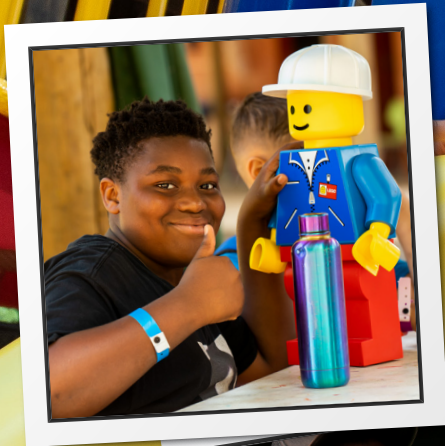


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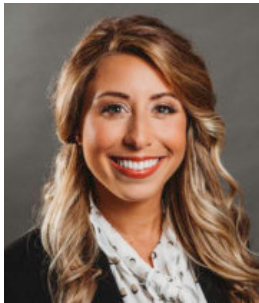
SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Camp Tales



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Dear Camp Courant Family,

It is with great pride, joy, and deep gratitude that I welcome you to another incredible summer at Camp Courant — our 131st season serving the vibrant youth of Greater Hartford.

Since 1894, Camp Courant has been more than just a summer camp. It has been a sanctuary, a launching pad, and a second home for generations of children who deserve safe, enriching, and joy-filled summer experiences. This year, as we celebrate 131 years of unwavering commitment to equity, access, and opportunity, we carry forward a legacy built on compassion, community, and the unshakable belief that every child deserves the chance to thrive.

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This summer promises to be one of our most exciting yet. From outdoor adventures and creative arts and crafts to STEM exploration and leadership-building workshops, every program has been designed with purpose — to inspire, empower, and elevate our campers. None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our donors, community partners, volunteers, and, of course, our passionate staff, who bring Camp Courant’s mission to life each and every day.

To our campers — welcome home. Whether this is your first summer with us or your fifth, we are so glad you’re here. Camp is a place where you are seen, valued, and celebrated just as you are. And to our families — thank you for trusting us. We do not take that responsibility lightly.

As we look ahead to the sunshine, laughter, and lifelong memories

waiting to be made, I invite each of you to celebrate this milestone year with us. Here’s to 131 years of heart, history, and hope — and to the many more summers still to come.

And finally, as costs continue to rise, your support has never been more vital. It is only through the generosity of our community that we can continue to provide Camp Courant’s summer and spring programs — completely free of charge — to the children who need them most. Thank you for standing with us.

With heartfelt thanks and hope for all that is ahead,

Corrienne Chipello

Corrienne Chipello
Executive Director & CEO

Camp Courant’s Through The Years: ‘Changing Lives for Over 130 Summers’



1894: The Hartford Courant calls for donations to ‘The Courant Fund’ to provide summer steamboat excursions for children and families.

1894-1904: In first ten years, ‘The Courant Fund’ able to provide pleasure and recreation to over 40,000 women and children, including steamboat rides for 6,000 people and 350 trolley rides.



Third Annual 'Spring Break Escape'

What is the best possible way to spend spring break in Hartford? Allow us to answer that for you: it is spending spring break at Camp Courant! And that is exactly what we did, for the third straight year, this April at Camp's 'Spring Break Escape!'

Our doors opened to over 100 campers from the City of Hartford. While it was only four days (due to the holiday) the week brought along field trips, hands-on projects, new sports, team builders and special guests, making it a jam-packed spring break in Hartford.

Perhaps the most extravagant hands-on project for campers was our 'paint & snack' organized by Unit C Director, Ms. Janiya. Embracing their inner Bob Ross, campers and counselors alike paired up to follow a step-by-step painting process from a professional. The result: a sea turtle swimming through the ocean. While some campers wanted to get as close to the model as possible, others chose to let their creative juices flow – some of them choosing to finger paint in the process!

As the week warmed up and campers headed outside to the field, our youngest campers had the opportunity to take up a new sport: soccer! Alongside our new friends and partners from Soccer Shots CT, Units A and

B spent their afternoons giggling, scoring goals and growing their confidence through the sport. Through various fun games, silly challenges and teamwork-focused adventures, Soccer Shots' visiting coaches designed a curriculum for our campers to spark a love for the game at a young age while teaching important life skills, such as respect, determination, sharing and, most importantly, always believing in yourself.



