

The Huckonian



A publication for alumni and friends

Fall 2025

Huckins Turns 100 Let's Celebrate Together!



Get ready, Huckonians — CCYMCA Camp Huckins is turning 100: **100 summers of laughter, friendship, and unforgettable adventures!** Under the leadership of staff member **Beth (Coffey) McKay**, and a volunteer steering committee, we are already planning for a year of celebrations from June 2027 through June 2028. This is your chance to reconnect, share memories, and help shape the next chapter of Huckins history.

From cherished vespers songs, water carnivals, and thrilling program days, Huckins experiences and memories connect generations. Now, we want to hear from you!

Ways to Get Involved:

- **Share Your Memories:** **Shelby Graham Larson** is leading a book project to celebrate 100 years of Huckins, and we would love your photos and memories to help inform the story. She is also leading our effort to digitize Huckins slides, photos, and Laughing Loons. Help us capture Huckins history by sharing photos and stories through the Huckins 100th page of the website.
- **Volunteer:** Many hands make light work, and we need a lot of hands to help us prepare for the 100th. Our highest need right now are volunteers to assist in organizing our growing digital photo archives, helping us identify when the photo was and who

is in it. We will soon need volunteers to plan Huckins 100th events, and to help us reconnect with Huckonians across the decades, the country,

and the world. There will be projects of all sizes, so whether you have lots of time or a little, please consider signing up through the website to be a 100th volunteer.

- **Donate Memorabilia:** If you have a box of Huckins keepsakes in your attic, consider sharing a few to display in *The Hutch*, our new history room.
- **Save the Date:** Our 100th Kickoff Event will be at Huckins on **August 28, 2027**.

The 100th anniversary is more than a celebration—it's a chance to revisit favorite activities, remember lifelong lessons, and build new connections across the Huckins community. We can't wait to see you, hear your stories, and celebrate **100 years of Huckins together!**

Visit our website to sign up, share your memories, and join the celebration.

Get excited for the 100th! Look for questions scattered throughout the *Huckonian* and tune into our social media to learn the answers as we count down to our 100th summer!



A note from the Executive Director

Dear Huckins Community,

As I reflect on this past summer, so many highlights come to mind. We played and cheered during program days, cabin activities, and divisionals. We tried new things at departments—sailing, pickleball, even underwater basketweaving! We let ourselves be silly as we dressed up for themed lunches like “Wicked” and “Camp Song.” We sat together looking up at the stars and watched fireflies move through the pines. We enjoyed exceptional talent shows, and of course, sang camp favorites at the top of our lungs, standing on tables in the Dining Hall.



Campers and staff appreciated the new pontoon boats during cabin activities and fishing, and the new boat docks made getting to the boats much easier. Middler and Senior Division campers enjoyed the new cabin floors so much we plan to replace the Junior Division next year! The W campers build more benches at the Huckins Camp Fire so that the entire camp could participate in the new Opening Campfire Ceremony (OCC). We walked quietly through the pines to the OCC and sang together around the fire to begin each session.

This summer, campers, staff, and families came together at Huckins, practicing our core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility as we grew in mind, body, and spirit. These daily practices form the foundation of our Huckins community.

At our Women’s Wellness Weekend, I asked a group of alumnae what they hold most dear from their time as campers. Independence, confidence, and friendships were shared by all, but I was struck by how unique each woman’s “takeaways” were. For one, it was being embraced for her boldness. For another, it was realizing it was okay not to be perfect. More conversations led to more distinct lessons from Huckins.

That’s the true gift of Huckins: each person carries home something uniquely their own. It might be the confidence gained from trying something new—even if it didn’t go perfectly the first time. It might be the courage to keep going when faced with a challenge. Or the comfort of friendships that will last long after the summer ends. And yet, we are all linked by the shared memories we’ve created, a community that embraces us, and the values that unite us.

As the seasons shift, I hope you feel the quiet confidence of knowing you are part of something larger—rooted in Huckins values and connected by our shared experiences.

In the Huckins Spirit,

Heather

It is the mission of the Carroll County YMCA through its many programs, to strengthen the Spirit, Mind, and Body of youth, families, and communities. We strive to provide an honest, respectful and caring atmosphere where each person can grow to realize their full potential.

