



Autism Society  
of NORTH CAROLINA



# CAMP CHRONICLE

SUMMER 2018



My favorite  
part of the day  
was you.  
[Camper]



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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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# Letter from the Director

Greetings, Campers, Families, and Friends of Camp Royall,

I am so pleased to present to you the 2018 Camp Chronicle. With summer 2018 in the books, ASNC has successfully recorded its 47th installment of Summer Camp (the 22nd at Camp Royall) as well as its 9th full year of continuous year-round programming.

This summer, we served 397 campers, from age 4 to 70! They came from 53 North Carolina counties, ready to have the best summer ever. Some of our campers joined us for the very first time, like Kellington (page 6), who left with a best buddy and newfound confidence. James (page 4), one of our many returning campers, enjoyed another week on the go outside, inspiring everyone he met to take time to appreciate the smaller things.

Throughout the summer, campers had fun while learning new skills in programs including arts and crafts (page 10). They were supported by about 120 staff members, nine of whom are on the spectrum themselves. Volunteers – like Pieter (page 16) – are also an important part of our camp program, and we thank them for their service!

As summer comes to a close, so does Director Lesley Fraser's time at Camp Royall. While we are deeply sad to lose her here at camp, we are thrilled that she is staying with the Autism Society of North Carolina as she moves into our Clinical Department as an Associate Clinical Professional. I am grateful to Lesley for all of the countless hours, energy, passion, and love she poured into making Camp Royall a place that was for everyone. Please read more about the difference Lesley made in the lives of Camp Royall families on page 8.

While it will be hard to replace Lesley, I am very excited to introduce Nicole Kristal as the new Director. Nicole has been the Director of ASNC's Social Recreation Center in Newport since January 2017, running a large summer day camp, afterschool program, and adult programming. In addition to her great clinical skills, Nicole has worked in the autism camp world previously, and we are thrilled for her to bring her perspective and enthusiasm for camp to Camp Royall. Nicole is deeply excited to join the team here at Camp Royall, including our amazing Assistant Directors Mark Smith and Kristian Page and our equally wonderful Administrative Assistant Kirby McLaughlin, who will be of great assistance as we make this transition.

We are so fortunate to have so many generous donors who make camp a reality for many of our campers every summer. Ron Howrigan (page 20) loves camp so much that he recently joined the ASNC Board of Directors, and he shared his son's story at one of our fundraising events, Catwalk to Camp. We owe a debt of gratitude to all of our supporters for making campers' dreams come true; see page 24 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 15 for more info on our year-round programs, and we hope to see you at camp soon!

With much camp love and "Enthuuuuusiasm,"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara Gage', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Sara Gage, ASNC Social Recreation Services Director





## CAMPER HIGHLIGHT: James Feller

James Feller loves to be active outside. The 18-year-old, who has been coming to Camp Royall since 2014, especially enjoys hiking the camp's trails. "I even gave him the Phenomenal Pathfinder Award because he showed me new paths to explore camp and have fun," said his summer camp counselor, Karla Yamilette Morel.

James was always on the move this summer, checking out the horses, riding in the back of the hayride where it is less crowded, and going down the slide in the pool. That's why Camp Royall is so good for James, said his mother, Kim. "He is looking for that physical activity. We're not always able to provide him that same level of activity."



James lives with his family in Cary and is starting his third year of high school. He likes the routine and structure of the school day, his mom said, just like at camp.

James did all of the summer camp activities, but on his own time, Karla said. He often finished activities early, and usually wanted to stay away from crowds. "James is a young man, so something I did to become his friend and bond with him was to respect his decisions," Karla said.

When it was time to relax, James enjoyed playing on the iPad, a golf cart ride, or time in the sensory room or on the playground.

While James was relaxing at camp, his family took the opportunity to relax in South Carolina. "It was the first time that I can remember being able to read on the beach," Kim said. "Camp Royall is the only way that we are able to have a vacation."



She was able to relax because she knew James was happy and well cared for at Camp Royall. "They keep them (the campers) stimulated," she said. "I think he feels safe. And he gets support."

James's older brother has attended Camp Royall a dozen times since he was little, but it took a while for the family to send James. They were worried that it would be too difficult for him. "We really weren't sure that James could handle it," Kim said.

After he had been in school for a while and was more used to being with his peers, they tried a Mini Camp. James did well! "We thought, OK, this might work," Kim said.



Since camp, James is more willing to be around large groups of people, especially if it is for an activity he knows he'll enjoy, his mom said.

His success at Camp Royall gives his parents hope for his future when they are no longer able to care for him. "Camp does show us that he could be OK in a group home or residential setting," Kim said. "He would be happy."

Meanwhile, we hope to see James back at Camp Royall often. Camp Director Lesley Fraser said, "We have really enjoyed getting to know James and to see him return

"Camp was his space, where he could be free and do as he wanted, having a friend by his side that would have fun with him, make sure he was safe and also respecting his choices."

