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CAMP CHRONICLE

The Camp Chronicle is published by the Autism Society of North Carolina for campers, parents, supporters, and the counselors and professionals who work with Camp Royall.

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I had never gone down a real steep slide. It was scary, but I did it! Miss Ashley told me I could do it. [Camper]
Greetings, Campers, Families, and Friends of Camp Royall,

After another wonderful summer at Camp Royall, I am so pleased to present to you the 2020 Camp Chronicle. With summer 2020 in the books, ASNC has successfully recorded its 49th installment of Summer Camp (the 24th at Camp Royall) as well as its 11th full year of continuous year-round programming.

It may have been a smaller summer than we are used to, but we still felt all the same excitement and energy from our staff and campers and have amazing memories to share. I know this has been such a difficult year for many of our campers and their families. We feel so grateful that our facility crew, program staff, and counselors came together to make camp a reality this summer against the odds. We worked diligently to ensure the safety of our campers and staff and had six awesome weeks of camp, serving 92 campers ages 6-44 from 34 counties across the state of NC.

Throughout the summer, campers had fun while learning new skills and trying activities for the first time. Our campers also connected with old friends and made new friends at camp. Harrison and Josh (page 4) have been FaceTiming almost every day since meeting at camp this summer!

Campers were supported by 27 staff members, three of whom are on the spectrum themselves. Some staff members like Activity Director Delaney (page 6) have discovered their lifelong passion by working at Camp Royall. It takes so many people to make Camp Royall a reality each summer, and we are so grateful for all of our dedicated staff.

We are so fortunate to have many generous donors who make camp a reality for many of our campers every summer. Donald Hadley (page 8) not only supported our campers financially but volunteered his time and encouraged others to donate. We owe a debt of gratitude to all of our supporters for making campers’ dreams come true; see page 10 for a list of these amazing people.

Please be sure you take notice of the great opportunities for you to get involved at camp all year long. Check out page 13 for more info on our year-round programs, and we hope to see you at camp soon!

We hope you and your family stay safe, healthy, and happy.

With much camp love and “Enthuuuuusiasm,”

Sara Gage, Camp Royall Director
Harrison Moore and Josh Albon are typical pre-teen boys with a lot in common. They love to play video games, watch YouTube, and look at memes online. And they both wanted one thing from their experience at Camp Royall – to make a friend. Since meeting at camp, the boys have been FaceTiming almost every day!

After visiting Camp Royall for orientation, Harrison and his mother Rosewell decided it would be the perfect place for him! When the COVID-19 pandemic began, they were both nervous about camp being cancelled. Rosewell said, “When Harrison found out he would still be able to go, he was so happy! He had been struggling at home because he hasn’t been able to see his friends. He needed a break so he could be with other kids, even from 6 feet away.”

It was Harrison’s first time at Camp Royall. He loved boating and the pool, but mostly loved that he was able to make a friend. Harrison was sad that he had to return home from camp, but said that communicating with Josh has made it easier. His mother said that it keeps his day occupied and helps him feel like he has a friend, even though they aren’t together in person.

The first time Josh attended camp he was five years old and his father, an active duty Marine, was deployed. His mom, Susan, was overwhelmed during the deployment and needed a break. When Josh came back from camp that first time, he started getting ready for bed independently! Susan said that Camp Royall always increases his independence and his self-esteem. “Josh always wants to go to Camp Royall. He would rather be with peers who understand him, not just tolerate him. He feels a sense of belonging, like he has found his people. Camp Royall is the only place on the planet where he can be himself. He doesn’t just fit in there... he belongs there!”

Like Harrison, Josh’s favorite thing about Camp Royall is the people. Josh said, “Although I like all the activities at camp, the reason I go is because the people. I know I will always make good friends!” As Josh was getting settled in the cabin at camp, he said to himself, “I want to meet other people!” Then, Harrison walked through the door and they immediately hit it off. They both loved the pool and having sword duels with pool noodles.

