

# CAMP ALLEGHANY



**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
*TO UNITE, TO GIVE, TO ENRICH*

## **Camp Alleghany Alumni Association - 2014 Annual Letter from the President**

President's Annual Letter

Greetings!

It was the summer of 1977 and my first exposure to Camp was jumping on a rowdy bus in Alexandria, Virginia, with a group of strangers—and a few friends—for the long drive to Lewisburg, West Virginia. I had begged my parents to send me to Camp, but I had some trepidations. Would I be homesick? No! Would I hate horseback riding? Yes! Would I like my tent mates? Some of them (but not all of them liked me, either!). Would I like living in a tent? (I had NEVER been camping!) Much to my surprise, I did! The best part? The sense of freedom I felt to pursue hobbies and have new experiences without my parents and with a group of girls who were also testing the waters of independence for the first time. It was exciting and the friendships made that first summer were seminal. They have been lifelong.

Every subsequent summer—even when my father was transferred to the West Coast, my parents saved their pennies and splurged to send me back to the banks of the Alleghany River, year and year. It gave me continuity in my childhood and a sense of self-confidence that couldn't be replicated anywhere. It shaped my character indelibly and made me who I am today.

I am honored to serve as the President of CAAA this year. We started this organization a few years ago with several purposes: to reconnect alumni (Green Team and parents, too!), to contribute capital improvements to the camp infrastructure and to establish a scholarship program. When I got involved, I had no children of my own and wanted a way to give back to this beloved place. Now we do. I hope all of you feel the same way and will encourage your friends to join! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or suggestions:

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See you at Camp this summer!

Taylor Baldwin Kiland

President

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