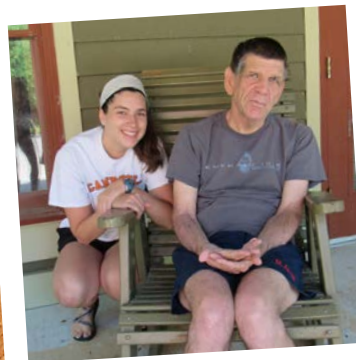
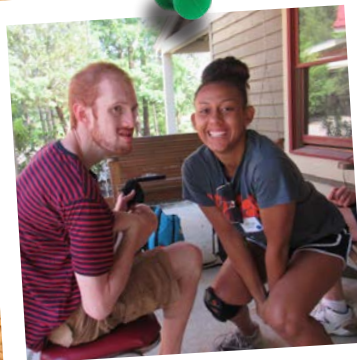
regularly for our year-round programs. James is loved by all of our staff. He has a unique way of seeing the world, and he reminds us all to take time to appreciate the smaller things. We feel privileged that the Fellers have allowed us to spend time with and care for James."

Karla especially enjoyed James this summer. "James stole my heart and became one of my favorite campers and people in the world," she said. "Camp was his space, where he could be free and do as he wanted, having a friend by his side that would have fun with him, make sure he was safe and also respecting his choices." ■



“So more campers come on Sunday? Then can I be your camper again Sunday?”

- Camper







## CAMPER HIGHLIGHT: Kellington Morrisey

Kellington Morrisey found his best friend at Camp Royall this summer.

The 11-year-old arrived for his first week ever somewhat nervous and talking low, his counselor said. But then he was introduced to Khalil, and within minutes, the boys were off walking and talking about Ninjago, their favorite show. “I feel like Kellington and Khalil had been friends forever throughout the week the way they were together,” said Counselor Natassja Bulluck, who is majoring in kinesiology at UNC Greensboro.

Kellington’s mom, Kenyatta, said the boys had a lot in common, sharing interests in the same movies, shows, and activities. “They are both friendly. They just enjoy life.” They even had the same style of glasses.

At Camp Royall, the boys loved to play basketball in the gym and do arts and crafts. Kellington enjoyed crafts that used video-game themes and those that he could make and wear around camp, such as the camp necklace, Natassja said.

The friendship granted Kenyatta’s hope for Kellington’s week at camp. “It’s very hard for him to make friends,” she said. “There is sometimes a certain degree of social awkwardness.”

Kellington was diagnosed with autism when he was 18 months old. Within days, his mother had started him on 40 hours a week of therapy: speech, developmental, occupational, and Applied Behavior Analysis. “I ended up leaving my job just to ensure that he was getting everything he needed,” Kenyatta said. “They said he would never be verbal or function past an 18-month level.” He started speaking when he was 4 years old.

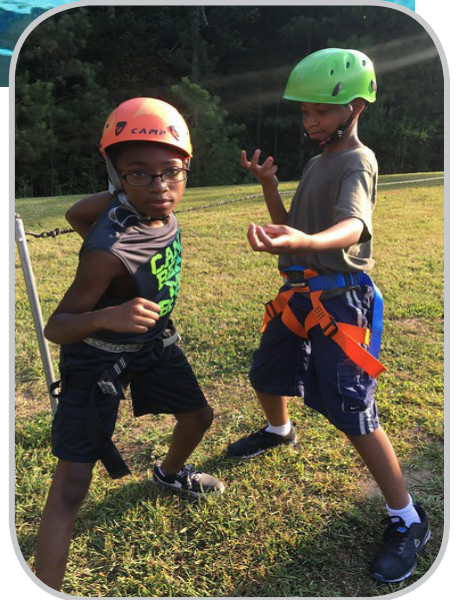
“It was all worth it and it still is,” Kenyatta said.

Kellington now attends a school where about 50 percent of the students have a disability, she said. He is in mainstream classes, and “they meet him where he is. There are times where he definitely has to work harder than his peers just to grasp different concepts and social cues,” she said.

But she has raised Kellington not to think of himself as different, she said. “I wanted him to know that there was absolutely nothing he can’t do.”

Camp Royall has helped Kellington continue to build that confidence. “I saw Kellington do so many different and new things at camp that he had not been brave enough to do outside of camp,” Kenyatta said.

In fact, on the last day, Kellington and Khalil were brave enough to showcase their hip hop moves in the end-of-camp show. “They wowed everyone, including me,” Natassja said. “I had no idea that they would be so great.”





They wore ninja headbands that Natassja had made for them since they both loved Ninjago. "When I showed it to them the next morning it was like Christmas! They both loved the ninja bands and wore them all around camp."

After the show, Kellington and Khalil played together in the gym up until it was time to leave camp. Kenyatta said that usually, Kellington sticks right by her side, but that day he ran off without hesitation to play ball.

"By the end of the week, Kellington had blossomed and had so much energy," Natassja said. "I think it was because of his friendship with Khalil. Once he found his, and I quote, 'best friend,' he was this amazing kid who I had the pleasure of seeing at camp having such a good time."

Since Kellington has been home, his mom can also see a difference in him as he tries new things – even calamari! "I just saw a different child. It was a very good thing."

He also has been able to attend movies with his family, which he couldn't do before. In fact, while Kellington was at camp, Kenyatta and his younger brother went to a movie because they usually could not. She said the opportunity to have one-on-one time with Kellington's brother, while not worrying about Kellington, was "so very important."