At the end of camp, Camp Director Sara Gage reached out to the two moms to see if they would like to connect. Now, the boys are FaceTiming almost every day, playing Minecraft, and sharing videos. Both families are so excited to see their children make a genuine connection. We love seeing campers like Harrison and Josh stay friends after their week at camp. Camp Royall friendships can last a lifetime!
I made four new friends at camp and was happy to be connected with them during my time there. [Camper]
When Delaney Burns started as a lifeguard at Camp Royall in 2016, she never expected that a summer job would help her find her true passion in life. During high school Delaney worked as a babysitter and tutor for a family with a child with autism. They were involved with Camp Royall and encouraged her to apply as a lifeguard. She immediately fell in love with Camp Royall and realized she had to come back as a counselor the next year.

Delaney said her favorite part about coming back every year is seeing how much the campers have grown and developed new skills. “I want every camper to have a fantastic week here. Every time I come back, I feel like I fit in. It’s an awesome atmosphere with an amazing culture.”

Working at Camp Royall eventually inspired her to change her major from electrical engineering to a dual degree in special education and elementary education. This summer she worked as an Activity Director at camp and is starting her first year teaching at an elementary school in Raleigh this fall.

Delaney said that camp has taught her all about autism and how to advocate for others. “It made me a stronger person. I can speak out to help others advocate for themselves so they can get the services they need.” She has also found that working at Camp Royall has made her a leader in the classroom. In her education classes, she has been a resource for her peers and professors because of the teaching strategies she has learned at camp.

“It made me a stronger person. I can speak out to help others advocate for themselves so they can get the services they need.”

“Autism isn’t one of those things you can just read about and then know everything. Once you’ve met one person with autism, you’ve met one person with autism. It has been great for me to be a resource for my peers because the more people that know about autism, the more accepting the classroom will be.” We know that Delaney will do great things as a teacher and we appreciate her continued dedication to our campers!
Life is better since attending camp! I made two friends!
[Camper]
Since visiting Camp Royall three years ago, Donald Hadley has been a dedicated volunteer, donor, and advocate of the Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC). Don attends the Catwalk to Camp each year and hosts two tables of guests. He also helps lead the event to create a positive experience for all the campers, their families, and supporters. As a result of his fundraising efforts and personal contributions, he has raised over $50,000 to send over 30 campers to Camp Royall!

Don shared, “The staff at ASNC is incredible. They truly fulfill the mission of helping children with autism as well as their families to live better lives. Connecting the children to new skills, friends, and perspectives is what all of us need, and they are doing it with those that truly take joy in it!”

Don is the President of Applied Vision Works, an organizational development firm providing solutions for organizations in both the private and public sectors. The Applied Vision Works team looks forward to the Catwalk to Camp event each year. Team members not only make generous donations themselves, but also inspire friends and family to contribute to the cause.

Don said, “I would encourage everyone to support the event with attendance and donations, but more importantly, visit the camp and see the real work of ASNC occurring in action.” Craig Chase, Operations Manager at Applied Vision Works, also enjoys attending Catwalk to Camp. He shared, “It is the most positive and heartwarming event I have attended. I also encourage everyone to experience the pure joy.”

As a business owner and thought leader for over 30 years, Don brings extensive experience and knowledge to the Autism Society of North Carolina. We appreciate his advice and new ideas, and his dedication to sharing our mission with the community!
I felt safe exploring with my counselor by my side. She worked hard to keep up with my adventurous spirit. [Camper]
2020 Summer Staff

Camp Director: Sara Gage [24]
Assistant Director: Kristian Page [8]
Program Coordinator: MaKia Akiens [3]

Facility Staff:
Tristan Wolfram [5]
Jeffrey Oestereich [3]
Josh Hodge [3]
 Joshua Feltenberger [3]
Noah Feltenberger [3]
Tessa Yell [2]
Malachi Levy [2]
Charles Keens
Jadelyn Robles