While our youngsters were at Camp scoring goals, our oldest campers ventured out to Cromwell to sink some putts. Once again, our friends at the First Tee of CT welcomed us with open arms to play golf on their real course in what has become the most highly anticipated field trip for Units C and D campers. While we were a week too late to qualify for The Masters, First Tee's phenomenal team of coaches set up multiple stations and games to help our campers perfect their driving, chipping and putting, while also getting comfortable with the proper motions and learning about the sport.

With the amount of fun we had in such little time, we cannot wait for summer camp when our campers are out in full force. We would like to extend an emphatic THANK YOU to all our supporters, partners and volunteers for helping our team make spring break the best it possibly could be for our campers!



1916: 'Camp Courant' was established at Steele Grove in West Hartford, a ten-minute walk from the Park Street trolley line.

1932: Due to the Great Depression, Camp Courant faces foreclosure.



1938: Campsite is severely damaged by the 1938 New England Hurricane. Hundreds of volunteers from the National Youth Administration come to the campsite to help repair.

1928: Anonymous benefactor donates \$5,000 to Camp Courant for a swimming pool. The pool was opened that summer by Mayor Walter E. Batterson.

1934: Nature program begins at Camp to give outlet for curiosity about the flora and fauna on campus.





Hartford's Camp Courant Board of Directors

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Vice Chair

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Tyler Polk

Carrienne Polo

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Andre Santiago

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Thuyan Tran



Community Partner Spotlight: Interval House CT

The work at Camp Courant could not be done without the help of so many other great organizations, and their commitment to youth development in Hartford. One of Camp's partners, providing educational programming to all campers, is Interval House, the largest agency in the state of Connecticut dedicated to ending domestic violence.

Coming to camp on a weekly basis in the summer, the partnership is designed to educate kids on establishing and maintaining healthy relationships at a young age through their adolescence.

For our youngest campers, the topic is simple: what makes a good friend? Alongside facilitators, campers aged 5-8 broke out to learn the qualities of being a good friend, from answering questions about themselves to interactive, friendship building games, such as compliment high-five and a friend dance.

"When we provide young people information about healthy relationships, we are equipping them to make smart choices in their own lives—choices that can break the cycle of intimate partner abuse for future generations," said Amanda DeLaura, director of advancement at Interval House.

For our older campers and junior leaders, the discussions focus more on existing relationships



and identifying what components make them healthy ones. It is imperative that children – especially teens – understand that healthy relationships do include actions such as compliments and affection but are not limited to just those two components - that relationships are built on respect, equality, collaboration, support and honesty.

"Our purpose is to educate our kids and prepare them to be role models as best we can," said Program Manager Nicole Robinson. "It's a heavier topic, but having these conversations now, we're instilling healthy practices and teaching ways to appropriately support others as they blossom as young adults."

At Camp Courant, educating campers on important life skills and topics is essential to what we do. We are so thankful that Interval House has joined us to collaborate on educating the next generation of Hartford's youth.

"We at Interval House are thrilled to collaborate with Camp Courant to educate campers," said DeLaura. "This work is powerful, and we couldn't be more grateful that our friends at Camp Courant have opened their doors to us."

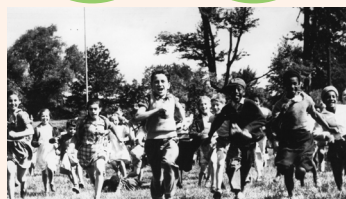
1941: Buses replace trolley services to Camp, cutting 20 minutes off commute.

1944: Nutrition programs begin at Camp, with focus on good breakfasts and balanced diets.



1960: I-84 construction planned; city of Hartford begins discussions to relocate Camp to Batterson Park in Farmington. City Council authorizes a five-year lease agreement which remains today.

1943: WWII gasoline shortage nearly cancels Camp Courant for the summer. Camp Courant eventually re-opens but without offering transportation. Children must find their own way to Camp.



1948: More than 1/2 million children have attended Camp since founding.

Emerging Leader Spotlight:

Lizzie Duncan

Asst. Unit A Director; former Camper, Junior Leader & Counselor



When a camper comes through Camp's gates, they don't just have a summer oasis, they have a home. For Lizzie Duncan, Camp has been just that for 15 years and counting. Beginning as a Unit A camper, Duncan has worked her way through the ranks to become one of Camp's valued young leaders.

"When I think of Camp Courant I think of a home away from home, a place of fun and happiness," Duncan said. "The impact Camp Courant has had on me is huge."

Duncan grew up in the South End, attending Batchelder through fifth grade. She is a proud graduate of Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy's 2023 class. Now a veteran Camp Courant staffer,

Duncan credits her time as a camper for helping shape her into the person she is today.

