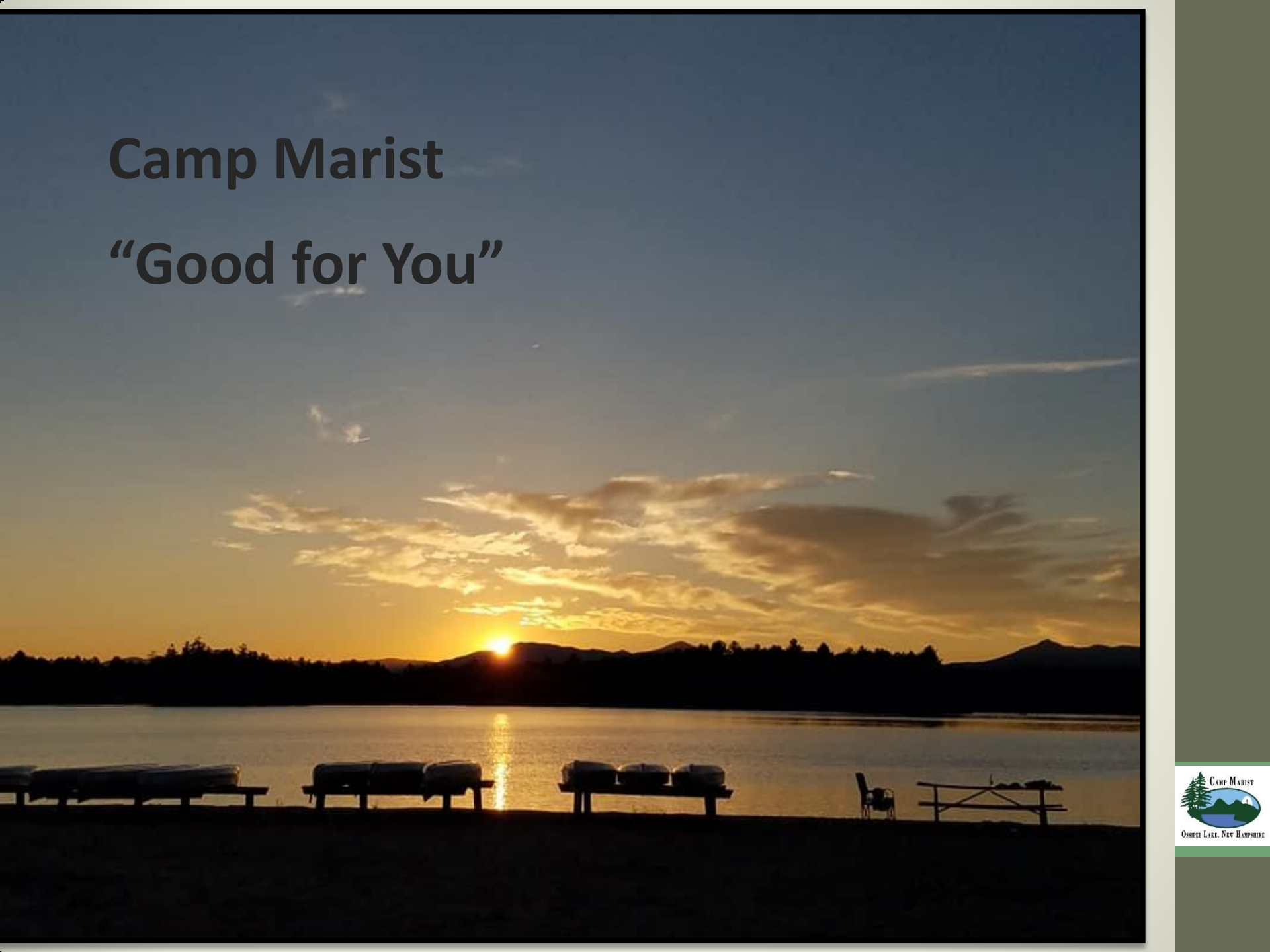


# Camp Marist

## “Good for You”



# Camp Marist “Good for You”

Summer 2018 celebrated 69 years of Camp Marist, it also celebrated a colossal number of returning staff. The number of returning staff who were former CITs represented 41.5% of the total number on staff. This is testimony to the phenomenal work of both Brother Kenneth Roberts and Cate Nelligan who nurture and support the CIT programme.

There was also an increase number of volunteers who had previously worked at Camp and were returning to allow their own children to experience Camp Marist Spirit.

In addition summer 2018 celebrated Karen Merker and Juan Bribiesca 25<sup>th</sup> and Brother Henry’s 50<sup>th</sup> years of service at Camp. These remarkable statistics posed the question, why do so many staff come back year after year?

