members and friends who demonstrate a commitment to the mission of Fleur de Lis and to sustaining camp well into the future.

Members of the Corporation serve as active, engaged volunteer leaders who lend their skills to committees, ranging from finance to development to recruitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, to organizing or sponsoring events to on-site support during the summer program. Corporation members are champions of the Fleur de Lis Camp experience, helping bring new families to camp and are committed to making Fleur de Lis Camp a volunteer and charitable priority for the duration of their term.

There are no limits on the number of terms Corporation members may serve, however, every five years, members are asked to actively re-commit to a new five-year term.

Fleur de Lis Camp actively seeks a Corporation with a diverse mix of perspectives, skills, experiences and backgrounds.

How to Submit a Nomination:

- Individuals who self-nominate should:
 - Review the [Corporation Member Duties and Responsibilities](#)
 - [Complete the Corporation Member Self-Nomination/Application Form](#)

- Individuals who are nominating someone else:
 - Please submit the nominee's full name, email address and phone number
 - A member of the nomination committee will reach out to your nominee to determine if they are interested in pursuing an application

Nominations and supporting materials should be [sent via email](#) to Libby Williams, Vice President, Fleur de Lis Camp Board of Directors.

Process and Timeline

Upon receipt of a nomination, a member of the Nominating Committee will contact the nominee to discuss their interest in serving on the Corporation and to answer any questions. The nominee will then be

asked to submit a Corporation Member Self-Nomination/Application Form.

Nominees' materials will be reviewed by the Nomination Committee and nominees will be invited for an interview with members of the Nominating Committee.

The final state of Board-approved candidates will be presented at and voted on at the summer Corporation Meeting.

Please [contact](#) Libby Williams, vice president of the Board of Directors, with any questions about the nominating process.

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A Note From the President

Dear Fleur de Lis Community,

I am writing this on the Winter Solstice- the shortest day of the year. Even so, it also marks the beginning of the days getting longer. This time of year is always filled with light and warmth, a time to reflect and to look forward. I always love that about this time of year- the opportunity to look back on the joys of the year, the losses, the things we would do differently. At the same time, we look forward. We anticipate the good times ahead, plan ways to make hard moments better, and make some wishes for what comes next. The light others have provided for us, our own light within ourselves, and those who light our way- these lights guide us into the future.

Fleur de Lis is a place where that light burns bright. So many of us and our FdL campers find those who light our way while they are at camp and carry that light with us through the years. The light that shines when we celebrate new joys and remember good times. The light that provides hope in the dark times. The light that casts a glow on what lies ahead. And the light that builds within as we try new things, build strong friendships, and delight in the place where we belong. Camp is a place where we reflect and look forward continuously, even as we revel in the present moment.

On behalf of the board, I want to wish you all a season full of light and warmth. We ask that you share the light of Fleur de Lis with others. Introducing new families and staff members to camp is a way we can all

ensure that the best of what we love about camp grows and strengthens. Share your stories, invite others to learn more about us, reach out to neighbors, family members, and colleagues who might find that place of belonging and warmth in Fleur de Lis next summer. Our Executive Director, MJ Parry and our new Assistant Director, Molly Couch Ward are happy to assist you in welcoming new campers and staff to our great camp.

In peace,

Diane (Di) Foster

Fleur de Lis Board President

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