"I've been through a lot of things in my life, especially during the summer. The counselors I had made an impact; they guided me and led me to a place of comfort. As well as guiding me to keep going and take things day by day," she said.

Reflecting on her time at Camp, Duncan is proud to be part of such a powerful legacy for the city of Hartford, the city she still calls home. That legacy, she said, is more than just about Camp Courant the place; it is about the people who come back, year after year.

"Given that camp has been around for over 130 years, it's pretty amazing that I've been a part of it for some years now. Camp has made me grow as a camper and a person with all the different parts of it," said Duncan. "I definitely feel like we are a family and community that bonds."

Working with our 5-and-6-year-old campers in Unit A as a counselor, and now as an assistant, Duncan uses her experience as a camper to further engage the next generation of campers. She gets her campers excited for each day by sharing all its possibilities - possibilities that stem from activities that were also some of her favorites.

Duncan is now a student at Central Connecticut State University studying criminology. In addition to working at Camp, she also works in transport at Hartford Hospital. While she remains uncertain about what the future may hold, she says Camp is a catalyst in her journey and remains an advocate for the importance of keeping Camp Courant available for Hartford families.

"Camp Courant is a major resource for children because it is an outlet for them," she said. "Most children in the city don't go outside of the home due to financial or stability situations, so a place like camp where it's free and kids can have fun all day while parents work is a great thing to have."



1961: Hartford Foundation for Public Giving donates \$35,000 to pay for two new pools at Batterson Park site.



1971: Anthony Ustjanuaskas, founder of the Hundred Club of Hartford, established a writing competition in which the children wrote, "Reasons I Like Camp Courant."



1963: On June 26th, Colonel John R. Reitemeyer, President of The Hartford Courant, welcomes guests to new \$350,000 Camp facility. Camp opens on July 1st.



1980: Camp Courant legally separates from The Hartford Courant and establishes itself as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation of which it remains today.



Junior Leader of the Year Ayden B.

Rising Third-Year Junior Leader; 9th Grader at Cheney Tech; former Camper

One of our favorite awards to give out at Camp each year is our 'Junior Leader of the Year' award. In 2024, our award winner was Ayden B. Entering his third and final year as a Junior Leader, Ayden has been an everyday face at Camp since he was five. Emphatic about having fun and making friends, Ayden has long been a personality our staff can turn to for a helping hand or a smile. Here's what Ayden had to say about the award and his Camp Courant journey:

What has been your favorite part about Camp Courant throughout your life? How do you think helped shape you into who you are now?

"My favorite part for my whole life has just been meeting new people every year, getting to know new people. Sharing a nice, fun time at Camp, that's what I love. During the program, I've gotten more comfortable with everybody here. So, meeting new people shows I



have the social skills [to be a leader] and I'm not shy to talk to new people and learn about them."

What does this award mean to you? How did people react when you told them?

"The award means to me that you are a hardworking junior leader, you are always

doing what you're supposed to do - what you're assigned to do. You're always helping even when it's not your assignment. And when I told people, they were very happy for me. I got a ton of 'congratulations.' Some people were hoping that I'd win it. It just felt great hearing my name called."



When you were 12 years old, you told everyone you really wanted to be a junior leader. Why was that and how does it feel in hindsight knowing what you've accomplished?

"The reason why I wanted to be a junior leader so badly was because all my friends were in the program. It looked fun, and I just didn't want to leave Camp. Because Camp Courant is, I look at it as another home. It feels amazing that I've grown throughout this program. I feel like I am more social than I used to be."

What's next after Camp? What do you hope to be when you grow up?

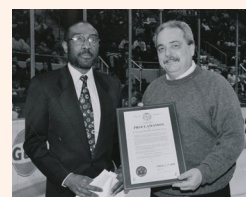
"I go to a Cheney Tech and I'm doing carpentry for my trade, and I think I want to do that when I'm older and I leave school. I hope I really can do that in my future because I find interest in it."



1990: Camp Courant begins the season with new nature center, computer courses, and 'Newspapers in Education' program.



2000: Hartford Mayor Michael P. Peters breaks ground on \$2 million pavilion project at Camp Courant. Prior to the pavilions, Camp was forced to close during rainy weather.



1996: Supporters and alumni launch campaign to create \$3 million endowment to keep the nation's oldest & largest free day camp going for another century.

2002: Camp Courant, in partnership with FOX61, hosts first annual 'Buddy Ball' fundraiser. The event made enough money to support one week of camp for 600 campers.