Here are the responses;

## Mary Lavin, from the USA has been coming to Camp for 28 summers, her role as Camp nurse, has facilitated her own personal development and allowed her family to flourish.



Key factors which brought Mary to Camp: Started at camp (a bit reluctantly since I live on the beautiful ocean) to provide my 3 children a camp experience at a beautiful lake. It was a wonderful and interesting experience as one of the few women at camp with a young daughter (in a boy's camp). The Marist brothers and staff were welcoming and I couldn't wait to return the following year! My children had a great time meeting people, learning new skills, and becoming independent. I so enjoyed watching them grow, including my daughter, Christine, as one of the first female CIT's as the camp changed to Co-ed. I quickly made (and continue to make) many friends with whom I have continued friendships over the last 28 years. The special camp feeling and love envelops all who engage in the camp experience. I can't imagine not being part of this special "family"!!

Favorite memory: As a nurse I had the opportunity to interact with just about everyone at camp. This is a true Community Health Experience- caring for campers and staff of all ages, meeting developmental and healthcare needs, preventing illness and injuries by fostering self-care! I loved meeting new people from all over the world and helping them to feel connected with others. It is great to meet parents who were prior staff and are now introducing their children to Camp Marist. Promoting safety and good health for campers and staff and caring for those who needed all aspects of healthcare allowed me to engage in the Marist Champagnat spirit. It has truly been my home away from home!

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## Hannah Anderson, from the USA has been coming to Camp for 11 summers, first year was 2007, Camper, CIT, Staff and now Prefect of La Petit.



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Key factors which bring Hannah back: The friendships I made when I was a camper and more recently the bonds of friendship I have created as a staff member with both campers and staff. Cabin life, international friends, there are multiple differences and yet at camp we all embrace the differences and become one family. The diversity of campers, staff and the freedom to be my true self.

Favorite memory: When I was a camper around age 12, there was a big storm, all of the campers and staff were called to the dining room, which is a designated safe building. In order to mask the sounds from the thunder and lightning, in particular from the younger campers, the staff started to sing, "Boom-Chika-Boom, I said a Boom-Chika-Boom". The whole camp was screaming and chanting for over 45 minutes and no one really noticed that the storm had come and gone. It was so moving to see how together the Marist family was and how able we are to withstand whatever comes at us. We were a family. I think of this memory often when I am confronted by difficult days. Sometimes I sing along to myself and hear all of my camp Marist family sing with me and the storm passes.

**Jonny O'Mahoney from Ireland, first came to Camp Marist in 1989 and has now spent 5 summers at Camp.**



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Key factors which brought Jonny to camp: “To re-connect with old friends and to let my sons have an experience of a lifetime”.

Favorite memory: Although I don’t have one specific favourite moment, the moment which filled my own heart was seeing my own sons step foot on Camp Marist and to observe all three of them walking through Camp Marist and asking amazing and exciting questions about my experiences. I know that the same Camp Marist spirit which filled my heart and sustained me over the years is now growing within my sons and we will be talking about Camp Marist for the rest of our lives. What a brilliant conversation it will be!!

## Renata Elias Loyola, from Mexico, first came to Camp in 2006 as a Camper, CIT and Staff



Key factors which brought Renata to camp: Seeing old friends and making new friends, Staff and Campers from all over the world, the variety in activities both as a camper and to teach the activities as a staff member. The energy and passion of “Color War”

Favorite memory: I met my best friend when we were CIT’s together; the chants at mound “Call me Maybe” dance and chants in the vans on the CITs day off, memories of love, laughter and friendship which has lasted a lifetime for me.

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**Jorge Fernandez from Mexico, first year was 1994, he has been a Camper, CIT and Staff. Jorge has spent 8 summers at Camp.**



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Key factors why Jorge has returned to camp: Marist family, visiting old friends, showing my wife and children around Camp Marist the place I went to as a child and the place in which I grew up and became a man. I have a profound love of Camp Marist and my desire for my children to experience Camp Marist and carry the Camp spirit in their hearts throughout their lives.

Favorite memory: The activity I enjoyed the most was horseback riding, there was much fun to be had on the trails and riding in the corral. My memories of Color War will stay with me for all of my life, the passion, the energy, the campers enthusiasm and determination to work as a team, the energy of the tug of war and the good sportsmanship of all who took part regardless which team won or lost. The beach is a special place for me, to be able to look out over the lake and watch the sun go down inspires me to be a better man and to breathe in the day and be thankful. But most of all I loved talking with my friends at night, we were able to talk and laugh about the activities of the day, those memories of shared experiences and shared conversations created in me a true sense of purpose and friendship which I now share with my own family and friends.

