

NEWSLETTER

THE LINDLEY LEDGER

SPRING 2025



**SPRING
IS
HERE
AT
4-H CAMP!**



WHAT'S NEW AT SUMMER CAMP?



Picnic Tables Everywhere!

Summer 2025 will find some brand new picnic tables scattered around our Camp facility! They will serve as some permanent dining tables in our Rec Hall, when rain drives us from our patio dining on the flagstones, and every cabin is equipped with a table for card games, craft-making, or just good ol' 4-H Camp social time.



New Wood Carved Owl and Raccoon

We have welcomed a few new friends to the camp community! What are their names you ask? That is a great question! We need YOUR help still in naming them. Click here to submit names for our new wood carved friends.

https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1BTfpdAzbGGkLnE

Celebrating 75 Summers



As you'll read a lot about in this newsletter, and then continue to hear about for the next 14 months (at least), WE'RE CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SUMMER! Beginning with our Annual Lantern BBQ, 4-H Camp will be hosting either an in-person or virtual event every month to celebrate the 75 summers worth of laughs, smiles, friends, and summer camp memories.

RECENT EVENTS AT CAMP

2025 Winter Camp Season



Every year we get to welcome up all of the 4-H Counties throughout New Jersey to stay for the weekend as they host their Winter Camps. We always love welcoming 4-Hers, and want to thank all of the county staff and 4-H members for a successful 2025 Winter Camp Season! Special to this year, one of our groups even got to walk out on the frozen Lake Shawanni!

2025 Winter Gathering

Thank you to everyone who came out and spent a December Afternoon with us at our annual Winter Gathering. The event was a great success, with some brand new winter crafts, some winter time campfire S'mores and our annual Flagpole Tree lighting.



Leadership Weekend

We hosted our Annual Junior Counselor Training Weekend this March. 4-H Camp filled with our former campers and CITs, and led by our 2025 Senior Staff.



Together we enjoyed some summer camp fun in March (with summer-y weather) and intensive training to begin the preparation for all their summers have in store for them, in their brand new roles!



Check out more about Leadership Weekend on our blog [here](#).

CONNECT AND CONTRIBUTE

You only turn 75 once!

The New Jersey 4-H Camp is excited to announce that we will be embarking on a year-long 75th Anniversary Celebration, beginning in July 2025 with the start of the 75th summer and stretching until the official anniversary in July of 2026.

Since we first opened our cabin doors in 1951, tens of thousands of campers have gone on to make 4-H Camp their summer home. In all that time, plenty of little things have changed and transformed at 4-H Camp; but behind it all, the big ideas at the core of our program have remained the same.

Three quarters of a century later, campers continue to journey to the woods for an outdoor adventure, to live days of rustic simplicity and youthful revelry. They enjoy a change of pace and change of scenery as they forge a community and experience unique to the rest of their modern lives. Campers rekindle old friendships and make new ones. At the end of their summer, they still walk away with newfound confidence, a vast array of funny stories, and memories that will last a lifetime.

As was written to the original camp supporters after Summer 1951, "the first season has been a success beyond all expectations - may we count on you to finish the job that was started?" We hope to count on YOU to join us for some (or ALL) of our 75th Anniversary celebrations, as we continue to work together to finish the job that was started and strive to make the next 75 summers at 4-H Camp another success beyond all expectations.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Lantern Family Barbeque

Our annual Lantern Family Barbeque will be June 29th this year. All Lantern Families are invited to help us kick off the summer before our first session. Become a part of our Lantern Family by recommending a brand new camper to either our Day Camp or Overnight Camp Program.

[More Details on our Lantern Family Program Here](#)



4-H Camp at Rutgers Gardens Open House

We will once again be hosting our 4-H Camp at Rutgers Gardens Open House on May 17th. Join us anytime between 10am and 2pm for a preview of our day camp program, and to meet some of our summer staff for 2025 while they lead some sample camp activities, outdoor games, and program tours.