Counselors:
Rico Thorpe [8]
Brianna Lewis [3]
Edward Austin [3]
Kayley Daniel [3]
Maddy Webber [3]
Rachel Galbraith [3]
Ashley Harris [2]
Diamond Blue [2]
Gabby Adams [2]
James Elder [2]
Kensley Hubbard [2]
Mason [2]
Nina Kerr [2]
Anastasia Sapienza
Chole Lineman
Emiliee May
Gabby Lardizabal
Gabe Sprouse
Rebekah Williams
Terrance Higgins-Keziah
Zachary Briggs

Lifeguards:
Dean Cannon [4]
Primo Costa [2]
Bailey Jones
Caroline Murrell

Activity Directors:
Amaris Smith [5]
Delaney Burns [4]
Marian Easler [4]
Kaleigh Woodard [3]
Pieter Westerbeek [3]

ASNC Property Director: David Yell [29]
Property Management Executive: Ann Kastner

{} indicates how many summers spent working or volunteering

Nurses:
Tina Harris [9]
Katie Zimmerman [3]
Camp Royall Wish List

If you want to support Camp Royall through material donations, we would be grateful to receive the items below. For your convenience, we have also created an Amazon list: https://amzn.to/2HhvvlF

Arts & Crafts Wishes:
- Construction Paper
- Glue/glue sticks
- Scissors (of all sizes)
- Paint (fabric paint, tempera paint, face paint, watercolors, finger paint)
- Painting supplies (brushes, small paint containers, watercolor paper, canvas)
- Pipe Cleaners
- Glitter
- Beads (not too small) and plastic string for beading
- Noise-canceling headphone
- Sensory Toys
- Chewie Tubes
- Construction paper
- Googly Eyes
- Plain white T-shirts of all sizes (youth small- adult 4XL)
- Tie-dye Supplies
- Dry-erase markers (thin)
- Sharpie markers
- Markers
- Blue painter’s tape
- Cardstock (any size or color)
- Bubble solution
- Musical Instruments
- Pool toys
- Gym equipment (yoga balls, tumbling mats, balls)
- Board games (new or like-new)
- Books (new or like-new)
- Coloring books (new or like-new)
- DVDs (new or like-new)

General Program Wishes:
- Ziploc baggies (sandwich-size and gallon-size)
- Bubble solution
- Postage stamps
- Toilet paper
- Liquid hand soap
- Shaving foam
- Hand sanitizer
- Baby wipes
- Clorox wipes
- Laundry detergent
- Fans
- Noise machines
- Power strips
- Digital timers
- Charging cords (old Apple chargers, lighting chargers, Android, USB plugins)
- Velcro dots
- Flashlights
- Night Lights (and bulbs)
- Batteries (AA and AAA)
- Puzzles (new or like-new)
- DVDs (new or like-new)
- Digital timers
- Laminating sheets (to be used in a hot laminator)
- Fishing Gear (cane poles, rod and reel, bobbers, hooks etc.)
- Paddle boats
- Golf Carts
- 4 wheel drive pickup truck
Camp Royall never stops! We offer programs for campers of all ages and on all levels of the autism spectrum year-round. Check out our upcoming programs below – we hope to see you soon!

**Mini Camps** are set for four dates this fall: September 4-6, 25-27, October 16-18, and November 13-15. Mini Camp provides campers the chance to spend the weekend at camp, from 5 p.m. Friday to 12 noon Sunday. Campers enjoy a miniature version of summer camp while families benefit from respite; preference is given to campers living at home. Supervision at a ratio of 1:1 or 1:2 is provided during these weekends.

**Adult Retreats** give independent adults, 18 years and older with high-functioning autism, a chance to enjoy time with friends at Camp Royall. This fall, we will have three weekend retreats, September 18-20, October 30 - November 1 and November 20-22. Participants enjoy recreational activities at camp as well as outings in the community.

**Teen Tuesday** offers teens (ages 13-22) the opportunity to learn life skills in a welcoming group setting. The group meets one Tuesday a month from 5 until 7:30 p.m. We will meet on October 6 and November 10.

