

# THANKS FROM 2017 PARENTS OF CAMPERS

*You are God's purpose, His great design. Beautiful, blameless, His child divine.*

*(Christian Science Hymnal, #453, Words by Peter B. Allen)*

*Our hearts are so full of gratitude for you and your generous support of our son...Your gift allowed him to experience the most profound growth this summer. As one of the oldest campers, he spent much of the summer on the advanced camping trips. He was challenged to learn, lead, teach, and strive for excellence. Each day brought new spiritual insights and a deeper trust in God's love that carried him through challenges and great achievements. Camp taught him to believe in himself, love for his fellow man, step outside himself to help others, and most importantly, recognize that all this is done through complete reliance on God. Camp has given him the tools to be his very best! We will be forever grateful for [name of camp], and the young man he has become because of his time there. Thank you so much for making this possible!*

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*I cannot express enough thanks for [name of camp] this year! You made it possible for me to go and work in housekeeping and for...my sons to see Christian Science in action in a vital, lively, fun, true light! It inspires us and renews us all. Personally, I learned many big metaphysical life lessons this year. I came away more grounded and have had two major healings already upon return, thanks to that time to focus on working for camp and myself...*

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*[My son] came home with more poise and confidence than he had when he left...He came home with something special though. He was telling me all about his time and talked at length about the healings he heard shared at the testimony meetings. He looked up at me and said, 'Mama there is nothing Christian Science can't heal.' What greater gift could any parent wish for his or her child than that realization? Since camp, he has had several healings, and we talk about what he learned.*

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*The bus pulled up, and we said our goodbyes. Our son was off to his first camp experience and his first time away from mom and dad. We fully expected he would have a wonderful experience*

*meeting new friends and building relationships with the older counselors, but there were some uncertainties. Each day we would look to the pictures posted online, and we would get an idea about the fun activities he was likely doing. But any uncertainty about his experience was quickly put to rest. We saw our sweet [son] with the biggest smile, his lips covered in Kool-Aid, and obviously having a wonderful time with cabin mates. We hadn't seen this big of a smile in a long time. He arrived home from his one-week session and immediately asked to go again next summer. He particularly loved the swimming and meeting new friends. He spoke fondly of his counselor and clearly was well-cared for.*

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*Thank you so much for the generous grant that enabled our son to attend camp this summer. It is amazing to see his growth in character and Christian Science each time he returns. In his words, this was his best summer yet! He loved the programming and couldn't say enough about all of his wonderful counselors. We are so grateful...!*

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*With very full and happy hearts our family sends sincere thanks and deep appreciation for all you do to support our Christian Science youth through camp. As an only child attending a small Sunday School, going to camp was the linchpin in my practice of Science through adolescence, high school, and college. It gave me untold joy and deep, rock-solid confidence based on being God's child. As such, I am passionate about camp and have been working and taking the girls since they could walk!...I am so grateful for the financial support! Both girls had significant healings. I was very encouraged to see the devotion and depth of thought the campers and counselors expressed.*

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*I am so grateful to be given the opportunity to send my kids to a camp for Christian Scientists. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to make friends while growing in their understanding of God. Before dropping my son off at camp, I was feeling uneasy about him being away for two weeks. However,*

*through the loving support of camp and his counselors, he grew so much. He became more confident in himself as well as his ability to pray and understand God. I am so grateful he is able to go to camp and feel safe and cared for by his Father-Mother God! The growth that occurred was so abundant that I almost didn't recognize him. He continues to be joyful and confident. Thank you for your contributions that made this spiritual growth possible!*

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*I was at camp for the first time as a parent-worker, and got to witness all the love, spirituality, and metaphysical work too – wonderful! But the biggest reason I wanted to write was because of my daughter's letter. I didn't help her at all. She has gone to camp the last six years, and has grown in Christian Science so much so that last February we went to Principia for an overnight visit, and she came back to say 'Mom! I want to board!' We will be taking her to St. Louis next Friday as an eighth grader boarder. Camp created the wonderful atmosphere of Christian Science that she has grown beyond what I'm able to give her daily in Christian Science. Her Sunday School teachers have been a huge factor too. Thank you so much for giving my girls the opportunity at camp they would otherwise not have had.*

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*School is great, but camp helps them grow in countless ways. When they return home, they keep the spirit of camp with them throughout the year – and of course fun stories come with it!...The kids' time away is also a great time for growth of parents as well! Letting go, and knowing who truly is in control of their experience is a freeing feeling. Neither us nor counselors are in control. It gives the kids a sense of independence that we trust them to be alone at camp, and gives us comfort knowing that they can handle themselves with God at the helm. The past has been a demonstration of trust and reliance on God as our supply, after being laid off and having to unfold a new job experience, one that humanly doesn't supply the same, but nurtures us as a family in amazing ways – something that is much more valuable.*