**"I saw Kellington do so many different and new things at camp that he had not been brave enough to do outside of camp."**

"He was in the best hands. Just to not have to worry and have peace of mind, was a blessing," she said. "I am just eternally grateful for the Autism Society of North Carolina. That a place like this exists is just such a blessing."

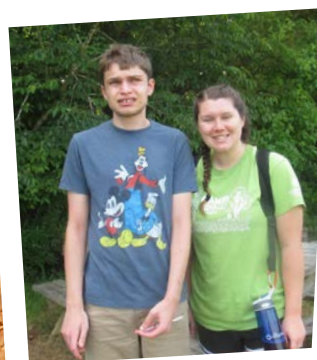
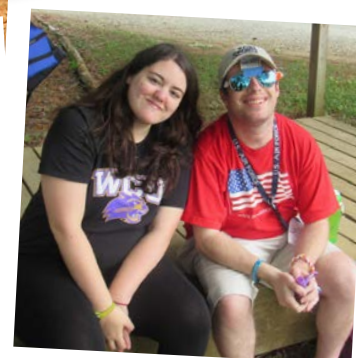
The family plans to return to Camp Royall as much as possible, Kenyatta said, perhaps for the very next Family Fun Day. She also hopes that Kellington and Khalil can attend camp together next year, and in the meantime, they will keep in touch and hope to plan visits.

"I've never seen him have that connection outside of his little brother," she said.

We look forward to seeing these two best buddies again at Camp Royall! ■

“Don't be sad, I will come back to see you next summer.”

- Camper





# 'Knowing Our Campers Has Been an Honor and a Privilege'

By Sara Gage, *Social Recreation Services Director*

Lesley Fraser came to Camp Royall a college student from another country, looking to get more experience with autism and to hang out with some fun campers and staff for the summer. She leaves Camp Royall 12 years later as a gifted professional who has made a lasting impression on the lives of the campers and staff she served.

Lesley began her journey at Camp Royall back in 2006 when she traveled from her home country of Scotland to have a summer away in America as a camp counselor, something many motivated college students in the UK do each year. At that time, she had no idea that summer would change her life forever.

Lesley made an impact on Camp Royall immediately. She was a top-notch counselor and never met a challenge she was not ready to face. She relished in providing support for her campers and getting to know them on such a personal level. She was deeply connected to the campers she served and to their families as well. Not only did Lesley make an impact on camp, but camp made an impact on her. Through the long days and nights at camp and the shared challenges, Lesley formed great friendships that first summer, friendships that endure today. Her experience at Camp Royall changed her; she learned so much about herself, about life, and about autism. She was already making plans to come back.

In the summer of 2007, Lesley returned to Camp Royall as an Activity Director, a promotion she looked forward to. She took on mentorship of new staff members and helped to meticulously plan behind the scenes. Lesley's work was so valued that I asked her to return the next summer in a more administrative role, as the seasonal Assistant Director. She embraced this new

challenge as she did every other one put before her. She helped to manage all of the behind-the-scenes details that help Camp Royall run smoothly, putting all other needs above her own.

When Lesley left Camp Royall in August 2008, we knew it might be a while before we saw her again. Because of her graduate studies, she was not able to return in the summer of 2009 or 2010. This turned out to be a good thing for us, though we did not know it at the time. When it was decided that Camp Royall would get a full-time Assistant Director, Lesley was the first person I thought of. Hiring a citizen of another country is no small feat, and we had many anxious months awaiting notice that Lesley's full-time working visa would be approved. Late in summer 2010, we got the good news.

The rest, as they say, is history. Lesley served as Assistant Director from 2010 to 2015 and took over as Director in January 2016. During her tenure, she helped to create every year-round program that we currently host at Camp Royall, including Mini Camp, Adult Retreats, Fall Camp, Spring Camp, and Teen Tuesday. She worked tirelessly, including many a night and weekend, to ensure the success of each new program.

Lesley helped to implement many new systems and strategies in our summer camp program as well. She has always sought to ensure that each of our programs serves all campers on the spectrum.





“What I’m most proud of about Camp Royall is that we serve everyone,” Lesley said. “We serve campers of all ages, because adults deserve to come to camp, too. And we serve campers on all levels of the spectrum, we don’t turn anyone away because of their level of need. I think that’s what makes Camp Royall unique and special. For a lot of our campers, this is the only place that they can go, the only respite that parents receive, the only place that they trust to look after their camper and that gets to my favorite part.”

Building relationships with families, campers, and staff was a critical part of her role as well. She had the chance to see staff come back year after year and learn and grow into outstanding professionals. She forged strong relationships with the families of our campers as well. But most importantly to her, she got to see our campers evolve and grow. “My favorite part is getting to know all of our campers, being a part of their lives for 12 years, and seeing them grow

up. I get a lot of joy from the responsibility of caring for our campers and being able to give their families a deserved break,” she said.



Lesley, who became a Board Certified Behavior Analyst three years ago, is joining the Clinical Department at the Autism Society of North Carolina as an associate clinical professional. “I’m excited for a new challenge, new learning, and the opportunity to impact more families in a consistent way,” she said.

While we are sad to see Lesley leave Camp Royall, we are very excited that she will remain with the Autism Society and that she will continue to have a huge impact on those she is fortunate enough to serve. Lesley promises to stay connected to camp as well.