## Mackenzie Boscoe from the USA first came to Camp in 2005 as a Camper, CIT and Staff.



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Key factors which brought Mackenzie to camp: The people at Camp, both campers and staff have worked to create an open and welcoming environment. The atmosphere at Camp allows you to really grow in confidence and to find yourself. I love that Camp is a place where I can be silly and outgoing. I would not be who I am today without Camp Marist.

Favorite memory: My favourite memories of Camp have all been at Evening Mound. Whether it is dancing or scavenger hunt musical chairs, the Mound always brings us all together and truly captures “the spirit of Camp Marist”



**Stephen Gilhooley (aka Sunshine), from Scotland, first went to Camp Marist in 1995 and spent 4 summers working on Staff.**



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Key factors which bring Stephen back: I longed to return to relive my great memories of Camp Marist and this year I brought with me my own two children to experience the unique Camp Marist spirit and ethos.

Favorite memory: The end of Color War in 1995 – the overwhelming joyful feeling of success and relief was something which has remained in my memory. I remember hugging the whole team, then collectively jumping into the lake off the end of the dock, fully clothes in a full Viking fur costume. Much fun had by all!

**Richard Dempsey, from the USA has been coming to Camp for 7 summers, his first year was 2012, Camper, CIT and Staff.**



Key factors which bring Richard back to Camp: Traditions at Camp Marist, retention of Staff from one year to the next, old faces and old friends and witnessing campers who return each year growing up.

Favorite memory: All of the memories from the beginning, but especially being a CIT, we became part of the brotherhood that we have established.

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**Andy Gallagher, from Scotland, first went to Camp Marist in 1991 and spent 9 summers working on Staff and visited on a number of occasions.**



Key factors which bring Andy back: The friends that I have made have become lifelong friends and they are a big reason why I return. Camp Marist spirit is the primary reason. I now bring my own family so that they too can experience this unique place and start to develop their own life long memories and friendships. I would be so proud if they too wanted to come back to work at Camp Marist and carry on the tradition of Scots working at Camp Marist.

Favorite memory: As a counsellor and prefect I worked with many children who had a lasting effect on me. On returning to Camp a couple of summers ago, I met one of those children as he dropped his daughter off at Camp Marist. We knew each other instantly and spent a long time catching up. It was wonderful to hear that he was doing well and that he too remembered our time together very fondly. The work we do at Camp really does make a difference and can sustain us for a prolonged period of time and inspire each of us to share our own experiences of the “Best Summer of our Lives” with our own children, growing our Camp Marist family and the core values of Champagnat.

**Michael Andrews from England first went to Camp Marist in 2014 and has spent 4 summers working on Staff.**



Key factors which bring Michael back: The profound impact I can have on a camper's life is very rewarding and energising to me. The social aspects with staff, friendships created at camp will last a lifetime.

Favorite memory: It is difficult to select one single moment or memory because there are so many. However at the end of the 2016 season I was approached by Bekki Kowalski (parent and member of staff) who thanked me for looking after Frankie, her son, over the summer and in particular within the Wolfpack. The appreciation and gratitude Bekki articulated to me, made me realise what a profound impact we can have on a camper's experience and on the parental experience. We were part of the Marist family.

**Karen Merker from the USA, first year at Camp Marist was 1993, which means that this year Karen celebrated 25 years on staff.**



Key factors which make Karen return: I have witnessed my two nephews and niece grow up and become adults, right here at Camp. In most recent years, my grandniece has joined the Marist family. This bond has strengthened our family. For me being with my friends here in the summer has intensified my faith, comforted me in hard times and celebrated the good. "Life is good, Camp is great" is my moto!

Favorite memory: Going in a canoe with Brother Jim Halliday and Vinny. It was a beautiful day as we talked and shared some of our most memorable and funny stories of our adventures and misadventures at Camp. When we got back to the shore, I tipped over the canoe, fell in the water and dumped out Brother Jim in the process, unintentionally of course! I will never forget that day! Neither will Brother Jim 😊

## Ryan Rivera, from the USA, camper and first year CIT, first came to Camp Marist in 2015



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Key factors which brought Ryan to Camp: Camp Marist family and friendships made me want to return every year.