**Teen Retreats** offer independent teens (ages 13-22) with high-functioning autism time to spend at camp with friends! Friday evening features dinner and activities, while Saturday includes leisure and recreational activities at camp, outings in the community, and dinner at a local restaurant. Sunday allows for more hangout time before checkout at noon. There are 1-2 staff in cabins at night, and any new participants will be screened by camp staff to make sure they are a good fit. The next retreat is November 6-8.

**Residential Camps** will be offered over 5 weeks this fall/winter including November 29 - December 4, December 6-11, 13-18, December 27 to January 1st and January 3-8 for campers of all ages. The overnight program includes a 1:1 or 1:2 counselor-to-camper ratio, based on each camper’s level of need.

**CamperCare Days** is a new program starting this fall to help families through the pandemic. We are providing a day of fun and individualized care for campers from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 2 days per week and campers can sign up online to get on our waiting list at this time. We are placing campers in half day or full day slots either 1 or 2 days per week based on staffing availability.

**Track Out Day Camps** are scheduled for school-age children during breaks from school. Activities include arts and crafts, hiking, boating, music, gym play, the zap line, hayrides, and more. Supervision is provided at the ratio of 1:1 or 1:2, based on each camper’s level of need. Upcoming track-out day camp weeks are October 5-9 and 12-16.

For more information or to register for any of our programs, please visit [www.camproyall.org](http://www.camproyall.org). Questions? Contact us at 919-542-1033 or camproyall@autismsociety-nc.org.
You Can Help

How Does ASNC’s Camp Royall Change Lives?
Camp Royall is the oldest and largest camp program for individuals of all ages with autism in the world, serving more than 3,000 individuals with autism and their families a year. Camp experiences provide an opportunity for exploration, for making friends, for trying new and exciting activities, and a time for personal growth in independence and confidence. As a result, campers return home with skills once thought unattainable by their families and the ability to make a friend and be a friend.

What Are Camp Royall’s Needs?
Camp Scholarships: Providing summer camp scholarships to campers each summer is the most critical need. Due to the additional financial demands of caring for a child with autism, most families are unable to afford the $1,750 cost per week for their child to attend camp and receive the benefits of a week with specialized staff. Fundraising for camp scholarships is a year-round focus. Each year we raise close to $300,000, but it is not enough to help each family in need.

Program/Facility Donations: Providing program supplies and maintaining a 133-acre facility is expensive. In-kind and financial donations help offset these costs. Current needs include: arts and crafts supplies, sensory toys, technology items, and a pickup truck.

Planning for Our Future: As we look to the future and the growing number of children and families who depend on our services, we must expand the number of campers we are able to serve each week by providing additional sleeping facilities. We are currently assessing the costs and looking at fundraising opportunities for the future.

How Can You Help?
More than 88 cents of every dollar we raise is used for services that directly affect people with autism, and every dollar raised stays within North Carolina, helping people who live and work in our local communities. Contact Kristy White to discuss partnership opportunities that include individual gifts, named scholarships, planned giving, connections to corporations or foundations, and other opportunities to get involved.

“Camp Royall has increased my son’s confidence, independence, and willingness to try new things.”

“Camp Royall has increased my son’s confidence, independence, and willingness to try new things. I can tell that he feels valued for his contribution,” one mom said. “Camp Royall has created happy memories that will stay with him throughout his life. It gave me peace of mind, knowing that he was in a safe, loving, and supervised environment.”

We are excited about what is happening today as a result of our efforts. We’re even more excited about what can happen with your help.

Contact Information
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Chief Development Officer
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Raleigh, NC 27607
919-865-5086
kwhite@autismsociety-nc.org
Many thanks to our Camp Royall donors.
The support of the following individuals, businesses, and foundations helped the Autism Society of North Carolina provide camp scholarships during 2020.

