Camp Aloha's Newsletter

SCAMP SPIRIT

2026

Dear 2026 Aloha Community,

As the air gets cooler and the leaves change for fall, it feels like camp just ended but also like it was about a year ago. I have been looking back at photos from the summer, reading your responses to questionnaires, and generally thinking about Aloha.

When I think back over our summer theme, Be Somebody, one thing that stands out is how often I heard you talking about what it means to be somebody for yourself. I've been thinking about that a lot lately.

One way I've been interpreting it is this: How much of what we do is actually for ourselves, and how much is for other people?

Sometimes we do things because we want to be accepted, or because we want people to think we're cool. Sometimes we avoid things because we're afraid of being embarrassed or looking bad. Sometimes we decide we simply aren't a certain kind of person: "I'm not athletic." "I'm not creative." "I'm not a waterfront person."

There's something comforting about deciding these things about ourselves. If we already know we're "not good" at something, we don't have to risk putting ourselves out there or having anyone see us fail. We also don't have to put in the effort it takes to get better.

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There's a problem with that story: it doesn't leave much room for you to surprise yourself.

I've done this too. For years, I told myself, "I'm not a good artist." Which is kind of funny, because I studied art in college and love looking at art. But I had decided that because I wasn't as quick or naturally gifted at making art as other people I knew, I wasn't really "an artist" at all.

It reminds me of a quote I love from Richard Bach: "Argue for your limitations, and you get to keep them."

I started wondering: Why was I arguing for this particular limitation? Why was I comparing myself to other people? What if I stopped worrying about whether my paintings were good?

Eventually, I started painting and drawing as a hobby as an adult. Sometimes they are a mess. However, I love pushing paint around a canvas and seeing what happens. And I like it even more because I'm not doing it for anyone else.

We sometimes forget that we're allowed to enjoy things without being good at them.

At camp, you get to be a beginner in front of other people. You can show up to an activity without knowing what you're doing. You can fall off the paddleboard. You can make a weird mug on the wheel. You can audition for the show without any dance experience. That's just what we do at camp.

Even those who are now known for certain skills can attest to this. I'm sure Ada and Ellie would remind us that they couldn't do windy tandem landings the first time they got in a canoe. Lolly probably didn't make a perfect ceramic puzzle piece the first time she picked up clay. And I'm pretty sure Shel was not born knowing how to bake a cookie bar with the perfect chewiness.

They tried. They messed up. Their passion led them back to it. They tried again. And eventually, they got better.

What I love most isn't watching people become good at things. It is watching people care enough about something to keep going.



There were countless examples of this at camp—in five-day trips, Aloha Entertains acts, on the diving board, in the archery field, and in all the moments when you decided to try something even though you weren't sure how it would turn out.

We are lucky at Aloha to see people in that "messy middle." It takes trust to let other people see you figuring something out. And I think that is part of what makes camp special: there is less pressure to have it perfected before you begin. You can try something, fail at it, laugh about it, and decide to try again.

So this year, I want to challenge you to do something you're "bad at" anyway.

Try something you've already decided isn't for you. Make something you don't intend to show anyone. Sing loudly, even if you're off-key. Dance when you feel awkward (Generous Person is designed to be awkward, after all). Pick something because you're curious or drawn to it, even if you don't know why.

You are still becoming yourself. Don't close doors on yourself before you've even walked through them. Be somebody for yourself.

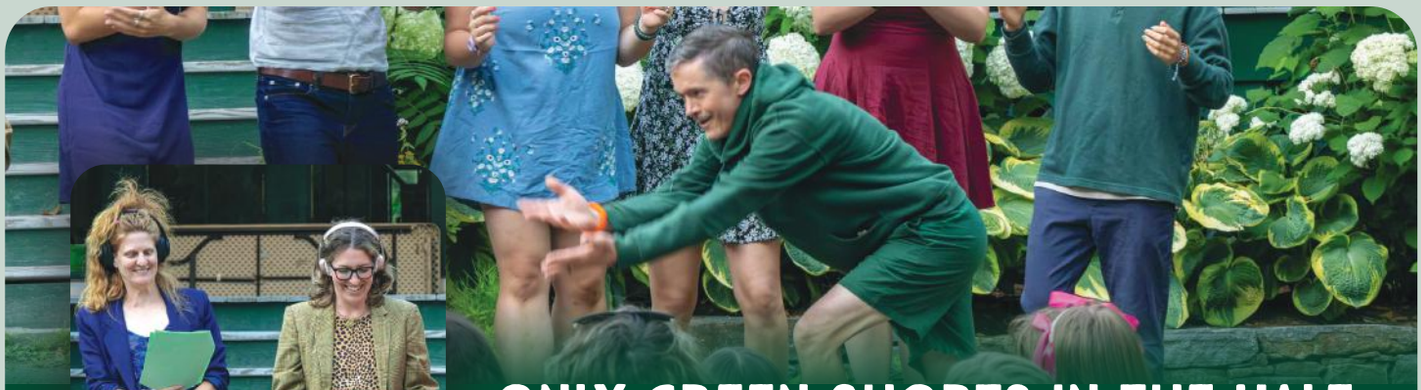
And when we see you next, I'll be excited to learn what you've tried.

