

The Lands & Forests

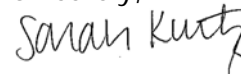
Hi, Friends of Camp Al-Gon-Quian!

I was at a wedding earlier this month with my family, and my dad introduced me to an acquaintance of his who was probably in his mid-sixties. My dad explained that I am the director of a residential children's camp called Camp Al-Gon-Quian. The man did a double-take. "Wait, where is that camp?" he said. I told him it was on Burt Lake, and he burst out "I went there when I was a kid!! **BEST SUMMERS OF MY LIFE!**" and proceeded to talk with me non-stop for the next 20 minutes or so, retelling all sorts of adventures of his time at camp.

It's surprising to me how frequently things like this happen – from some of my soccer teammates to random people at the grocery store, Al-Gon-Quian folks seem to be everywhere. It is so much fun and so rewarding to learn more about the traditions of Camp Al-Gon-Quian and to see that there are thousands of people who hold AGQ in their hearts. Moments like these reinforce the impact camp has on campers' lives – not just for a particular year, but for decades.

This summer, we had more campers attend AGQ than ever before – 1,136 – and distributed a record \$71,863 in scholarship dollars. It is my goal that decades from now these campers will look back and remember their time at Camp Al-Gon-Quian as some of their fondest memories. Looking back on this summer, I am sure they will!

Sincerely,



Director, Camp Al-Gon-Quian

FUNK gets a new house, program updates

For many years, one half of the cook's cabin (the building to the right of the infirmary) was used for storage. Thanks to the help of our alumni at this spring's alumni work weekend, we were able to totally clear out and clean the front half of the cabin. When FUNK (Fun Understanding Nature Knowledge – our nature class) specialists Annika Helber and Lucy Krebsbach arrived at camp, they were given full reign to transform the space into a special area for their activity. Annika and Lucy set up the cabin and made it into the "FUNK House," and throughout the summer used the help of campers to make it into an awesome place.

The FUNK classes did a variety of activities throughout the summer. From Culinary FUNK first hour creating all sorts of delicious goodies to Lord of the Rings FUNK having exciting expeditions, the FUNK classes stayed very busy. Thanks to Annika and Lucy and all of their awesome support staff members, these campers had a great summer!!



LEFT: With the help of Assistant Kitchen Director Molly Belhaj, FUNK campers made banana bread to serve all of camp breakfast! The blackberries decorating the bread were picked on camp. RIGHT: Part of the dreamcatcher garden that surrounds the FUNK house. If you want to see the interior, you'll have to visit yourself!

Become an Official FAN of AGQ on facebook.com

Are you a fan of AGQ on facebook? Just go to www.facebook.com/algonquian and click "Like." You can follow all of our updates about registration, events, projects and fun tidbits about camp.

Currently, we are just shy of 800 fans! Help us get to 1,000 by the end of the year by joining the fan club and inviting your friends to join, too!



Stuart Remick finally gets his photography credit...FYI Stuart took this photo.



Is that Hagrid, or is that Brooke Peshke & Andrew Huff? HARRY POTTER DAY 2011

AGQ WISHLIST

We are always looking for items to supplement camp programs. If you have any new or gently-used items that are on the following list, please call us at **(734) 661-8051** and let us know.

- Binoculars
- Buttons
- Vintage Magazines
- Bedazzlers
- Sleeping Bags (but not bulky ones)
- Lacrosse Sticks
- Baseball Gloves
- New camping equipment
- Hiking boots in good/new condition
- Hiking backpacks in good/new condition
- Tennis balls in good shape
- A globe
- Rocking Chairs
- Digital cameras
- Boats!
- Dress-Up Clothes
- Old AGQ gear (pre-2004)
- Anything you've written about AGQ
- Any art you've made about AGQ
- Digital photos of your time at AGQ – email them to camping@annarborymca.org or post on Facebook!

**And, most importantly...
Scholarship Money to send kids
to camp!**

Save the date for the 2012 Winter Alumni Reunion!

This year's alumni reunion for friends of Camp Al-Gon-Quian ages 21 and up will be the evening of Friday, December 30 in Ann Arbor, exact location TBA.

This event is hosted by the Buddy Board, AGQ's alumni group. If you're interested in helping plan alumni events or have any questions for our alumni group, you can send them an email at agqbuddyboard@gmail.com.

Congratulations, Award Winners!

Each year, full-summer staff members have the opportunity to vote for our two staff awards, given to staff members who best exemplify our pillars of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility. The Wayomana Award is given to the most outstanding first-year full-summer staff member, and the Frodo Bird Egg award is given to the most outstanding returning staff member.

This year, **Jake Peck** was the recipient of the Wayomana award. Jake is a freshman at the University of Michigan and also volunteers as a flag football coach at the Ann Arbor YMCA. This summer, he could frequently be found teaching landsports or working hard at the climbing wall.

Molly Nestor, our head female counselor, was the recipient of the Frodo Bird Egg Award. Molly is studying education at the University of Michigan and also works at the Ann Arbor YMCA as part of the membership staff and in Child Care. Molly has been attending camp since 2000, when she was former director Becca Schnetzer's camper! She has been on staff since 2006.



Jake (center) is congratulated by fellow staff



Johnny Floyd (former winner) presents the egg to Molly; with the award



Construction process begins on Cabin, Cabin 22, Riflery and A&C Buildings!

Over this school year, we are aiming to reconstruct not only Cabin 21 & Cabin 22 ("The Twompton"), but also rebuild both the A&C building and the Riflery range. Both of these buildings have been around since the start of camp – in fact, A&C, with its dual-cabin structure and long porch was originally used as the infirmary! The camp nurse lived in one side, and the other side was used for quarantine and storing supplies. Health checks and weekly weigh-ins happened on the porch.

The A&C building has served us well; the left side has most recently been used as a photography lab and then transformed into the newspaper room and is most currently the camp library. The goal of the construction projects for all four of these structures is to preserve the look and feel of the original buildings while upgrading their functionality for our current programs and camper base.

We are working with David Bona from Bona & Kolb for this project. David designed the new buildings at Camp Birkett, and really understands the balance between having a new, great building while respecting the look and feel of camp! We'll keep you updated on progress.



Counselor Joe Flanagan (right) helps a camper with a project in the woodshop!



"Bananagrams" was a very popular choice among campers and staff this summer!!



Mini-Camp for campers ages 6-10 ran for a ½ week during sixth session, and was great fun!



Molly Belhaj (left) and Katharine Drake (right) were our awesome kitchen directors! With Camper Brynn S.



Dating toddlers Blaine and Lindy kept everyone laughing throughout the summer



Our camp caretaker, Don Passino, pictured here with his wife Evelyn, celebrated 10 years of service to camp!



The scenery at camp was beautiful, as per usual!!



Third session biathletes celebrate completing the 1-mile swim and 2-mile run



This group of campers successfully canoed across the lake and back!