Favorite memory: In 2016 I took riflery, Claudia Cardona explained the directions and rules in Spanish even though my first language was English. Spanish was Claudia’s first language and given the importance of clear instructions, Claudia spoke in English and then in Spanish to ensure all the campers were fully engaged in the safety and wellbeing of others. I was amazed how easily it was for Claudia to speak in both languages and felt very safe that she was able to communicate so effortlessly. I love the multi linguistic skills of the staff at Camp Marist.

**Joanne Whiteside from the England, first came to Camp in 1996 as Staff, returning with her own family in 2018.**



Key factors which brought Joanne back to Camp: Friendships, fun, working at the stables the culture and ethos of the Marist Spirit, the sunshine, it's the most beautiful setting, the view out over the lake and to share all of this with my children.

Favorite memory: Taking children camping in the wood, learning what a "smore" was and how tasty they are. I was very lucky to go on a white water rafting trip in Maine with campers and other staff; this was very exciting and exhilarating. I took part in Color War and in particular I really enjoyed my time at the stables, sharing my summer with campers and staff who just loved the horses and loved the trails and riding experiences.

**Jose Carlos Del Rincon , from Mexico, first came to Camp Marist as staff in 2008 and has been counsellor and a prefect.**



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Key factors which brought Jose Carlos back to Camp: Community, the most amazing property, sharing in the Camp Marist experience and leadership.

Favorite memory: Winning Color War after 5 years of trying and being able to share success with my peers. The passion, the love and the friendship.



**Brian O'Neil, from Scotland, first went to Camp Marist in 1992 and has spent 19 summers in various roles as counsellor, prefect, Assistant Camp Director and volunteer.**



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Key factors which brought Brian back to Camp: Fun and good times I had with campers and staff on a beautiful property. Songs, chants, **Bad Moose!** and sharing these experience with my wife and three children.

Favorite memory: The honour of being nominated Color War captain in 1994 and again in 1999. I have been privileged to see my children grow up at Camp Marist and experience the love and the passion here within activities, in the cabin, at the Mound and especially during Color War. I am most grateful for my friends and camp Marist family, which grows exponentially every year, a large number of our Camp Marist family have visited our home in Scotland.

**Toni O'Neil, from Scotland first came to Camp Marist in 1994 and has spent 15 summers as a Camper, Staff, Volunteer and Mentor.**



Key factors which brought Toni back to camp: Friendships made across the whole of the world, the opportunity to experience and develop skills in a working community with campers and staff. There are opportunities of a lifetime created at Camp through our Camp Marist Spirit and Camp Marist Family. Camp Marist is my home away from home “no place I’d rather be”.

Favorite memory: Color War captain 2011 and knowing that all our hard work caused so much enjoyment to the campers and a lot of sleepless nights for staff. Being able to work alongside so many friends and talented staff members. Tug of war is the most emotional feeling I have ever experienced, not sure if it’s more emotional to watch the campers giving it their all or being in the middle of the staff tug of war heaving with all your might. Either way, win or lose, it leaves a mark on your heart that never goes away and I am a better person for it.

**Juan Bribiesca, from Mexico, first visited Camp in 1987 as a camper and returned in 1993 as staff.**



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2018, Juan celebrated 25 years as a member of staff and received an award in gratitude for long service.

Key factors which bring Juan to Camp, Marist family, friendships around the world, fun and laughter with the campers, his love of horses and working at the stables and the beautiful property.

Favorite memory: There are so many good memories but my love of Marist has inspired me to be the man I am, I have been blessed to have met so many good friends who have become my family over the years. I come to Camp Marist each year to continue to be part of the work of Champagnat and to grow and continue to share in the Marist spirit in all that I am and do.

## Bro Henry , a vowed member of the Marist Brothers from the USA, has been coming to Camp from 1968 to 2018 in varying capacities



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As a volunteering at Camp Marist from 1968 to 2018 in varying capacities: counsellor, assistant prefect, photography instructor and mostly at the waterfront as life guard, assistant waterfront director, sailing instructor and powerboating instructor.

Key factors which bring Brother Henry to Camp, Our wonderful campers are quite "international" in scope and have many connections to the Marist Brothers in varied countries. The staff is top notch and excellent to work and associate with. Our lake Ossipee Waterfront is absolutely beautiful and extremely safe with over twenty staff members who are all certified lifeguards and instructors in water sports.

Favorite memory: Camp Marist is a magical place for campers but also for our staff, many of whom, like me, return for numerous years. It is my "home away from home" so to say. As our motto says, "Camp Marist for the best summers of your life".

**Camp Marist**

**“Good for You” 2018**

**Thank you for sharing your  
Camp Marist memories.**

*By Eileen O'Neil*



OSSEPEE LAKE, NEW HAMPSHIRE