



# Eagle Island News

October 2022

Eagle Island, Inc.

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## SUMMER 2022 IN REVIEW

The camping year concluded with terrific reviews from both campers and their families (see a sample below)! How was this accomplished? Before camp began, we successfully hired nearly a full complement of staff, which gave us much more flexibility in supporting camper-driven programming. Staff spent nearly two weeks in training in early June before campers arrived. The summer started with a week of Day Camp, which was followed by mini Family Camp, and then by four weeks of Overnight Camp sessions. In June, with space remaining in overnight sessions and strong demand for more Day Camp, we pivoted and added 10 slots of all-gender Day Camp to fill the space. With our camper capacity increasing from 2 to 4 weeks of Overnight Camp, we were thrilled to finish off the season at 90% overall capacity for youth camp— a number we can all be proud of!

In addition to swimming, boating, arts & crafts, free play, interest time, all camps, and other programming, we invested in workshops that brought educators from the Haudenosaunee community to educate campers about their ancestral lands and practices. We continue to make investments in our programming and overall operations – while balancing the uptick in costs, and keeping enrollment affordable for campers and their families.

Financial Assistance  
to Campers

**\$45,290**



Programming and  
upgrades @ EIC!

New touring kayaks

Waterproof radios

6 cultural workshops

More healthy meal options

Increased staff appreciation

New local partners

Access to more staff housing

Thank you to our generous donors, volunteers, and staff,  
who made camp possible for many rather than a few!

## WHAT ARE THE CAMPERS AND FAMILIES SAYING ABOUT EIC?



*Our three granddaughters returned from camp on Friday, bubbling with excitement about their second-year experience at Eagle Island. A favorite activity was Halloween night - so creative! They also loved the arts and crafts, raved about the food, and were very proud to demonstrate their improved swimming technique and tell us how they helped with chores at camp.*

*Everyone wants to return. Thank you for providing such a happy, wholesome week for our girls!*



*Eagle Island was fun. You get to play in nature, and you are always doing something really fun. The bunks were clean, food was great, and even the quests (chores) were fun! My favorite part was the sing-along in Loon Lodge.*

*Eagle Island was wonderful for our kids. They loved swimming, sailing, and being part of the theater group. They talked about their counselors every day, with fun stories and happy faces. We hope to return next year!*



*You were awesome and really made camp special. I had so much fun and laughed a lot. Thank you guys so much.*

## The View from the Lodge

Later this fall, Eagle Island will be launching a series of "The View From the Lodge" Zoom presentations and discussions for the extended EI community. Learn about what the camper experience looks like in the 2020s, and participate in an open and inclusive conversation about our future!

Our alumni, families, and community are an essential part of our organization. We value your support and engagement, and can't wait to see you at the virtual Lodge!

## Watch your email for the dates and times.





## Get to Know Our Sailing Director, by Amy Mulligan Biaggi

An experienced mariner, competitive skier, film set designer, outdoor enthusiast, former Girl Scout, and confident international traveler, Sailing Director Kelsey Corbishley brought a lot of valuable experience and expertise to EIC this summer!



Motivated by her desire to inspire a new generation of campers to have a love of the water and sailing, as well as her belief in the importance of outdoor education, Kelsey quickly became an integral part of the leadership team on Eagle Island. She made her own camp memories by participating in Wednesday theme nights, learning campfire songs, and exploring the beauty of Upper Saranac Lake.

Alumni went out of their way to help Kelsey feel connected to the Island, and she learned from them what the sailing programs were like, as well as EIC's rich history and traditions. Kelsey wants folks to know that "the Sailing program is in good hands!" Every camper who wanted to be out on the boats this summer got the opportunity and she loved seeing kids get comfortable on the water, excited to sail, and eager to come back. She expects the sailing program to grow and expressed her pleasure at being a part of this tradition— and she hopes to pay that forward.

## 2023 Camp Programming



## WHAT'S NEW?

<b>Monday June 26 - Friday June 30</b>	<b>Sunday July 2 - Friday July 7</b>
All Gender Day Camp	Girls Overnight one-week
<b>Sunday, July 9 - Friday, July 14</b>	<b>Sunday, July 16 - Friday, July 21</b>
Girls Overnight one-week	Girls Overnight one-week
Girls Overnight two-week	
Junior Leadership Program	
<b>Sunday, July 23 - Friday, July 28</b>	<b>Sunday, July 30 - Friday, August 4</b>
Girls Overnight one-week	Girls Overnight one-week
Girls Overnight two- week	
Junior Leadership Program	
<b>Sunday Aug 6 - Tuesday Aug 8</b>	<b>Tuesday Aug 8 - Thursday Aug 10</b>
Family Camp Mini Session	Family Camp Mini Session
<b>Friday Aug 11 - Monday Aug 14</b>	<b>Fri, Aug 18 - Sun, Aug 20</b>
Alumni & Friends Retreat	Women's Wellness Weekend

Registration details on  
[www.eagleisland.org](http://www.eagleisland.org)!

### EARLY RATE

Early rates will end January 31 as we aim to make investments early as to better plan for the summer.

### GIRLS OVERNIGHT REGISTRATION

Campers will register by housing versus interest programming. All campers will be able to try a variety of camp activities.

### JUNIOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

This two-week program is an opportunity to gain leadership skills while also participating in regular camp activities as a camper. Each session will support 6 campers total.