Aloha,

Char



CHARLOTTE MESSERVY
Director of Aloha



ONLY GREEN SHORTS IN THE HALE

TOP-RATED TRUE CRIME PODCAST FROM THE 05045, WITH HOSTS,
CHER MISSOURI & FLYE SQUADRON

SEASON 4, The Ancient Dances of Aloha

(Flye) *Welcome back to Only Green Shorts in the Hale, the true crime podcast where we investigate the mysteries of this 121 year old camp in depth and solve them in front of a bunch of campers on the same night every summer.*

(Cher) *I'm your host, Cher Missouri.*

(Flye) *And I'm Flye Squadron. Today's case: The Ancient Dances of Aloha...*

The date was July 10th, 2026: the first lawn dance of the summer

The DJ had arrived... Grace Gordon. Her rectangle was subtly tucked into a Crazy Creek sitting on top of a table on a stone wall. The playlist was bomb. No one could deny it, because the campers sourced the material directly.

The chess game was set up in the garden. The basketball court was full of.... basketballs. And the snack table contained exactly nine pounds of pretzels and suspiciously strong lemonade.

Everything should have been perfect...but it wasn't.

As the music started and the campers from a neighboring property filed in, things got awkward. Real awkward.

Counselors tried to force it... they bounced to the beat of *Mr. Brightside* while insisting, "This song is SUCH a bop."

But as the counselors looked down over the crowd, they noticed a haze. A strong haze surrounding all the campers in the upper volleyball court. Body odor formed a cloud around everyone with a greenish tinge that tickled their nostrils in a bad, bad way. It brought the vibes way down. And dang, it smelled.

Nobody moved. Until *Temperature* by Sean Paul came on.

It started with one counselor: Margot. She stepped into the middle of the court. Looked around. Then locked in. Something took over Margot's body as she felt the melodic beat wash over her.

Suddenly, without her remembering moving, her feet were together. Her wrists extended at the outer thigh. She took an exploratory lean to the right and then the left. And then, she stopped questioning, she felt herself not DO the Penguin, but BECOME a penguin. And it felt so right.

It didn't end there. Lily Rich joined in with the shopping cart.

Then Grace felt a storm brewing and let the cyclone take over her body. She spun wildly in circles until nobody knew which direction the snack table was.

Next...Stoon found herself doing the Pretty Girl or "Aesthetically Pleasing Human," if you so choose. It felt so good to be so pretty and she didn't fight it. Then she upgraded to Pretty Girl with Attitude.

Finally... The Drowning Swimmer. An interpretive masterpiece involving dramatic splashing, exaggerated gasps for air, and just enough flailing to make the waterfront staff mildly uncomfortable.

Katie Foote stared in amazement. "What are these?"

Sam Kofman looked around carefully before whispering, "I've heard stories."

"Stories?"

"They're the Original Aloha Dances."

"I thought they were made up."

"So did I."

Within minutes, nobody cared what they looked like anymore. Trip subs were waddling. Clubbers who had spent all week trying to act composed were doing the Drowning Swimmer with alarming commitment. Their CPR was on point.

There was just one counselor who didn't have the Original Aloha Dances pumping through them. It was Doug.

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YOU SAID...



WHAT'S A SOUND, SMELL, OR FEELING THAT INSTANTLY REMINDS YOU OF ALOHA?