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- Maddy Clapp** Camp Operations Director
- Mark Cadman** Associate Executive Director
- Mike Pfluger** Facility Director
- Sarah (Mackie) Weeman** Summer Camp Director
- Beth (Coffey) McKay** Centennial Coordinator
- Grace (Schofield) Potts** Communications Coordinator

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100th Trivia

We know the Lodge and the Middler Division Leader cabin (the original camp office) were built for our first Huckins camp season. Are there any other original buildings?

Lodge Groundbreaking Ceremony

It was with excitement, joy, and reverence that nearly 70 Huckonians gathered under the pines on the last weekend in September to celebrate the Ceremonial Groundbreaking to kick off the Lodge Expansion and Preservation project.

Huckins Staff, Board Members, Committee Members, early project supporters, and their families were joined by our lead contractor, Huckins alumna Deirdre (Gaudreau) Wadsworth, President of Hardypond Construction out of Portland, ME.

The Lodge is the one place at Camp that every camper across the generations has experienced and likely made meaningful memories, whether through Vespers, Flag, Candlelight, meals (it was originally the Dining Hall!), trips

to the vending machines, or simply playing ring toss on the porch.

The expansion and renovation will preserve and enhance the Lodge's wonderful character while transforming the back of the building into the space that Huckins needs for current campers and staff to thrive. We look forward to keeping the Huckins community updated about the renovation as it unfolds...stay tuned!



Maddy Clapp's 20th Summer

This past summer marked a special milestone for our Camp Operations Director, Maddy Clapp – her 20th summer at Huckins and her 5th summer as a full-time staff member.

Maddy's Huckins journey began in 2006 as a camper in Q2. She went on to become a counselor in BA, K, X1, W, and CIT before stepping onto program staff and serving



as a Program Director. Maddy took a brief detour to work at the TD Garden after graduating from UNH but then joined the year-round team in 2020.

Maddy's love for camp has always been strong. Even while majoring in hospitality at UNH, she still found ways to return to Huckins each summer. From interning at camp her sophomore year to shadow Jody and learn the business side of Huckins, to participating in the Disney College Program during her Junior spring, Maddy has always made sure she would be at camp for the summer. She hasn't missed a summer at camp since she was 9 years old! Huckins has been a true constant in Maddy's life for the last 20 years.

Along the way, Maddy met Mike Skelton whom she married in 2024. Maddy and Mike have been able to experience Huckins through each other's eyes as they trade stories of their own Huckins summers while creating new shared memories of camp together.

Some of Maddy's best memories as a camper come from the moments she shared with her friends and fellow campers, forming connections, building lasting friendships, and growing together through shared experiences. As she transitioned to being a staff member, those lessons deepened. She discovered the importance of being a steady, listening ear for her campers and peers. Camp taught her that support doesn't always mean fixing problems; it often means offering comfort, understanding, and presence.

Today, Maddy brings the same heart, dedication, and perspective to the year-round team. There is no end to her compassion as a coworker or drive as a leader, who embodies the ultimate camp experience. Nothing is beyond her realm of willingness and desire to help make our favorite place thrive, year after year. Maddy is a constant reminder of what it means to keep our Huckins spirit and traditions alive, while growing camp to embrace future generations.

Maddy shares she has been thankful over the last 5 years to work for an organization that supports young women and people in finding their voices, understanding their value, and having a safe space to be their truest selves. We are so grateful for Maddy!



Alamen, Angela!

A huge alamen to Angela on being inducted into the Camp Brain Hall of Fame with the 2025 Lifetime Achievement award! Everyone in the Huckins community knows how much Angela pours into camp, keeping the front office running smoothly and always giving her all. We're so grateful for your dedication and heart, Angela! Thank you for all you do!



Alumni Work Weekends Joyful Bookends to Summer



June Alumni Work Weekend volunteers

Camp had a very successful opening, thanks to the many helping hands during Alumni Work Weekend. With the dedication of our incredible volunteers, camp was transformed from its quiet winter stillness into a vibrant, welcoming space, ready for the summer season ahead.

In June, floats were launched into the lake, beaches were raked and cleared, department areas carefully assembled, and pine needles thoughtfully redistributed. Even persistent rain could not dampen the mood—teamwork and good humor prevailed. Spirits were high, and the weekend was a delightful time of connection and camaraderie across generations.

