



Green Mountain Conservation Camp

Healthy and Happy at GMCC

By Alison Thomas, Education Manager

Whether it's a camper's first or fourth time spending a week at GMCC, they are guaranteed to learn new natural resources information and outdoor skills. They will also have many opportunities for learning about subjects that do not show up on the daily schedule. These lessons range from learning how to deal with the excitement and anxiety of meeting new people, working in groups with others who come from different backgrounds, dealing with the challenges and frustrations of physical activity, calming their nerves for the hunter education testing, and of course, getting wet, dirty, sweaty, and tired. The result of these experiences is a strong bond with fellow campers, as well as a sense of accomplishment and pride.

These social and physical challenges are relevant and real, fostering useful life skills and character development. However, it's not all hard work at camp, because providing an opportunity for a camper to celebrate the fun of being a kid is invaluable. GMCC staff certainly know how to create a playful time. They sing, dance, tell jokes, and have silly challenges. Whether it's jumping in big piles of mud, lighting a ceremonial campfire, putting on costumes for an in-character debate, or competing in a belly-flop contest, there is never a shortage of smiles and laughter at camp.

In a time when kids are pulled in many distracting directions, and trying to comprehend national and global news that is often daunting and confusing, providing them with a time and space to unplug, enjoy learning, and laugh is a gift. Spending a week in the wild places at GMCC and soaking up all of the vitamins, challenges, and fun that nature provides helps campers realize what amazing individuals they are and the endless potential

they have to do good in the world. Hopefully their time at GMCC fosters their desire to be advocates for getting outside to celebrate the health and happiness wild lands, waters, and animals provide.



Kehoe campers at day hike overlook.



Basic Session Campers = 596
Advanced Session Campers = 245
Boys Attending = 601
Girls Attending = 240

Hunter Combo Certifications = 560
Trapper Certifications = 95
Waterfowl Certifications = 80
Sponsored Campers = 353

Work Weekends 2017

Edward F. Kehoe Updates

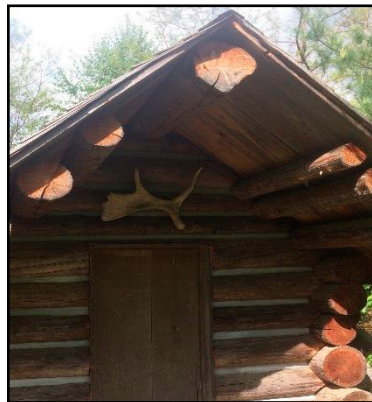
Work weekend 2017 was a huge success with 40+ volunteers coming out to assist in making Kehoe presentable for the season. Projects completed include cleaning, raking, painting, creating a new trapping classroom space, tackling carpentry projects and much more! The outdoor trapping classroom space was utilized this summer on furbearer and trapper education courses.

Spring also included the construction of an updated shotgun range. The range at Kehoe now includes automatic throwers and bunkers. Campers utilized the new shotgun range during the summer.

The bathhouse is set to be remodeled this fall. By May 2018 the project will be completed, and campers will arrive to find an updated bath facility with updated ventilation, epoxy flooring, and more!



New Trapping Education Area



Trapper's Lodge

Buck Lake Updates

Fourteen volunteers helped at Buck Lake, many of whom stayed overnight in the cabins, despite two very chilly nights of sleep! Several hazardous trees were removed with the help of a professional arborist; the fishing shed was revamped with a new floor and side boards; a new roof was put on the archery shed; and, roof holes were patched on the male staff cabin. Many other important projects, such as deep-cleaning cabins and the bathhouse, raking, moving picnic tables and archery targets, installing electric signs, lights, and AEDs, and cleaning up the grounds were accomplished with volunteers.



Fishing shed upgrade



Hazardous tree removal



Grounds clean-up



Working at GMCC

Are you interested in wildlife conservation, working outdoors, and educating youth? Jumpstart your career in conservation while gaining valuable experience.

Positions include:

- Camp Director
- Assistant Director
- Natural Resources Instructor
- Natural Resources Instructor - Medical Coordinator

Positions are posted in early January.