“I want to say thank you to all of the campers, families, and staff that I’ve been lucky enough to get to know over the years,” Lesley said. “Knowing our campers, serving their families, and supporting our staff has been an honor and a privilege.” ■







## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: Arts & Crafts

As the clock ticks past 11, campers stream into the arts and crafts building. Some of them move quickly, going straight to a station to see what fun project they'll be working on today. Others check the wall where visual schedules hang, labeled with their names, to learn what they will be doing first.

This week's theme is Camp Royall Classics, so each project relates to a song that the campers have been singing. Visual instructions are provided with each project.

The group project is a moose head, which gives the campers a chance to choose how they want to color on the cutout – with markers or crayons. "I know the moose isn't supposed to be neat, but I want it to have cool colors," says one young girl.

Next, the campers are directed to create antlers by pressing their painted hands onto a sheet of paper. Some of the campers ask for gloves, but one says, "I don't mind getting my hands dirty," and holds them out for the brown paint.

The arts and crafts projects are created to give campers a chance to explore different materials that they might not have used before, said Karla Morel, an Activity Director. She is a special education teacher in Puerto Rico, and is also going to school to become an occupational therapist. Cotton balls, tissue paper, paint, and glue can all provide sensory experiences, she said.

Over the years, Camp Royall Activity Directors have created the activities, building the camp's library full of projects, which fill two 4-foot-tall filing cabinets. "We have consulted with special education teachers, occupational therapists, and speech therapists to keep improving the opportunities that we offer our campers,"

Director Lesley Fraser said. "Our summer camp trainers each year give us feedback on all of our activities."

When the campers use scissors or glue tiny googly eyes onto a clothespin shark, they're not just creating masterpieces for their families' refrigerators, they're building fine-motor skills.

After the campers have finished the moose group project, they switch with the campers who are at stations. They get 10 minutes for each project, which holds their attention and gives more opportunities for building skills.





"Our campers are working on a number of skills during arts and crafts: following visual structures to complete tasks more independently, social skills in creating projects alongside their new friends, and creativity when being encouraged by their counselors to try new things and put their own personal spin on their art," Lesley said.

They're also learning to make choices, request materials, and follow instructions. All of these skills enable campers to become more successful in school or a work setting, as they encourage independence, communication, and attention.

Of course, the campers think they are just having a good time doing a typical camp activity. "Arts and crafts is fun and relaxing," said one of the campers. "I made a pet rock. Her name is Sunshine. Her favorite thing is mac and cheese, and she's a sleepy head!"

Another said, "Making sand art and painting the hippo was cool. I made it bright and colorful!"



All of the campers' projects are collected in the arts and crafts building until the end of the week, when they go into bags for each camper to take home.

"A lot of our campers love arts and crafts," Lesley said. "They love having freedom to create projects and make things their own. At Camp Royall, we celebrate our campers for who they are and where they are at. This is definitely seen in arts and crafts by all the unique projects that our campers are really proud of.

"We want our campers to feel proud of their creations and have something to take home to show off to their families at the end of the week." ■

“ I love you more than Sonic and wanna stay with you forever. ”

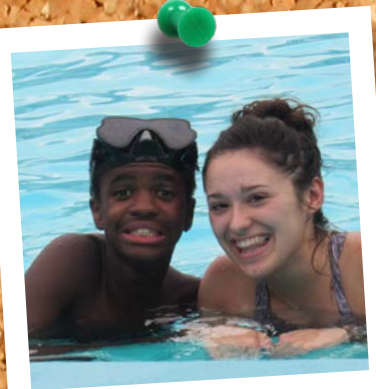
- Camper



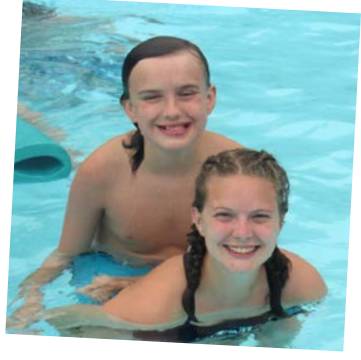
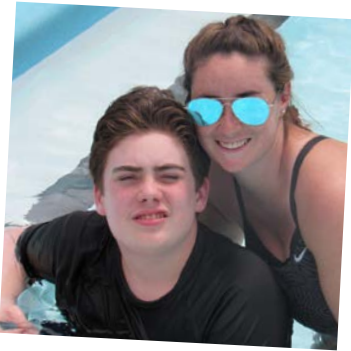




Maybe when I grow up I can be an Activity Director so I can drive the golf carts.  
[Camper]











You're like a  
second mom  
to me.  
[Camper]



# Camp Royall Wish List

If you want to support Camp Royall through material donations, we would be grateful to receive the following items:

## Arts and 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)
- Pipe cleaners
- Glitter
- Beads (not too small) and plastic string for beading
- Googly eyes
- Stickers
- 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)

## 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
- Flashlights
- Night lights (and bulbs)
- Batteries (AA and AAA)
- Puzzles (new or like-new)
- DVDs (new or like-new)
- Digital timers
- Velcro dots
- Laminating sheets (to be used in a hot laminator)
- Digital video camera (preferably weather-proof)
- Paddleboats
- Golf carts
- 4-wheel-drive pickup truck





## Fun at Camp Royall Year-Round

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!