At the end of September, alumnae returned to put camp to bed for the winter. Boats were moved to the

Craftshop and Snell Dome, the floats and tower were moved to the beach, and bedding bundles were assembled to prepare for summer 2026.

We were grateful to all our alumnae who came from near and far to help prepare camp for the summer. It was a joy to see both familiar faces and those returning after time away, as well as some brand-new faces to Alumni Weekend, adding fresh energy to the mix. Thank you all for giving back to Huckins in this way!



September Alumni Work Weekend volunteers

Welcome back, Lily!



We are thrilled to welcome back Lily (MacLean) Bennani to our full-time team as Advancement Director. Last on staff as a double-SC in 1998, Lily reports she's beyond grateful to support Huckins' Advancement efforts — connecting the ever-expanding Huckins community to opportunities to ensure the magic of Camp continues for many future generations.

A resident of Concord, MA, Lily, her husband, Chris, and two sons, Austin (13) and Eric (11), quickly pivoted to spending their summers under the pines. Lily spent this summer at Camp building relationships with staff, campers, parents, alumni, and board members. She is delighted to confirm that Camp is the same in "all the important ways" and looks forward to continuing to build and strengthen connections within the Huckins community for many years to come.

Lily brings to Huckins 25+ years of experience in finance, strategy, communications, and design, with a passion for building relationships and community to drive growth. She holds a BA from Dartmouth College and an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business. She also is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Charterholder.

Women's Wellness Weekend 2025



This year's Women's Wellness Weekend was full of creativity, laughter, and memorable moments! Highlights included the Wellness Fair, evening boat rides, felt bookmarks, and, of course, the famous skillet toss. Our jam-packed weekend was topped off with incredible food from Joel and his team. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our biggest group yet!

Mark your calendars for September 18-20, 2026, for next year's Women's Wellness Weekend.



A Recipe from Joel's Kitchen

GLUTEN FREE BLUEBERRY SCONES WITH LEMON GLAZE

Yield 16 Scones

Note about the flour: Be sure to use "1 to 1" Gluten Free Flour. We prefer Bob's Red Mill 1-to-1 Gluten Free Baking Flour. "1-to-1" flours have all the necessary additions like xanthan gum so you don't have source and add them yourself.

This recipe can also easily be made vegan. Just substitute oat milk and a vegan butter like Earth Balance.

Ingredients

4 cups gluten free flour - *See note.*
1 cup sugar
2 tablespoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt

1 cup butter, frozen and grated
1.5 cups milk
.5 teaspoon vanilla extract
1-2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries

For the glaze:

2 tablespoons lemon juice
.5 - .75 cups confectioners' sugar

Steps

1. Grate frozen butter on a box grater and return to freezer.
2. Whisk flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in a large bowl.
3. Using a pastry cutter or a fork or just your hands, add butter and work it into the flour mixture.
4. Add milk, vanilla and blueberries and mix until just combined.
5. Place mixture onto a floured (gluten-free flour of course!) surface and work into a ball.
6. Divide ball into 2 pieces and press into 8" discs. Cut each disk into 8 wedges.
7. Place onto parchment-lined cookie sheets and brush with milk. Sprinkle with sugar and refrigerate for at least 15 minutes.
8. At this point, you could also freeze them if you don't want to use them immediately or don't need all 16 scones. They will keep for a few weeks if well wrapped and can be cooked straight from the freezer.
9. Bake for 20 minutes in a preheated 400-degree oven. If cooking from frozen, it may take a bit longer.
10. While scones are baking, make the glaze. Whisk together confectioners' sugar and lemon juice, adding more until you have a consistency you like.
11. Allow scones to cool for 10 minutes before drizzling with glaze.

My first Huckins summer was 1981 („no other year the same”...) in Cabin U, and I came every summer through my W year in BW. For reasons that only made sense to the teenager I was at the time, I wrote a letter to Audrey sometime prior to my CIT summer telling her I had changed my mind and was not coming back to camp, a decision that is near the top of my short but significant list of regrets.

Huckins has been a constant in my life ever since that first year. I reconnected with camp friends in college at Middlebury, crossed paths with others while living on the West Coast, and many times have been reminded of the Huckins bonds when seeing a CNH sticker out in the wild. My husband was not a camp kid growing up, but he has definitely become a camp adult, having happily attended 7 Labor Day family camps and innumerable pick-ups and drop-offs at Belknap and Huckins for our 3 kids. Our daughter Brooke was an SC in Cabin MA this summer, and our daughter Drewe was a Dub in LW.