For details and to apply, [click here](#).

Interviews begin mid-February, and positions are filled on an ongoing basis.

Questions, contact:

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Education Manager
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All Work and No Play? No Way!

Campers work hard to learn about Vermont's natural resources while practicing new outdoor skills, but don't worry, they are very busy being kids too - laughing, getting dirty, and having a great time!

Kehoe campers use their muscles to help store the canoes in the racks.



This Buck Lake camper has a great .22 rifle grouping to be proud of.



Learning to tie flies for fly fishing is a test of patience, but it's so rewarding when the Maple Syrup Fly is complete.



Fly fishing practice takes focus, and it's best to learn in a big, open area like in front of the Dining Hall at Buck Lake.

Kehoe advanced campers shoot muzzleloader firearms.



Kehoe advanced campers hike on trails by the newly aquired Bullhead Pond property across the road from the Education Center.



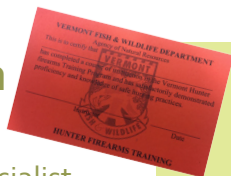
Hunter Education

By Nicole Meier,
Outreach & Information Specialist

Who introduced you to the outdoors? Who made it accessible, fun, and part of your life? In the past, the answer was simple – most kids learned about the outdoors from their adult family members. As lives become busier and kids become more tightly scheduled, they need more help focusing on getting outdoors and having the skills to enjoy the natural world.

It can be especially hard for new hunters to get started if they didn't grow up in a family that placed high value on the outdoors. I challenge all hunters reading this article to reach out to one child that they know and ask them if they want to go hunting this fall. It takes one positive experience to change someone's mind, and create a transformative experience in the outdoors. It could be a day that is unforgettable, even if it's just a walk in the woods.

At GMCC, we do a good job of teaching environmental awareness, knowledge, and outdoor skills, but we need to help mentor campers all year. Taking the time to invite a new hunter (or non-hunter) into the field could have a lasting impact, and it could help turn a child into a future conservationist.



Endowment Fund

A 501(c)(3) Endowment Fund with a mission of providing a perpetual source of income for the environmental education facilities and programs at GMCC.

Membership Benefits:

- Receive GMCC Newsletter
- Receive GMCC email updates
- Invitations to wildlife festivals, camp celebrations, and more!

Your support helps provide youth with an educational, fun, and memorable experience discovering Vermont's natural resources.

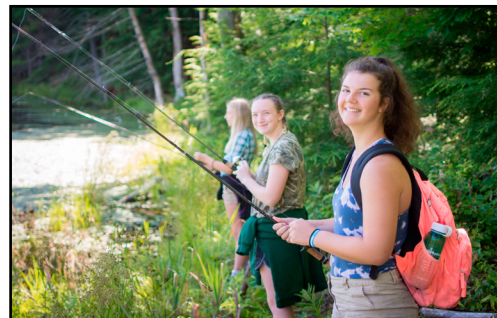
For details, [click here](#).

Let's Go Fishing

By Corey Hart,
LGF Program Coordinator



All campers participate in the Let's Go Fishing Program. This includes fishing, but there is more to fishing than simply casting a line. GMCC staff attend a training every spring to teach the campers about ecology, knot tying, ethics, regulations, tackle, and fly casting. These topics are covered before the campers wet a line.



Fishing during an advanced week hike.

During advanced week campers tie a more challenging fly, learn about an American eel's life cycle, and go fishing.

Each junior counselor spends about 11 hours a week assisting in aquatic education courses. This summer, JCs contributed approximately 1,683 hours total. These hours are essential to our federal grant that funds the program.

Attention Educators

You can become a camper for a week, and learn how to integrate wildlife management education into your classroom while earning 3 graduate level credits through Castleton University. Preservice, non-formal, and pre-kindergarten through grade 12 teachers are invited.

For the continuing education experience of a lifetime, contact Ali Thomas for details: Alison.Thomas@vermont.gov or call 802.371.9975.



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