**Our Afterschool Program** will start up again on September 10. The hours are 2:30-6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with some transportation options available. Participants take part in outdoor activities, group games, and gym play under the supervision of trained staff members.

**Family Fun Days** offer an opportunity for families to experience all the joys of camp together. Fun Days this fall will take place September 1 and December 15, which will be our holiday party with sensory-friendly visits with Santa. Activities available include boating, face-painting, a cookout, hayrides, gym games, the zap line, arts and crafts, and more. Family Camping adds dinner in our dining hall, campfire time complete with s'mores, and overnight lodging in one of our cabins. We will also provide a continental breakfast Sunday morning and more time to play at camp.

**Mini Camps** are set for three dates this fall: September 21-23, October 26-28, and November 16-18. 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 our summer camp program while families benefit from some respite; preference is given to campers living at home. Supervision at a ratio of 1:1 or 1:2 is provided for all campers 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 one week-long retreat, September 23-28, and two weekend retreats, November 2-4 and November 30-December 2. 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 once a month, typically on the second Tuesday of the month, from 5 until 7:30 p.m. Our first meeting after summer break will be on September 18.

**Residential Camps** will be offered in the fall, October 7-12 for campers ages 18 and up, as well as during the winter school break, December 27 to January 1, for campers ages 4 and up. The overnight program includes a 1:1 or 1:2 counselor-to-camper ratio, based on each camper's level of need. ■

*For more information or to register for any of our programs, please visit [www.camproyall.org](http://www.camproyall.org). Questions? Contact us at [camproyall@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:camproyall@autismsociety-nc.org) or 919-542-1033. Also check back later this year for spring dates for all of the above programs!*





## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT: Pieter Westerbeek

While other teens his age were working as lifeguards so they could hang out by the pool or taking it easy with an internship in an air-conditioned office, Pieter Westerbeek spent his summer giving campers memories for a lifetime.

Pieter, a rising senior at Athens Drive High School in Raleigh, volunteered at Camp Royall from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., usually four days a week.

His favorite part of volunteering was interacting with the campers and getting to know some of them, Pieter said. Accompanying the campers on 30-minute hikes in particular gave him a chance to spend one-on-one time with campers.

"Pieter is great at engaging with all our campers," said Afia Sarpong, Volunteer Coordinator. "I think they respond really well to him because he meets them where they are. Some campers will ask for him by name to help them with an activity because they enjoy his company."

As a volunteer, Pieter helped with the rotating daily activity, such as horseback riding or boating. He also filled in where needed, such as during gym time or arts and crafts.

He especially enjoyed the camper celebration each Friday, he said. "I get to watch a lot of the campers I've gotten to know throughout the week and see them get awards and show off their talent. It is really fun to see that at the end of the week."

Pieter found Camp Royall when he was searching for an internship to fulfill requirements for his school, where he is in the Health Sciences Career Academy, a STEM-focused academy that introduces students to careers in health and life sciences. "I wanted

something that was sort of hands-on to do for the summer," he said.

And Pieter was definitely hands-on! All of the staff were impressed by his enthusiasm, dedication, and dependability, Afia said.

"Pieter is a great and fast learner," she said. "He has a great ability to implement different activities, and he is always well-organized."

Pieter also has a cousin with Down syndrome and autism, and thought that his experience with her would help him at Camp Royall. This summer, he learned a lot about how to communicate with people with autism. "The skills that I've learned have really been beneficial, as well as the fun that I have had this summer," he said.

And now his experience at Camp Royall also is helping him increase autism awareness in his community, which he said was very important. During the summer, his friends asked lots of questions about what he was doing at camp and how he would communicate with campers with autism, Pieter said.

Afia said Pieter's affection for the campers was evident. "Pieter is warm and welcoming to all staff and campers. He takes time to support everyone and make sure everyone is having a great day."

Pieter wants to go into ministry someday, but for now he is looking forward to his senior year and applying to several NC universities.

"We believe Pieter has a great future ahead of him in whatever he chooses to do," said Lesley Fraser, Camp Director. "We certainly hope he will consider coming back to Camp Royall for another summer and hope he will continue to work with individuals with autism – he is a natural!"

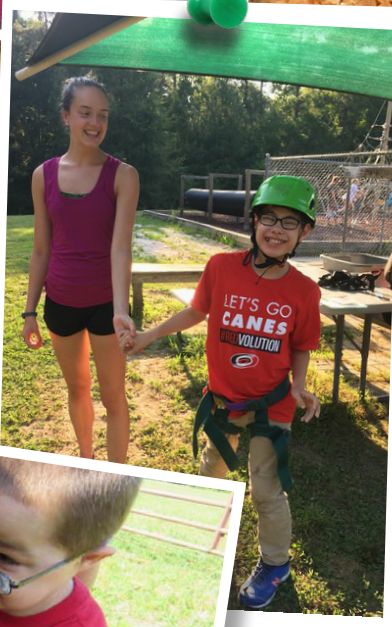




“Even though I may miss you, I’ll always keep knowing you.”  
- Camper



You guys made me feel like family.  
[Camper]