After college, I had interesting careers in jury consulting and political polling. We married in 2001 and moved back East in 2002. But it wasn't until 2016 that I found my way back to a "camp job" when I joined Tips on Trips and Camps, a free service that connects families to overnight summer camps, trips, and academic experiences. Now I get to talk about camp and the benefits of all overnight programs all the time! I became the Director of Tips in 2024 and have a team of 12 amazing women around the country who love camp as much as I do.

We post a lot of blogs about camp and teen programs, and I thought I would include one that



What ever happened to... Jen Gould?



I wrote a few years ago that was titled, "No One is an Only Child at Camp." It pretty much sums up how I feel about Huckins:

For all but four weeks a summer, I was an only child. My house was quiet. I had my own bathroom and bedroom. I never had to vvy for attention from my parents. I never had to share, compete, or complain about unfairness. Friends would tell me how lucky I was, how horrible their own siblings were, and that they would trade places with me in an instant. Yet from my

perspective, I often found life as an only child boring, my house too quiet, and my adult-centered world somewhat stifling.

I lived for camp. Camp was busy. Camp was noisy. Camp offered me 10 sisters as cabin mates, and we spent every minute together. There was a full table at meals, and 300 campers and staff sang Happy Birthday to me every year. There was always someone to play with. We swam together, sang camp songs together, walked around arm-in-arm, and cried when the summer ended. I loved every minute.

Sneak Peek!

Our Spring 2026 Huckonian will feature this Huckins alum... can you guess who it is?



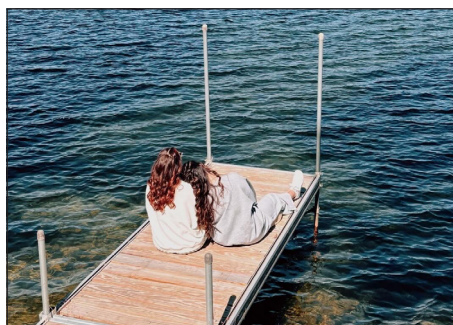
All About the Alumni ...



Lexi Haskell Hoffman, Debbie Gummer Jabbari, Becky Allen Barlow and Ellie Gordon together for a Nellie meet up!



Stephanie (Wallace) Turner started a new chapter and co-founded LaunchPoint Talent, a company dedicated to helping college students and recent grads navigate their career journeys with confidence. Her mission is to bridge the human skills gap and prepare the next generation for success.



Chloe MacDonald and Kacie (Nelson) Holmes together to celebrate Chloe's wedding! Chloe and Kacie first met in Cabin G in 2010!



A large group of alumnae gather to celebrate the wedding of **Isabel (Ward) Haberstock**.

Brianna (Desrochers) Weatherbee and husband Aaron are settling back into life in New Hampshire after a cross-country move with their daughters Winslow (4) and Wrennyn (2).

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100th Trivia

What did Gerald D. Lane do at Huckins?

HUCKINS YOUNG ALUMNI COMMITTEE

The Young Alumni Committee is excited to kick off another fantastic year. We are pleased to welcome five new members to the committee and extend our heartfelt thanks to the outgoing members for their service and dedication, especially Amy Brennan, whose time as co-chair has been marked by thoughtful and diligent leadership.

We are also delighted to announce our new co-chairs for the 2025-2026 term: Kate Weston and Julia Himmelberger, who bring energy, experience, and a strong commitment to the Huckins community.

Please join us in welcoming the full 2025-2026 Young Alumni Committee:

Molly Badger
Mia Christenson
Gretchen Crowe
Kayla Frain
Ali Greene
Annika Hamilton

Erin Hattamer
Julia Himmelberger
(co-chair)
Audrey James
Lizzy Lunney
Lydia Paris

Sarah Pier
Rebecca Raslowsky
Grace Smith
Katelyn Wackrow
Kate Weston (co-chair)

Be sure to follow @CampHuckins on Instagram for fall events, alumni gatherings, and networking opportunities. We look forward to a year of meaningful alumni engagement and continued Huckins connection!

Welcome to the Huckins family!