CAMP COURANT WORD SEARCH



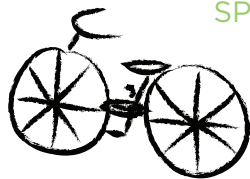
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U	W	T	O	M	X	O	F	K	X	P	R	O	M	O	Q	Q	Y
S	S	H	I	V	A	B	P	O	O	L	Z	Q	N	C	N	I	H

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden →, ↓, ↘.

EARLY LEARNING
ARTS AND CRAFTS
HEALTHY CHOICE
PHOTOGRAPHY

PLAYGROUND
PAVILLIONS
COMPUTERS
NATURE
SPORTS

STEM
YOGA
POOL
CAMP



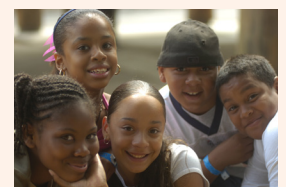
2009: Camp Courant cannot meet its \$1 million budget and decreases the number of children served daily to 500.



2019: Camp Courant celebrates 125th anniversary. Longtime camp director, Stan Glowiak, retires after years of service at Camp.



2014-2018: McKinley Albert becomes Executive Director & CEO. Camp begins major \$1.5 million renovation, which includes a new pool, pool house, handicap accessible bathrooms and ramps, two new classroom spaces and a renovated Early Learning Center.





Buddy Bash 2025

'Seas the Future'

Set Sail for A Great Cause!



Mark your calendars for **September 26th from 6:00-10:00pm**, because Buddy Bash is back—and this year, we're going all out with the inspiring theme: **"Seas the Future."** As our **largest annual fundraiser**, Buddy Bash is the official kickoff for funding our next unforgettable camp season, and we need your support to make waves of impact!

Join us for an evening filled with **live music, interactive games, and a culinary journey** featuring **delicious food and beverages generously provided by our local community partners**. From the moment you walk into the final heartfelt reception, you'll experience the joy and mission of Camp Courant come to life.

You won't want to miss our **incredible auction**, where every bid helps send more kids to camp. And the reception? Get ready to be moved as we share stories that remind us all why this work matters so deeply.



Tickets are available now at www.campcourant.org — don't wait!

Buddy Bash is made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of individual attendees and **corporate sponsors**. With your sponsorship, you'll receive **complimentary event tickets, program advertising space, logo placement on event signage**, and more. Most importantly, your support ensures that hundreds of children have access to a summer full of growth, friendship, and unforgettable experiences.



Come "Seas the Future" with us in your best nautical attire — because this is one event you won't want to miss.



2020: Tim Uhl assumes Camp Director role. Camp Courant forced to hold virtual camp due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Corrienne Chipello assumes Executive Director & CEO role.



2022: Camp Courant launches two major capital projects in upgrading its basketball courts and winterization of Camp facility, allowing for expanded programming.



2021: Camp Courant re-opens for its 127th season, welcoming back campers at full capacity.



2023: Camp Courant opens outside of the summer months for first time in history with its 'spring break escape.' Over 200 campers participate in pilot program during Hartford's spring break.

First Annual Fall Festival sponsored by Johnson Brunetti

Mark your calendars for a weekend of fun at Camp Courant like never before – introducing our inaugural ‘Fall Fest’ in partnership with our friends from Johnson Brunetti! From **Friday, Oct. 10 through Sunday, Oct. 12**, Camp will transform to feature all your favorite autumn traditions. From family friendly games, to live music and great food, embrace your inner camper to kick off the fall season!



Additionally, Saturday at Fall Fest will feature Camp Alumni Day! Calling all former **campers, staff and families**: join us at your old stomping grounds to celebrate and connect with us.

Be sure to visit campcourant.org to be in the know and to get your tickets!

Camper's Kitchen Taco Roll-Ups



Ingredients

- 6 large flour tortillas
- 8 ounces cream cheese (1 bar), *softened*
- 1 cup cooked seasoned taco meat (*shredded chicken, ground turkey or beef*)
- 1 cup shredded cheese, such as cheddar, Monterey Jack, or Mexican blend
- 1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup diced green/yellow/orange bell pepper

Instructions

In a medium bowl, mix cream cheese, taco meat, shredded cheese, red, and green bell pepper together until combined.

Evenly spread 1/3 to 1/2 cup of the cream cheese mixture onto each flour tortilla.

Roll the tortillas up tightly and wrap each tortilla in plastic wrap to chill in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour, or overnight. They will not slice if not chilled.

Slice each tortilla into 1.5 inch pinwheels and serve with salsa or guacamole



2024: Camp Courant celebrates 130th anniversary. Kitchen fully renovated to serve hot meals each day. Camp Courant launches its entrepreneurial venture, ‘The Pavilions’ venue rentals, in partnership with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving’s ‘social enterprise accelerator.’