$10,000 and Above
Applied Vision Works
BB&T Charitable Giving
Citibank Trust South Dakota
Estate of Mary V. Balliet
Fulcrum Strategies
North Carolina Football Club Youth
Premiere Communications & Consulting
Ronald McDonald House Charities of North Carolina
The Pratt Family Foundation
Triangle Community Foundation’s - Send A Kid to Camp Program
Donald Hadley
Kristen and Ron Howrigon
Torrie and John Kline
Lorraine and Dale Reynolds
Teresa and John Sears
Kim and Jeff Woodlief

$5,000-$9,999
Carolina Panthers Charities
Credit Suisse
Foundation For The Carolinas Galloway Ridge Charitable Fund
Integrated Speech Therapy
LGI Homes
Pfizer
Raleigh Diamond
University of Delaware
Jill and Doug Terry
Leigh and Jeff Vittert

$2,500-$4,999
Foodbuy
Gaston Community Foundation (Roberts-Miller Children’s Fund)
John W. Roffe and Marjorie A. Roffe Endowment (for Moore County), a component fund of NCCF

North Carolina Community Foundation (NCCF)
The Summer Camp Fund
Women of Fearrington
Meg and Gary Jack
Sharon and Randy Martin
Heather Moore and Steven Jones
Denise and Stephen Vanderwoude

Maureen Morrell
Kristy and Aleck Myers
Elizabeth and Chris Norton
Nina and Scott Pernell
Jim Phillips
Linda and Kevin Routh
Karen Schaefer
Katie and Tracey Sheriff
Kristy and Andrew White

Candace and Joseph Roberts
Dawn Rohlik
Dionne and Don Silvester
Tracey and Henry Smith
Gina and Jeffrey Stocton
Don Stroud
Maria Townsend and Michael Baker
Judy and Paul Wendler

$1,000-$2,499
The Bobby and Gloria Martin Foundation
Craven County Unrestricted Endowment Fund, a component fund of NCCF
Jamie’s Vision, Inc
Kamm McKenzie OBGYN
The Knightly Order of The Flat Lux (Triangle Chapter)
Martha Frances Pruitt Endowment Fund, a component fund of NCCF
Mayer Brown LLP
The Raidy Charitable Foundation
Wake Electric Foundation
George Araujo
Kiel Bowen
Janet and James Cozart
Karen and Michael Crow
Sandy Daston
Paula Dinnerstein
Amy Durso
Patrick Falvey
Carol and Douglas Fink
Leeann and Mark Garms
Marea and Brad Goodwin
Jemma and Chris Grindstaff
Ruth Hurst and Tom Wiebe
Alison Kalinowski and Anthony Womack
Helene and Bill Lane
Carol Manzon and Chris Diplock
Bev and Alan Moore

$500-$999
ASNC Craven County Chapter
ASNC Crystal Coast Chapter
ASNC Guilford County Chapter
ASNC Lee County Chapter
ASNC UNC-CH Campus Group
Chapel Hill Service League
The Eisner Charitable Fund
Enviva Holding LP
Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation
Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church
Melissa Barbour
Julie and Scott Bare
Courtney and Daniel Cantrell
Holly and Darin Clark
Kimberly and Robert Cummings
Pamela Dilavore
Kathleen DuVal and Marty Smith
Kerri and Jeremy Erb
Jenny and Michael Farmer
Shirley and Vincent Francis
Lesley and Michael Graves
Karen Harbin
Sandra and Ed Hooks
Melissa and Matt Huemmer
Melissa and Robert Johnson
Kari and Monte Johnston
Lisa and David Kaylie
April and Brian Lehman
Sandra and Stephen Lehrman
Cindy and Scott Nyberg

$250-$499
Durham Tech
Kiwanis Club of Lee County
LAMB Foundation of North Carolina
Spyglass Promotions
Rebecca and Cory Bean
Joe Booden
Amy Brande
Angie and Doug Brown
John Coleman
Christina Flake
Madison Gardner
Bruce Gresham
Judy and Norbert Lechner
Nan and Craig Maples
Sue and Jan Martin
Kirby Ring
Kimberly and Robin Rose
Michelle Scatamacchia
Kristin and Scott Selby
Laura and Phillip Simson
Susan and Derek Smith
Andrew Turner

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