[RSVP Here](#) or on our [website](#)

75th Anniversary Staff Retreat

One of our prime events of our 75th Anniversary is our Staff Retreat! We are excited to welcome staff from throughout our camp history. The retreat will be held September 19th - 21st.

[More Details and Schedule Here:](#)

Sign Up to Attend [HERE!](#)



NEW JERSEY 4-H CAMP
75
SINCE 1951

**75TH ANNIVERSARY
SUMMER STAFF REUNION**

SEPTEMBER 19TH - 21ST, 2025

(AS SHOULD BE EXPECTED FROM SUMMER CAMP,
ALL ELEMENTS OF THE SCHEDULE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
AS WE FIGURE OUT WHAT'S ACTUALLY GOING ON.)

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
New Jersey 4-H Camp
150 Cook 4-H Youth Center
for Outdoor Education**

Friday 9/19	Saturday 9/20	Sunday 9/21
1:00 Arrival Window Opens <small>Attendees are welcome to show up throughout the day on Friday. No full meals will be provided, but you can make it, enjoy some optional outdoor activities, and we'll have refreshments for you to enjoy.</small>	7:00 OPTIONAL Morning Activities	8:00 Flag / Breakfast Buffet Opens
6:30 Mix 'n Mingle 'n Meet 'n Greet <small>Light refreshments will be served. Guest and introductions will be had, and our celebratory Camp History exhibit will open.</small>	8:00 Flag / Breakfast Buffet Opens	9:00 Camp Clean-Up / Move Out
8:30 Opening Campfire	9:00 Morning Whatever Time / Coffee By the Lake / Day Attendees Check-In	9:45 Activity Period
	10:30 Activity Period	10:45 Closing Ceremonies
	12:00 Lunch	10:45 Depart / See You at the 100th <small>Post-Session Lunch Meet-Ups, BBQs, or a Trip to Bensenville 4-H Camp (Summer) Forum will be available.</small>
	1:00 Rest Hour / Laid Back Activities	
	2:00 Big Activity Period	
	3:45 All Camp Game	
	4:45 GROUP PHOTO	
	5:00 BBQ Dinner and 75th Anniversary Ceremonies	
	7:00 Flag/Vespers / Optional Departure	
	8:00 Story-Telling Campfire	
	10:00 Late Night Fires	

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UPCOMING EVENTS

We have exciting events planned for each month of our year-long 75th Anniversary celebrations. (Further details for each individual event will be announced as we get closer!)



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SUMMER

Lantern BBQ

Kick-Off to Summer #75

June 29th, 2025

Launch of Virtual
Scrapbook*

August 2025

Staff Reunion and Retreat

September 19th-21st, 2025

Historic Open House

October 18th, 2025

"75th" Campership Campaign*

November 2025

Winter Gathering

December 6th, 2025

Virtual Scrapbook

Storytelling Event*

January 2026

Winter Camp Time Capsule*

February 2026

London Reunion*

March 2026

Mid-Jersey Meet-Up!*

April 2026

Alumni Family Weekend

May 1st-3rd, 2026

Opening Weekend Work Day

June 13th, 2026

Lantern BBQ

Kick-Off to 75th Anniversary Season

July 5th, 2026

* Denotes a virtual or off-site event

Dates and Events subject to change.



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BEHIND THE SCENES

Camp Director's Note

Summer '25 is Summer #75-

We move out of the offseason two ways here - very, very gradually and then all-of-a-sudden. Well, we're in all-of-a-sudden territory now at 4-H Camp, as it's May and Summer 2025 (and all the campers that come with it) will be here in no time. As you'll see in more detail elsewhere in this very newsletter, this summer will mark the beginning of our yearlong 75th anniversary celebration, and we do hope you'll join us for some of the festivities.

However, looking at that rundown of events makes me consider that the most extraordinary way we'll mark the occasion is by simply doing the same thing we've always done: gathering together again here to live in the woods, make new friends, and create some ideal summer days.