# 2018 Summer Staff



**Camp Director:** Lesley Fraser [11]  
**Assistant Director:** Mark Smith [12]  
**Assistant Director:** Kristian Page [4]  
**Social Recreation Services Director:** Sara Gage [22]  
**ASNC Property Manager:** David Yell [27]  
**Facility Manager:** Andy Reeder  
**Administrative Assistant:** Kirby McLaughlin

## Facility Staff:

Lawson Whitaker [21]  
 Ricky Sampson [14]  
 Randy Keck [11]  
 Linda Burgess [10]  
 Ed Wolfram [9]  
 Al Bugg [6]  
 Cindy Lodestro [5]  
 Cody Norris [5]  
 Tristan Wolfram [3]  
 Jeffrey Oestereich  
 Joshua Hodge  
 Liz Tedesco

## Program Leaders:

Hunter Atchley [3]  
 Nikeeta Giddings [2]

## Activity Directors:

Kory Morgan [6]  
 Laura Belmar [5]  
 Kim Rubish [5]  
 Delaney Burns [3]  
 Hannah Miller [3]  
 Amaris Smith [3]  
 Candace Attwood [2]  
 Emily Bailey [2]  
 Marian Easler [2]  
 Andi Jones [2]  
 Allie Lerner [2]  
 Karla Morel [2]

Afia Sarpong [2]  
 Hannah Will [2]  
 Natalia Wittek [2]  
 Sydney Rosenberg

## Residential Camp Counselors:

Amanda Campanaro [2]  
 Erin Dooley [2]  
 Abigail Foster [2]  
 Shaquayla Haddock [2]  
 Sarah Harrell [2]  
 Mackenzie Lacey [2]  
 Becca Martin [2]  
 Calyssa Ponder [2]  
 Samantha Robinson [2]  
 McKenna Shaver [2]  
 Abigail Valenta [2]  
 Rob Warendorf [2]  
 MaKia Aikens  
 Lori Barcello  
 Brionna Bennett  
 Summer Brown  
 Natassja Bulluck  
 Brittany Charles  
 Kayley Daniel  
 Kaitlin Fletcher  
 Rachel Galbraith  
 Jenna Gudmunson  
 Lawson Jaffe  
 Jimmy Jenkins  
 Madalynn Keeton

Dillan Lee  
 Brianna Lewis  
 Sarah Marks  
 Claire Michael  
 Emily Miles  
 Lismaely Ortega  
 Denee Pickett  
 Katie Rhoney  
 Liz Sible  
 Erin Somerville  
 Nichole Visnesky  
 Maddy Webber  
 Erin West  
 Kaleigh Woodard  
 Milana Zuco

## Day Camp Counselors:

Rico Thorpe [6]  
 Brittany Miles [3]  
 Suzie Elliot-Bearce [2]  
 Anna Jasper [2]  
 Kailee Lamb [2]  
 Adrienne Beranger  
 Sharon Bowman  
 Emily Mitchum  
 Jackie Perez  
 Faith Peoples  
 Haley Poythress  
 Alex Sessions  
 Julia Wigger



### Lifeguards:

Emily Allen [2]  
Dean Cannon [2]  
Jacob Bowers [2]  
Megan Bestor

### Nurses:

Tina Harris [8]  
Cynthia Macalino [5]  
Shelly Stockton [3]  
Gia Bonis [2]  
Jessica Lopez [2]  
Allison Bartko  
Nicole Cox  
Steven Villano  
Heather Willingham  
Katie Zimmerman

### Extraordinary Volunteers:

We want to recognize those who so generously gave their time to support us through many tireless hours of volunteer work. Your dedication and support was inspirational and very much appreciated!

Mark Sudol [5]  
Erik Rotenberry [3]  
Anna Rotenberry [2]  
Nithi Vechalapu [2]  
Ned Weeks [2]  
Pieter Westerbeek

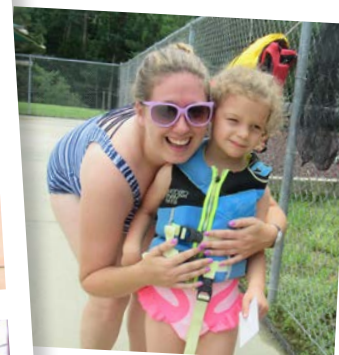
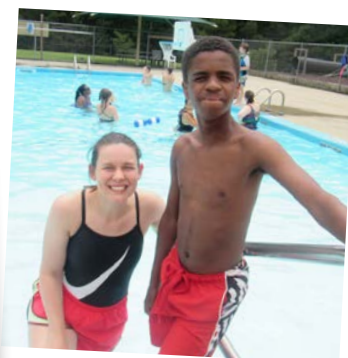
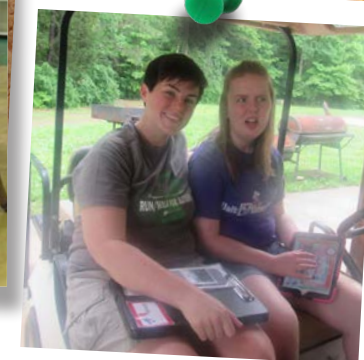
Shrushti Sawant  
Hannah Smith  
Allison Stout  
Scoggin Jones  
Noah Feltenberger  
Josh Feltenberger

### Trainers and Consultants:

We are extremely grateful to friends of Camp Royall from various parts of the autism community who gave their time and expertise to educate us and guide us throughout the summer so that we might serve our campers with the highest level of care possible.