2025: Camp Courant expands sports program with new offerings, thanks to the generosity of our friends, the Hoffman Family





Host Your Next Special Occasion at "The Pavilions"

Looking for a beautiful, unique venue for your next celebration or corporate event? "The Pavilions" at Hartford's Camp Courant are now available for private rentals — offering an elegant and nature-filled setting to make your special occasion unforgettable.

Whether you're planning a **wedding, family gathering, corporate retreat, or milestone celebration**, The Pavilions provide the perfect backdrop. Our large, grand pavilions feature stunning wooden structures and stately pillars, creating a charming, rustic ambiance that blends sophistication with the beauty of the outdoors. And with full coverage between all pavilions, walkways, and the main building, your event is protected from the elements — rain or shine.

Each rental is completely private and includes an on-site staff member to assist with any needs that may arise. As day turns to evening, bistro lights cast a warm, gentle glow that enhances the natural surroundings and gives your event a magical, intimate atmosphere.

To make your event even more memorable and stress-free, we offer a range of customizable features. From hand-crafted wooden tabletops and a popcorn machine to a commercial kitchen, grill, coolers, and more — we have everything you need to elevate your celebration. We even offer full custom décor setup and professional event management services.

See it for yourself — take a tour today and envision what your special day could be!

Visit www.campcourant.org or contact Tricia at trowold@campcourant.org to learn more or schedule a tour.

All proceeds from rentals help support Camp Courant's mission of providing a free summer camp experience to Hartford's youth.



Charitable Series: Camp Courant x Le Mazet



This year, Camp Courant is honored to collaborate with **Le Mazet** of West Hartford for a special charitable meal series at **“The Pavilions”**. To debut this exciting new initiative in late-April, Chef Joseph Cusano handcrafted a gourmet Italian menu for the occasion, treating guests to an unforgettable evening of fine food, wine, and community.

We welcomed **50 guests** for an elegant outdoor cocktail hour, surrounded by the natural beauty and warm ambiance of our pavilion space. As the sun set, the evening continued indoors with a **four-course Italian meal**, each dish expertly paired with the perfect wine selection.

Next up in this series...

“Bacon + Bubbly”

Please join us right here at Camp for a spectacular, family friendly brunch! On Sunday, June 29th, the grounds of Camp Courant will feature porchetta, cocktails, outdoor lawn games, basketball courts, and so much more!

Be sure to scan the code for tickets before it's too late.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **Le Mazet** and Chef Cusano for their generosity and exceptional cuisine. Their partnership brings a truly memorable, one-of-a-kind experience to our venue — and helps support Camp's mission in the process.

Stay tuned for more events featuring Le Mazet at The Pavilions coming this summer!



“Bacon + Bubbly”
at
Hartford's
CAMP
Courant
brunch
... a charitable dinner series ...

LE MENU.
< INCLUDED IN YOUR TICKET PRICE >

- Porc & Eggs
porchetta + black garlic + truffled scrambled eggs
- Rotisserie Chicken
potatoes + onion + carrot
- Seasonal Fruit + Fromage
- Small State Provisions Milk Bread French Toast
maple syrup + bacon + sausage
- Le Smash Burger
arabusa's caropa + tomato bacon jam
- Big Green Salad
- Mimosa + Bloody Mary Bar

< in addition >
Camp Courant's Cash Bar
all proceeds of cocktails go directly to the camp

GIANT JENGA - BASKETBALL - CORNHOLE - & MORE
June 29th, 1PM - 4PM
\$68/person + tax & gratuity
(kids under 12- \$32)
PURCHASE TICKETS AT: EATLEMAZET.COM



A Message from our Board Chair

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire Camp Courant team, I'd like to sincerely thank you for reading. What you saw and learned about throughout this newsletter is a direct product of your support and commitment to Camp Courant's mission. Camp has been a vital resource for Hartford's families for over 130 years, and that is not possible without the support of our friends and neighbors across the community.

Thank you for your support. Thank you for reading, and thank you for being a friend of Camp Courant!

Richard Brown
Chair



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Share The Summer!

Summertime is in full swing and so is summer camp! Mark your calendars: our 131st season runs through August 1st, and we want **YOU** to be a part of it. Whether you join us at our Opening Day Celebration, volunteer during the camp day or simply want to come for a tour of Camp Courant in action, please pay us a visit!

Visit campcourant.org and follow us on social media, @CampCourant.