Because really, for the people in which 4-H Camp matters the most right now, it's not Summer #75 at all. For a few campers in Cabin 9 it might be Summer #3; for a couple of our CITs, it could be Summer #6; and for some of our first time counselors, it's Summer #9.

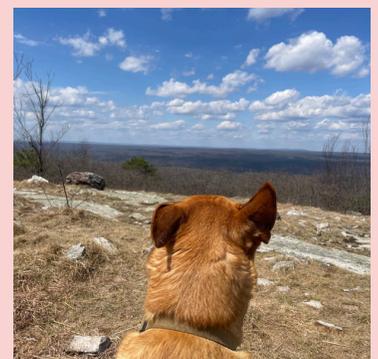
And most important of all, for our brand-new campers about to discover their new 4-H Camp community, all Summer 2025 happens to be is just Summer #1.

-Ben

Into the Woods with Woodrow

Each issue we will check in on our beloved Camp Dog Woodrow, to discover what *he's* been up to.

Our Classic Blue Mountain Hike Along the A.T.



STAFF CHECK INS

Each issue features some messages from current and former staff. Read on to meet some people from our camp community and hear how they bring summer camp with them into their springtime.



Staff Summers
2017-2022

Cassidy Svercauski

Hi camp! Most of my days are spent teaching dance to kiddos, reading and of course, petting my dog! I am the secretary of our Campfire Council Alumni Board and so excited to kick off the 75th summer of camp! This spring I am making sure to get outside and soak in the sunshine as much as possible. As we all know from camp, there is nothing better than fresh air and sunshine! See you soon!

Joe Marta

Hey camp, it's Joe Marta!

This year I've been doing a lot of music related events. I've performed in the pit of an off-broadway musical, traveled the country to compete in band festivals, and my favorite part, teach! Although it's not camp, I try to bring the fun and positive energy as if it were! Can't wait to see you all soon.



Staff Summers
2021 --

If you are interested in participating in one of our staff check ins, we would love to include you in a future edition. Please complete the following survey or email shanna.gryder@rutgers.edu, and we will be in touch about one of our future editions of the Lindley Ledger

https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aiaBOXDDE2P06DS

LEGENDS OF LINDLEY

The Legends of Lindley section is here to test you camp knowledge! Each newsletter will feature different puzzles and trivia so you can see how much of a camp expert you are!

TEST YOUR CAMP TRIVIA

1. How many summers has camp run SO FAR since its founding?

- A. 25
- B. 74
- C. 75
- D. 50

2. Which of the following was originally discussed as being the 4th H?

- A. Hustle
- B. Humor
- C. Honor
- D. Hope

3. What is the name of the camp dog?

- A. Woody
- B. Woodrow
- C. Buddy
- D. Barry

4. Who of the current summer staff was the first to work a summer season?

- A. Tyler
- B. Ben
- C. Carl
- D. Shanna

5. Which of the following is has never been a theme of a session at camp?

- A. The Hungry Games
- B. Decades Week
- C. Everyday is a Holiday
- D. All of these have been themes

6. How many of the cabins on camp are renovated?

- A. 4
- B. 5
- C. 6
- D. 7

7. How many total campers attend camp in a sold out session (Day camp and Overnight included)

- A. 200
- B. 158
- C. 224
- D. 338

8. How many acres of botanical gardens does the day camp sit on?

- A. 180
- B. 50
- C. 25
- D. 108

STAYING IN TOUCH

Submit an entry to Vesper Voices

If you have a camp story to share, pictures from your time at camp, a creative piece, or a question for camp you can submit that here to be included in our Winter issue. Alumni and current camper submissions welcome. Submit [here](#).

Staff Check Ins

If you would be interested in being featured as one of our staff on our staff check-ins sections, please reach out, or fill out [this form](#).

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Legends of Lindley Answer Key

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. B | 5. D |
| 2. A | 6. B |
| 3. B | 7. C |
| 4. C | 8. A |

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