Cassie Ball  
Olivia Boorum  
Erica Brown  
Kendyl Cole  
Ashura Colquhoun  
Alicia DiDomizio  
Denise Dixon

Mindy Govan  
Jay Jarrett Morales  
Linda King Thomas  
Khloe Mossman  
Carolyn Penn  
Michelle Scatamacchia  
Louise Southern



[ ] indicates how many summers spent working or volunteering





**DONOR HIGHLIGHT:**

## The Howrigan Family

A month before Connor Howrigan's third birthday, his parents learned that he had autism. His father, Ron, remembers the anguish he felt upon hearing the diagnosis. "I could only focus on all the things Connor would never be able to do and experiences he would never have," Ron Howrigan said.

But his wife, Kristen, sprang into action. "She was determined that her son would have as many opportunities as any other child," Ron said.

A few years later, Kristen found Camp Royall, and Connor went off for his first weekend. Ron remembers being worried, because Connor had been away from his parents only a couple of times.

The next day, Connor's counselor called to tell him how great he was doing. He had done the zip line and gone boating on the pond, both things that his parents did not think he would attempt. Connor's weekend was full of victories as he tried many new things and gained independence, his father said.

"Camp Royall is much more than just a camp," Ron said. "For the kids, it's a chance to do things and experience things that might otherwise be out of their reach. For the parents, it can sometimes be the only respite you get.

It can also reaffirm all that your child CAN do in a world that sometimes focuses on what they CAN'T do."



**"Camp Royall is much more than just a camp ... It can also reaffirm all that your child CAN do in a world that sometimes focuses on what they CAN'T do."**



Ron, who is the President and CEO of Fulcrum Strategies, believes in Camp Royall so much that he recently joined the Autism Society of North Carolina's Board of Directors.

He also shared his family's inspiring story at Catwalk to Camp in April, leading to a record total of \$190,000 raised to send more children and adults with autism to Camp Royall! Fulcrum Strategies, which he founded in 2004, also was a major sponsor of the event.

Connor is 15 now and doing well. Ron says having a child on the spectrum is the hardest and best thing he will ever do with his life. ■

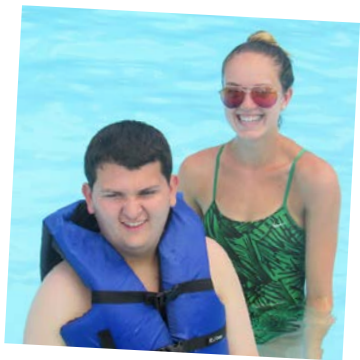




You were right,  
camp is really  
awesome.  
[Camper]











## You Can Help

### How Does ASNC's Camp Royall Change Lives?

Camp Royall is accredited by the American Camp Association and 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 \$1,700 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, 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: a digital video camera (preferably weather-proof), paddleboats, a golf cart, 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 89 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. 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

Kristy White  
Chief Development Officer  
5121 Kingdom Way, Suite 100  
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 2018.

## \$10,000 and Above

BB&T Charitable Contributions

Carolina Hurricanes Hockey Club/Kids 'N  
Community Foundation

Costanzo Family Charitable Trust

Credit Suisse

Estate of Mary V. Balliet

Fulcrum Strategies

Premiere Communications &  
Consulting, Inc. - Raleigh

Triangle Community Foundation -  
Send A Kid to Camp

Carol and Douglas Fink

Kristen and Ron Howrigan

Teresa and John Sears

Kim and Jeff Woodlief

Martha Frances Pruitt Endowment  
Fund, a component fund of the NC  
Community Foundation

Pediatric Possibilities

Strowd Roses, Inc.

Tanas Hair Designs & Day Spa

TEGNA Foundation

Women of Fearington

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Carol Manzon and Chris Diplock

Helene and Bill Lane

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Kathleen DuVal and Marty Smith

Laura Turner

Denise and Stephen Vanderwoude

PPR Foods, LLC/McDonald's

The Episcopal Church of the Advocate

The Knightly Order of The Fiat Lux -  
Triangle Chapter

The Phillips-Grove Foundation

The Raidy Charitable Foundation

Top Shelf Containers

Trojan Labor

United Way of Central Indiana, Inc.