Weddings and Babies



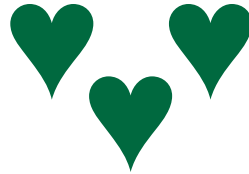
Elizabeth (Welch) Linden married Nate Linden in June 2022 and then welcomed son, Walker Matthew, in October 2024.



Isabel (Ward) Haberstock got married on August 16, 2025 to Taylor Haberstock.



Becca (Skelton) Livecchi (21) and husband John welcomed Emma Jocelyn Livecchi on March 18, 2025



Emma (Verrill) Price married husband Daniel in 2020 and welcomed daughter, Dolly, in June of 2024.

Elizabeth "Boo" Kennedy had daughter Kinsel Amara on April 16, 2025.



Kathy Vittum and Chris Sloan were married at the Huckins Chapel on September 20, 2025.



Szymon Sendlak (18) married Ola Niebudek in Poland this June. In attendance were **Jill and Peter King (21)**, **Maria Sendlak (18)**, **Irek Brewka**, **Kacper Wagner (18)**, and **Stan Sendlak (24)**.



Katie Croyle married Steve Hayward on May 25th 2025 in Harvard, MA.

Camp Across Generations: A Family Tradition

For four generations, Huckins has been more than a summer tradition for the women in this family – it's been a place of confidence, connection, and joy.

Claire Healy attended in the 1990s, finishing with her Huckster year. Camp was where she could be authentically herself, a place to try new things, discover who she was, and build confidence that carried into life beyond camp. It was so meaningful that she hoped her own daughter could experience it too.

That wish was rooted in legacy. Claire's grandmother, Fay (Jones), went to camp in the 1940s, riding the train from Concord into Conway with friends and eating meals in what is now the lodge. Her mother, Susan (Crowley), spent summers there in the 1960s, and you can still find her initials painted by the flagpole.

Now, Claire's daughter Lillian Healy-Hibbard has completed her Huckster year, wearing her grandmother's bracelet as a proud symbol of tradition. Along the way, mother-daughter weekends give Claire and Lily the chance to experience camp together, from jumping off the tower to reconnecting with friends.

For this family, camp isn't just a place—it's a thread weaving together generations.

Do you have a family story that connects across camp generations?

We'd love to hear it! Reach out to Beth at beth@camphuckins.org to share.



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100th Trivia

When was the PO built?

Community Connections

by Katie Miressi

This year, Camp Huckins continued our connection with the community through educational programs and local events. During the spring and fall, we hosted over 720 students from 6 different schools throughout our county and beyond. Students visited camp for their wellness days, field days and team building activities, as well as spending quality time with their classmates. We were honored to host the Community Club of Freedom's Community Dinner again in support of the Freedom scholarship program, connecting with families and celebrating education opportunities. Our 2nd annual Huckins Summer Social was a big success! We had many returning neighbors as well as new community members who joined us to explore Huckins, enjoy a meal together, and hear firsthand the experiences our campers enjoy every summer.



We are thrilled to be partnering with the Freedom Historical Society on their display celebrating the camps of Freedom, highlighting Huckins' rich traditions and history in the community. The fall Freedom Elementary soccer season is in full swing! Our staff volunteer as coaches as

we help local youth develop teamwork, confidence, and offer needed childcare options during after-school hours. We are participating in the Halloween Town event for the second year at the end of October. Children from communities all over the county come to trick or treat at Camp Tohcomeupog as they visit cabins



decorated by local organizations, while providing a safe and family-oriented evening of Halloween fun.

During our summer and post-season programs, Huckins collected and donated over 2,200 food items to support the Freedom Food Bank as we strive to help the critical needs of our community.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for our Squeaky Sneakers program, which has already enrolled over 30 families across our North Conway, Wolfeboro and Tamworth locations. We are so grateful to be the recipient of a grant from the Gibson/Woodbury Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$3,500 to help ensure the sustainability of these programs and keep them accessible to families across the Mount Washington Valley.



Mother/Child Weekends 2025

by Kate Peltz

“Did you go to Huckins?” A frequent conversation starter during Mother/Child weekends, I was initially self-conscious when responding to the question. Now, after three years of family programming, it doesn’t matter that I didn’t attend Huckins as a kid. I get to go as a mom, which is, I’ve learned, just as sweet.

