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# YMCA CAMP HUCKINS

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News from YMCA Camp Huckins - April 2016



## **Calling all Tri Athletes, Sponsors and Volunteers**

The 2016 Tri-Ath-LOON is on Sunday June 5 and registrations keep arriving. It's not too late to register today for the June 5th Tri. Swim 1/3 mile, bike 10.5 miles and run 3.1 miles all for the best cause of all - the Camp Huckins Scholarship Fund. We are still accepting **sponsors** and **volunteers** for this unique event.

Find your link below -

**[Tri-Ath-LOON Registration](#)**

**[Tri-Ath-LOON Sponsorship](#)**

**[Tri-Ath-LOON Volunteer](#)**

## Alumni Weekend June 3-5, 2016

Alumni Weekend is a great opportunity to catch up with friends, help ready camp for the summer season and enjoy the smell of the pines! Help is always needed and appreciated during this popular weekend. The weekend kicks off with an evening social in the lodge. Saturday is busy getting major activity areas ready for staff and campers. Sunday is our Third Tri-Ath-Loon. We hope you will help with a variety of volunteer positions needed to make the day fun and safe for our Tri Athletes. Volunteering for the Tri includes a t-shirt, post event lunch and making the race course safe and fun for everyone! **Register now** to save your place alumni weekend and the kickoff to our summer season.



# Construction Update



It has been a big "destruction" month at Camp Huckins. Both the Palace and Big A (previously named Big W) have been torn down. After clearing the sites the rebuilding will quickly commence. Big A will be ready for the first session and



campers will enjoy the look and smell of a new cabin. The Palace will take a little longer with plans for the foundation and initial construction to be suspended when campers arrive. Construction will resume at the conclusion of camp with a move in date of December 2016. **You can help support our major construction efforts with your donation today.**

# Empowerment Days



Come back to camp and share your stories. At Camp Huckins, we pride ourselves in developing strong women and leaders. For the past two summers, we have invited alumni to come back and tell their memories of camp with campers and share their life experiences with staff. Alumni volunteers spend time together then fan out across camp to spend counselors' free time with a cabin. Alumni and campers are encouraged to exchange stories and find out what is the same and what is different. All are pleased to know that so many things have not changed and many of the traditions have remained. At lunch, the alumni go to the dining hall and sit with their cabins. The sounds and activity of the dining hall are fun to experience with the campers and louder than you remember. After lunch, staff and alumni gather in the lodge for networking.

This summer there will be two Empowerment Days – July 16th and August 13th. Please consider being part of this fun and rewarding camp program. **You can register to participate in Empowerment Days by clicking here.**



## 2016 Spring Online Store Now Open!

The on line store at Camp Huckins will remain open until May 15. It is recommended that you place your orders early to ensure availability of specific items and sizes. The on line store is a very popular way to get an early start on your camp clothing needs. **Check out the store and some of the new items and traditional favorites today!**

*(Pictured above is our new "Camp Changed My Life" shirt*

## **YMCA Camp Huckins Board Member - Kathleen Mulkern**

Kathleen Mulkern was born and raised in the Mount Washington Valley. In 1974, when she was in the third grade, she heard from her two friends about an awesome camp called Camp Huckins and she asked her parents if she could go there. When her mother heard that she wanted to go to camp, her Mother told her, "You live here in the mountains, you don't need to go to CAMP! (which may have been her mother's way of covering for the fact that they really couldn't afford to send her to camp). Later, Kathleen's mother received a call from Audrey Vorperian, whose husband Zaven was the director of Camp Huckins, letting Kathleen's mother know that there were scholarships available and soon she was packing her trunk to go off to Huckins.

Kathleen spent nine wonderful summers at camp, becoming a C.I.T., and a counselor. Her favorite things about camp? The lake wind bringing up that pine needle smell on a hot day, vespers, the singing, candlelight, packages full of goodies (apologies to now-a-days campers), reading at rest period, swimming in the lake, life-guarding, canoeing Black Brook, and hearing Indian counsel fire drums in the distance. She still has the letters her campers would send to her after they left to return home after their sessions. Kathleen went to college at U.N.H., studying Nursing and then received a Master's degree in Public Health and Nurse-Midwifery from Boston University's Nurse-Midwifery Education Program within the School of Public Health. This midwifery program was started as a response to

poor quality prenatal care in the Boston area. The program was started based on studies that showed an improvement in the health of inner city mother's and their babies when their prenatal care was provided by nurse midwives.



Kathleen fulfilled her dream in 2003 of returning to the valley after many years to live and work at the Memorial Hospital in North Conway NH. She moved here with her husband Reed, daughter Mae and her two sons, Liam (Mae's twin) and Finn. She

loves skiing, snowshoeing, and just roaming around in the woods. Indoors, she enjoys restoring antique quilts, playing the fiddle, and singing. The practice of midwifery fulfills Kathleen's desire to connect with the women she sees and to make a difference in the world one woman and one birth at a time. It is her goal to empower women to become healthier, mentally and physically, to better care for themselves, their families, and their communities. She recently "caught" her 890th baby at The Memorial Hospital.

Not long after moving back to the Valley, her daughter Mae, who was in third grade, began asking if she could go to Camp Huckins, having heard about it from her friends. Kathleen's reacted with uncertainty at first. She wondered how she could ever send her little girl away to camp so young and she could hear the words of her own Mom, "Why does she need to go to camp, she lives in the mountains?" But looking back on her own experiences, she knew that Mae, being the strong, confident child that she was, was the perfect Nellie Girl! Kathleen found out about the Camp Huckins Songs CD and

bought it for Mae (who loves to sing), to learn some camp songs before she went that first summer. She put it on one evening for Mae to hear and while listening to it, the tears came pouring down and all her Camp memories came flooding back. And with those songs, Kathleen's ties to camp, (like a lanyard tied with gimp), were reconnected. Mae exclaimed "Mom, why are you crying!?"

So off Mae went, with her trunk packed. One day, soon after Mae came home from camp, she gave her Mom a hug and said, "Mom, NOW I understand why you were crying when you heard those songs!" Mae is now a second year Senior Counselor and will be a double Huckster this year. Kathleen is still sending Mae off into the world, as she is spending her gap year traveling the world in South America for three months in September 2015 and right now across Europe for three months.

Soon after Mae started attending camp that first summer, Kathleen received a call from Jody Skelton, to see if she was interested in becoming part of the Huckins Board which she is still happily a part of today. She is now lucky enough to get to visit camp a lot and smell those pine needles!