"Out-of-tune piano, people shouting 'to the _____!', and warm Shel bread."
Birdie French, Old Hideaway

"Zippers—like a bug net, or rain at night."
Danny Hughes-Muse, Club

"The sound of chairs scooting across wood floors all at once—whenever I'm at dinner with friends and they scoot their chairs, I'm teleported back to the dining hall right after grace."
Serena Spiro, Pines

"Loons, rain, the smell of a book."
Riley Holtzman, Crossroads

"The smell of Shel bars!"
Evie Fofonoff, Seventh Heaven





IF YOU COULD BRING ONE PERSON FROM HOME TO CAMP FOR A DAY, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHAT WOULD YOU SHOW THEM FIRST?

"I'd bring my grandma to camp—she was here in the '80s, and I want to show her both how it's changed and how it's stayed the same."
George Bernfield, Pines

"My cousin! I would bring her to the Hale to show her our great-grandmother's name on her name board."
Elea Witty, Crossroads

"My best friend, so I could show her what camp means to me and how much the community impacts you even if you're only there for a day."
Gracie Sage, Club

"My grandma, because she loves nature and art—I'd show her the art barn, I think she'd love all the creativity."
Mesha Jimenez, Old Hideaway

"My mom! She was a camper and counselor and loves camp—it would be amazing if she could experience a day here now."
Charlotte Ciriello, Crossroads

"My grandpa—I'd show him Archery!"
Elena Ludwig, Seventh Heaven





IF YOU COULD SWAP JOBS WITH ANY STAFF MEMBER FOR A DAY, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE AND WHY?

"Char, because it would be fun to be director and decide everything about camp for a day."
Serena Spiro—Trip-Sub, Pines

"Shel, 'cause I can eat food."
Nat Cahill, Crossroads

"Audrey, 'cause sailing + motorboating = da goat!"
Carter Doe, Seventh Heaven

"Someone in Sailing so I could sail and drive the motorboat all day—but I'd also want to bike!"
Ocean Lundell, Old Hideaway

"Brita, so I could teach pottery."
Evy Schwerin, Club

WHEN DID YOU GET THE CHANCE TO "*BE SOMEBODY*" THIS SUMMER?

"I was somebody when I went out of my comfort zone on a whitewater overnight—I was scared and didn't want to go but changed my mindset at the last minute."
Magnolia Hughes-Muse, Pines

"I helped a chipmunk out of the trash."
Caroline DeSilets, Crossroads

"By teaching younger campers in Swim without being asked."
Gretchen Llewellyn, Old Hideaway

"I was in both shows to make myself happy, being somebody for myself!"
Mary Baker, Seventh Heaven

"I have brewed so much coffee this summer!"
Destiny Wininger, Club



EXTRA! EXTRA!

Check out Aloha's 2026 spectacular production of *Newsies, Jr.*! Relive the memories, seize the day, scan the QR code and watch the show!



S4, OGSITH *Continued from page 3…*

Doug had seen many lawn dances in his day, and instead of participating, he decided to clean every table, set 220 places for breakfast, take out every trash bin and get to sleep by 8pm.

But when Doug heard the beat of *Temperature*, something took over his body. He stepped forward, hard. Stretched his arms out straight in front of him. And his palms faced out to the world in front of him. He was a generous person, doing the Generous Person.

When all the powers of our Generous People combined, the green haze began to thin. The smell got slightly less B.O.-y and more Axe Body Spray-ish. And Doug knew just what needed to happen to remove the stench completely.

"There is one more Ancient Dance of Aloha," he announced. "The Hand Washer. It used to be done before every meal."

Doug then mimed turning on the water tap, grabbing some soap from the dispenser, turning off the water and singing *Happy Birthday* twice while lathering up every nook and cranny on his hands. He rinsed thoroughly and then looked out to the crowd.

Others felt inspired to try it. And as they got into the second round of *Happy Birthday*, there was a palpable shift in the air. The fog disappeared. The smell returned to the general lake water smell we all had started to find comforting and the vibes were high. The dance felt both awkward and amazing. Just as it should.



The Ancient Dances of Aloha never quite disappeared again after that. The Penguin was spotted at breakfast. The Drowning Swimmer has since been banned within fifty feet of the waterfront. And the Hand Washer is done at the beginning of every meal, just as it was way back in the days of yore.

Case closed.

MUSIC & LYRICS

As you may remember, we had a celebration of 120 years of Aloha after camp ended. During that weekend, a few of our awesome alums wrote a new song that is fun and catchy (including Sigel, Katy Weinberg and Kabelson). We hope to sing it next year. Have a listen and if you'd like to learn the words before next summer, here they are!