My best instincts as a parent resurface at Huckins. Accordingly, Mother/Child weekends are my favorite days of the year. In June with my son, and September with my daughter, I get to see how each of my kids make use of camp. We slow down. We play. We hug more and remember to express how grateful we are. At once, I feel like a kid again, jumping off the tower and weaving macrame bracelets, but simultaneously, I am a mom. During Mother/Child weekends, I am undistracted and fun. There is time to appreciate my children and delight in how easy it is to simply be together.

It was drizzling when my son and I left Massachusetts, and a deluge when Smackie rang the bell for grace and gratitude at dinner. The rain did not diminish our joy. In June of 2024, Ethan and I shared our cabin with just one other family. This year, six boys and four moms filled Cabin N. More is better at camp. A crowd is what makes a game of spoons feel like a sport and turns hot cocoa in the misty morning into a pajama party. Baiting hooks on a full pontoon boat, it doesn’t matter if your clothes are soaked and the fish aren’t biting: camp is

still camp. Hunkered in the Lodge for the talent show, when the youngest member of our cabin wrapped up his rendition of the Eye of the Tiger, we cheered like we were his family. For Mother/Son weekend ’25, we were.

As Mother/Daughter ’25 approached, Caroline and I started counting down the days until we would reunite with our Cabin H friends. We tie-dyed t-shirts for twins lunch and schemed about the fun ahead. It’s hard to know which one of us was more excited for camp. Mother/Daughter for Caroline is a way to extend the summer season and squeeze in a few more craftshop creations and meals prepared by the kitchen staff. I love every activity at the waterfront and how Alamens make girls stand just a little bit taller. Both of us treasure our time at camp and the chance to be in community with others who affirm and inspire us.

I found Huckins as an adult, because I remembered several elementary school classmates who attended. Confident and kind, they radiated optimism and had admirable values about friendship. I attributed their glow to Huckins, and hoped that if my daughter attended, she would grow up knowing her worth and feeling comfortable in her own skin. When thinking about sleepaway camp for Caroline, I had no idea how much camp would also mean to my son, or that my happiest memories of motherhood would be formed at Huckins.

Mother/Son Weekend



Left: Hucksters
Right: Double
Hucksters



Mother/Daughter Weekend



Juniors



Middlers



Seniors



Leadership



Hucksters

More Hucksters



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100th Trivia

Who is Bemis, of Bemis Boathouse
(formerly the craftshop)?



Double Hucksters

Family Camp 2025

Family Camp Week was filled with highlights including a pickleball tournament, the triathlon, and cheering on many first-time island swimmers and tower jumpers. Thanks to everyone who joined in and made it such a great week! Be sure to mark your calendars for Family Camp 2026, happening from **August 24–28, 2026**.



Juniors



Middlers



Seniors



Leadership



Hucksters



25-Year Hucksters

Labor Day Family Camp 2025

Labor Day Family Camp this year had a blast on the water trampoline, in knitting circles, and much more while enjoying the beautiful weather. Even in the absence of campfires, we made every moment count, connecting with one another and creating memories that will carry you through the year. We can't wait to celebrate the long weekend with all of you again from September 4-7, 2026.



Juniors



Middlers



Seniors



Leadership



Hucksters



Double Hucksters

YMCA Camp Huckins
17 Camp Huckins Road
Freedom NH 03836-4403



@campnelliehuckins



@Carroll County YMCA Camp
Huckins



@ymcacamphuckins

YMCA Camp Huckins

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE 2026 SEASON

June 5 – June 7 Alumni Weekend
June 12 – June 14 Mother/Son Weekend
June 9 – June 12 Staff Pre Season
June 16 – June 19 Early Bird Staff Week
June 21 – June 27 Staff Week
June 28 – July 11 1st Session
July 12 – July 25 2nd Session
July 26 – August 8 3rd Session
August 9 – August 22 4th Session
August 24 – August 28 Family Camp Week
September 4 – September 7 Labor Day Family Camp
September 11 – September 13 Mother/Daughter Weekend
September 18 – September 20 Women's Wellness
October 3 Fall Alumni Work Day

Get your Nellie Gear!

**Our online camp store will
be open from November 7th to
November 21st.**

Discover classic camp favorites
alongside some exciting new items.

It's the perfect opportunity to
bring a piece of Huckins into your
home for the holidays!