Vance County Unrestricted Endowment,  
a component fund of the NC Community  
Foundation

Willpower Enterprises

Yoga & Wellness of High Point

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Tina and William Baxter

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Kathelena and Daniel Burns

Beth and Ken Carnes

Janet and James Cozart

Kim Perry Cummings

Cheryl and John Dietz

Memory Dossenbach

Krista and Patrick Falvey

Lesley and Michael Graves

Melissa and Matt Huemmer

Melissa Fruehling and David Israel

Meg and Gary Jack

David Jones

Heather Moore and Steven Jones

Laurie and Kyle Kennedy

Anita and Bill Ketcham

Emily and Kyle Kovac

George Lambert

Keryn and Kevin Maionchi

Lisa Grafstein and Kathy McDowell

Brian Miller

Ann and William Monroe

Lisa and James Montague

April Moore

Bev and Alan Moore

## \$5,000-\$9,999

BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina

Carolina Panthers Charities Fund

The Charlotte Observer Summer  
Camp Fund

Foundation For The Carolinas

North Carolina Community Foundation

Raleigh Diamond

Smitten Boutique

Elaine and Richard Blankenship

Mary Ann and Bob Eubanks

Angela and Brian Glover

Torrie and John Kline

Jill and Doug Terry

## \$1,000-\$2,499

Acorn Alcinda Foundation

ASNC Mecklenburg County Chapter

ASNC Montgomery/Stanly County Chapter

ASNC Onslow County Chapter

ASNC Pitt County Chapter

BrickStreet Insurance

Bright Funds Foundation

Cageside Fight Shop

Champs for Camp

Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated

Consolidated Distribution Corporation

Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC)

Iredell County DSS

Jamie's Vision, Inc.

John W. Roffe and Marjorie A. Roffe  
Endowment for Moore County

Johnston County Unrestricted  
Endowment, a component fund of the NC  
Community Foundation

Kamm McKenzie OB-GYN

Onslow Caring Communities Foundation  
Unrestricted Endowment, a component  
fund of the NC Community Foundation

## \$2,500-\$4,999

23rd Group Facility Management

Archer Western Construction

ASNC Richmond County Chapter

Golden Corral Corporation

Golden State Foods

GreerWalker CPAs & Advisors

Hardison & Cochran

Integrated Speech Therapy, Inc.

Ladies Philoptochos Society

Marsh & McLennan Agency



Maureen and Rob Morrell  
Susan and Stergios Moschos  
Cynthia and Scott Nyberg  
Lisa O'Connor  
Jessica and Erik Otto  
Amy and Alvin Perkins  
Steven Riddick  
Linda and Kevin Routh  
Katie and Tracey Sheriff  
Gina and Jeffrey Stocton  
Jennifer and Frank Thompson  
Leigh and Jeff Vittert  
Jeaninne and John Wagner  
Kristy and Andrew White  
Ruth Hurst and Tom Wiebe

## \$500-\$999

Alton Lane  
APC Group Holdings  
ASNC Craven County Chapter  
Aveda Institute - Charlotte  
Chelish Moore Flowers  
Cook Racing Team  
Eastern Alliance Insurance Company  
Gerry Howell Photography  
Gina Scott & Associates, Inc.  
Head Over Heels Wedding & Events  
Holly Reiter, LKNhomesNC.com  
Kendra Scott  
LAMB Foundation of NC, Inc.  
Onward Reserve  
Raleigh Kiwanis Foundation  
Real Estate Development Partners  
Scoop  
Scout & Molly's Boutique  
The Angus Barn  
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The Cyzner Institute  
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Suzanne and Daryl Jones  
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Jan and Kevin Kidd  
Karen and Tom Knox  
Tommy Lawrence  
Mary and West Lawson  
Rhonda and Wayne Lee  
Nan and Craig Maples  
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Kevin Shaffer

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Laura and Phillip Simson  
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Mindy and Tom Storrie  
Edward Wells  
Elizabeth Widman  
Wade Winstead  
Matt Wrynn  
John Yoon

## \$250-\$499

Amundi Smith Breeden Associates  
Angelina's Kitchen  
Apex Occupational Therapy  
Bold NC  
Carolyn Ann Ryan Family Portraiture  
FundingFactory  
Kiwanis Club of Lee County  
KTL - McDonald's  
Leerkes Consulting Group  
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Triple J Services  
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Tracey Smith  
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Laura Snyder  
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Barbara and Gordon Still  
Eliza and Scott Strickland  
Robert Teddy  
Jane Zeller and John Townson  
Vicki and Stephen Vaughn  
Donna Weeks  
Jodi Zoph

**\$100-\$249**

The Pump House

300 East Restaurant  
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ASNC Buncombe County Chapter  
ASNC Wayne County Chapter  
Belville Elementary Exceptional Children's  
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BLT Steak  
Burn Boot Camp Mallard Creek  
Burn Boot Camp Pineville  
Catawba Brewing Company  
Charlotte NC Tours  
Chip Ganassi Racing Teams  
Elements Massage - Southpark  
GlaxoSmithKline  
GoodRoad CiderWorks  
Gorgeous GLO  
Morgan Paint Company  
Raven & Riley  
Triple C Brewing Company  
Christine and George Agamaite  
Suzanne and Richard Ahmed  
Philip Alexander  
Julietta Apple



This is a great day  
all over today.  
[Camper]





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Jodi and Troy Bailey  
Beverly Balhoff  
Sandra Balhoff  
Lindsay and James Bedford  
Gladys Blakeman  
Sandi and Leonard Bouchard  
Jeffrey Bowling  
Carla Brazzell  
Jael and Otto Breitschwerdt  
Stephanie and Dustin Brewer  
Harold Bryant  
Terry and Ken Bryant  
Ruby Bugg  
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Victoria Martin  
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Pam McDonald  
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Ronii Rizzo  
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