LISTEN HERE!

Aloha Calls to You, 120th Reunion Song

Everywhere in the world, these memories carry you
A canoe that's paddled gracefully, these memories carry you
Everywhere in the world, these scents will stay with you
Trace of fire in your clothes, these scents will stay with you

Chorus:
On land and on water, no matter where you are
Call out, and the lake calls back to you

Everywhere in the world, this place will grow with you
Like a wood-fed fire in a place so sweet, this place will grow with you
But everywhere in the world, this place sticks with you
Like a piece of sap stuck to your leg, this place it sticks with you

Chorus (×2)

Bridge
How might your life be different if there were a place for you?
Received and affirmed in your own time, there were a place for you
And if you trusted—let that lead—the places you might go
It follows you through life and love, and this place with you can grow

Chorus (×2)

And all over the world, as summer it rolls in
There's someone somewhere trying to know how they can come back again
But everywhere in the world, Aloha's always there
With friends nearby and far away
The lessons you've learned that meet the day
With true, kind, necessary things to say
Aloha's always there

Chorus (×4)
On land and on water, no matter where you are
Call out—Aloha calls to you

LISTEN UP!

MOST VOTES FOR "ADD TO SPOTIFY":

1. HERE ON THE WATER
2. WILD MOUNTAIN THYME
3. GULICKING UP
4. ALOHA OE

ALOHA WORDSEARCH 2026

NEWSIES
FERN
CIRCUS
WISHING FIRE
SNAPPY
CANDY DAY
RECOGNITIONS
LAWN DANCE
WHITEWATER
LOWKEY
HIGHKEY
LIAISON
WINSHIPS

S	N	O	I	T	I	N	G	O	C	E	R
T	H	N	H	S	H	F	E	R	N	F	A
W	I	W	L	P	A	A	L	S	A	S	H
H	G	I	I	I	E	E	A	A	E	N	R
I	H	S	A	H	W	C	W	I	N	A	L
T	K	H	I	S	I	H	N	I	L	P	N
E	E	I	S	N	I	N	D	S	C	P	R
W	Y	N	O	I	E	S	A	A	W	Y	C
A	W	G	N	W	W	W	N	E	I	I	N
T	I	F	S	E	W	D	C	H	R	Y	W
E	A	I	O	A	Y	A	E	C	N	C	K
R	E	R	N	D	O	N	U	Y	H	S	E
S	N	E	A	O	E	S	L	H	H	G	S
S	I	Y	I	R	L	O	W	K	E	Y	I

Answers below



C.L.O.P.S

ALOHA M.A.S.H.!

You loved J.O.T.S! Get ready for C.L.O.P.S! Start by picking a random number—for example, count how many times you can blink in 10 seconds or draw a spiral and count the lines. Then, move through the list of all your category options in order, counting each item until you reach that number and crossing it off. Keep going, skipping any crossed-off ones, until there's only one option left in each category. Those final choices reveal your "future"!

HOME:

Club Shack
Lean-to on Winships
Ohana Porch
Pines Tent 2
Skyebo

SPECIAL ACTIVITY:

The Lone Pancake
Lawn Dance
International Assembly
Solo Sunday

TENTMATE:

Shel Ball
The Porcupine
Scarlett Johnston
Emma Gomes

SONG:

The Otter Song
John's Spoken Grace
Aloha Oe
The Rattlin' Bog

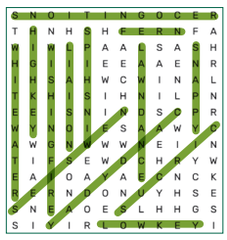
FATHER ABRAHAM

**Full-time camp song?
Yea or nay?**



YEA: 61.7%
NAY: 38.3%

** The Aloha Camp Dining Room Song Tribunal has heard the people. The tribunal is unswayed. Father Abraham remains a special occasion song!*



2968 Lake Morey Road
Fairlee, Vermont 05045

ENROLLMENT IS OPEN!

CAMP DATES 2027

FULL SESSION:
Friday, June 25–Wednesday, August 11

1st SESSION:
Friday, June 25–Sunday, July 18

2nd SESSION:
Tuesday, July 20–Wednesday, August 11

INTRO SESSION:
Tuesday, July 20–Tuesday, August 3

CLUB PROGRAM:
Monday, June 21–Wednesday, August 11

Visiting weekend:
Saturday, July 17–Sunday, July 18



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