July 2 - July 14  
 July 23 - August 4

## One week in the Camper Sampler program was enough for Corinne Eckart. . . by Anna Nelson

. . .to become hooked on Eagle Island. She attended camp for nine more summers, first as a camper and then on staff. She would have continued in her college years, but by then the camp was closed and being prepared to be sold. She considers these summers the “best part of her childhood.” She loved learning to sail at camp and still sails today in Marina del Rey, California.

Besides sailing, Corinne also draws on life skills she learned at camp—communication, collaboration, people management, scheduling logistics, and leadership—in her daily life, particularly in her career in TV production. Her most recent connection with Eagle Island has been through working on the Grants Committee to secure funds to preserve the Island’s history and foster its mission as a camp for young people. She has also volunteered at work weekends and Open Island Days, including this August, where she was part of the dedication of the Buz Graves Nature Trail. Overall she appreciates the qualities of her fellow Eagle Island alums—being accepting, nonjudgmental, and flexible, and is grateful the camp is now accessible to a new generation of campers.



*Corinne sailing with alums this summer*

## A snapshot of this summer’s work: Our contractors have been busy!

During the summer of 2022, contractors have completed a significant amount of work on the National Historic Landmark building complex at Eagle Island. By the end of the season, we will have new roofs on nearly all the historic buildings. In addition, numerous detailed repairs on railings, lattice components, stairs, shingles, chimney foundations, and other footings have been completed. We hope to close out this grant work by early spring 2023. Eagle Island has applied for an additional round of historic preservation funding from the New York Regional Economic Development Council, as we continue to identify areas of deterioration that need to be addressed. Overall, the 120-year-old complex is improving by leaps and bounds.



Thank you to our contractors for working so hard to complete Phase 2 of the Historic Restoration grant work at Eagle Island (and much more)!



## What's new? Exciting projects on the Island!

Eagle Island has some exciting projects underway and we are asking our alumni, family, and friends to be a part of it! This summer, we have engaged a number of donors to support a giving challenge for new swimming platforms at the waterfront with a match. This \$73,000 fundraising endeavor is essential for our next generation of campers and guests on the Island. The new swimming platforms will be 140 feet long with three 40-foot fingers. These platforms are made from durable lightweight plastic, that is low maintenance, safe, secure, and will keep our historic configuration (and won't burn your feet)!

## How can you help? Join the giving match!

We have developed giving levels\* where an individual, family, and/or group of friends can support and have their name/s on a donor tree that will live on the waterfront building.

- **Blue Cap** – \$10,000 + recognized as a butterfly
- **Green Cap** – \$5,000 + recognized as a maple leaf
- **Yellow Cap** – \$1,000 + recognized as a birch leaf
- **Red Cap** – \$500 + recognized as the tree roots



\*This fundraising initiative will start a new donor recognition tree, which we will add to over time. The butterfly, leaves, and roots are inspired by the Island. We are working with an artist to design the tree, and a local vendor to create the weatherproof cast bronze recognition materials.

## Ready to join the giving tree?

Visit [www.eagleisland.org/donate](http://www.eagleisland.org/donate)

Thank you to everyone who has supported this project and Eagle Island!  
For additional questions, please contact Danielle at [dlacavalla@eagleisland.org](mailto:dlacavalla@eagleisland.org).



Stay tuned for another fundraising initiative that will double our camper capacity – and 'grow' our donor tree: An upgraded septic system in ADK!



## Eagle Island Camp Nature Trail Dedicated in Honor of Henry D. "Buz" Graves Jr.

On Saturday, August 27, 2022, Eagle Island Camp hosted an event to honor the late Buz Graves Jr. of Saranac Lake, NY. The island's Nature Trail was dedicated as the "Buz Graves Nature Trail." The event was attended by 15 members of the extended Graves family, all descendants of Henry Graves Jr. and Florence Graves, the original donors of Eagle Island to the Girl Scouts. Family members and guests gathered in the Main Lodge to hear speakers talk about Buz, his enthusiasm for the outdoors, and his connection with Eagle Island, and then hiked to the trailhead, where his children, Becca Costello and Jud Graves, officially cut the ribbon to re-open the trail.

Buz loved the Adirondacks, and for years he brought children to the region and taught them about nature, which he had learned from his lifelong friend John Fadden, who operated the Six National Iroquois Cultural Center in Onchiota, NY. Its mission is to educate the general public about Haudenosaunee culture specifically, and Native American history in general. All future campers will learn about Buz as they hike the trail named in his honor.



*Buz pictured with John Fadden*



*Graves family during the trail dedication*

## NEW MERCH @ THE VILLAGE MERC



The Village Mercantile provides an online platform for Eagle Island to showcase and sell merchandise to alumni, family, and friends who share a common love for the Adirondacks. Visit the store at the [villagemerc.com/collections/eagle-island-camp](https://villagemerc.com/collections/eagle-island-camp).



*Let your love of Eagle Island Camp be part of your long-term plans.*

## LEGACY CIRCLE

[eagleisland.org/donate](https://eagleisland.org/donate)

## CAMPFIRE CIRCLE

Join the Campfire Circle with a monthly donation of \$100 or more. Learn more at [eagleisland.org/donate](https://eagleisland.org/donate).

