

THE GOLDEN EAGLE

Volume 11

Building Lifelong Friends

December 2023

From the Directors:

We're excited because this holiday season we have so much information to share! We finally finished clearing the leaves and storing away the equipment. Now it's time to get started with property enhancements and new programming for 2024!

First, we have a BIG announcement to share! We are all excited and sad that our Assistant Director Shira is moving on and no longer working at Eagle's Landing. Shira has a Master of Education Degree in Special Education and has decided to continue her goal of working with the Special Needs population outside of camp. Shira has always been passionate about helping others and now has an opportunity to follow her dream. We are proud of Shira, both personally and professionally, for making this decision to reach for the stars. Shira is looking to

work with the young Special Needs adult population in Central New Jersey and we hope to have updates on her placement in the next newsletter. As a family business, we know that we will still see Shira around camp as she helps with picnics and perhaps occasionally during the camp day.

More big changes are happening as we flip our Special Days upside down! Based on feedback from our campers and staff, we're modifying how we schedule our Special Days. We'll be adding more exciting calendar day events and reducing the number of Special Days. Our campers shared that they want to enjoy their schedule and not spend an entire morning each week as a Special Day. The fan favorites that we're keeping are **Carnival Day, Water Day, Tribal Day, and the Drama Shows**. This change shakes things up to make the calendar days even more fun without missing out on the activities you love.

We are keeping **Stay Lates** for this summer as well! Every grade, starting with 2nd, will have the opportunity to stay late at camp for a special program designed specifically for them. Campers will have a private swim, a special dinner, and an evening of activities. Dates will be listed on our Special Events Calendar when it's released. Your camper must be registered for the week of the Stay Late in order to participate. The cost is \$25 and pick up time will be 8:00 pm at camp by parents/guardians. It's a super fun time!



Over the past 11 years we've added many improvements and upgrades. A new pool complex and spray park, a new ropes course and more elements, more tents around camp for shade, a go-kart track, more refrigerated water stations, high-pressure misting fans, repaved the basketball courts and the entrance to our back driveway. We also added Gem Mining along with Fur and Feathers, built the Kiddie Village Grocery Store and Fire Station for our youngest campers.

Last summer we added 10 tons of air conditioning to our kitchen along with industrial air fryers, and the list just keeps growing! Our \$2,000,000 pool complex took years to come to fruition. The completed project is cutting edge and has recently won awards from the Middlesex County Development Authority for its energy-saving design and functionality. This year, many of our upgrades are behind the scenes. We're investing in underground utilities, replacing roofs, and upgrading electric services to prepare us for future projects.

Keeping our 20-acre property safe and clean is a big job. We are currently working on building plans to send to the Township for 2025 (Shh! Our plans are still a secret). All we can say is there will be more air-conditioned space for our campers as our summers in NJ are getting warmer. Our maintenance staff is busy all year round with projects. This fall we renovated 10 bunks with new roofs and fresh paint. We also replace the siding and stairs as needed on our 37 buildings. There's lots to do before the campers arrive next summer and we will keep you updated!



Hanna, our Assistant Director, is working on social media projects to keep us all connected. She creates all of our contests and TikToks, posts pictures from last summer, and shares interesting articles that relate to kids, camp, and parents. People don't always realize how much goes on 'behind the scenes' to make Eagle's Landing happen!

Please tell your friends about ELDC and share the camp love! Our next Open House is **WinterFest on Saturday and Sunday, January 20 - 21 from 12 - 3pm**. This Open House gives new families a chance to see camp before our February 1st price increase. As a reminder, we are here every day from 9 am - 5 pm if your camper wants to come by and visit, or just go outside to play. We would love to see you and grab a quick camp hug. There are only 182 days until camp!

We hope all your wishes come true this holiday season!
- Ruth Ann, Barry, and Hanna

contests! contests!

If you aren't following us on social media, then you're missing out on some super cool prizes! The contest for December is **Sammy's Vacation Contest!** We want to see **YOU** showing your camp spirit and wearing your favorite Eagle's Landing swag, whether you're traveling on vacation or having a super cool stay-cation at home. Send us your photos by January 2nd for a chance to win. Post your pictures on your Facebook or Instagram and tag us, send them in a private message, or email them to us at Hanna@EaglesLandingDayCamp.com. As always, the winner will receive limited-edition ELDC swag. Good luck and have a great holiday break!

HAVE YOUR NEXT EVENT AT EAGLE'S LANDING!

A company picnic, family reunion, graduation party, Bar/Bat mitzvah, or wedding at Eagle's Landing is the perfect opportunity for you and your guests to relax, refresh, and have fun outside! Our professional staff will take care of all the details and organize your day whether you invite 100 or 1,000 guests. Swimming, sports, and a catered BBQ will create an event to remember. Book now for 2024 because dates are going fast!

Eagle's Landing also has space for meetings and indoor events in the Nest! Whether it's a holiday party or a corporate lunch, call Hanna at 732-821-9155 for more information.

We Don't Want you to be Sad...

Enrollment for 2024 has been incredible. We thank you for believing in our camp program and trusting us with your children. As of today, we are 82% full for next summer! We expect LITs along with 5th and 6th grade boys and girls to close in January with waiting lists. Many other divisions are also nearing capacity and may close before February 1.

We're not a high pressure camp, but last summer parents were unhappy when they couldn't enroll or extend their weeks. Please remember that you can register your child, change weeks, or get a **FULL REFUND** until June 1 with no questions asked. If you have not yet registered your child for this upcoming summer, we suggest that you do it as soon as possible. We are available to answer any questions you may have at 732-821-9155 or email us at RuthAnn@EaglesLandingDayCamp.com.



FAMILIAR FACES AT CAMP!

We're fortunate to have great staff who stay with us for many summers. For 2024, we have some familiar faces coming back we think you'll recognize.

Jamie is back at Eagle's Landing for her 4th summer. We changed her position in the middle of last summer and she is staying put! Jamie formerly coordinated our Fine Arts programs, and she jumped into the role of the Division Leader for 5th and 6th grade girls when their former DL had to leave unexpectedly. She is truly one of those people who works for 10 months while looking forward to returning to camp in the summer to do what she loves most. During the off season, Jamie teaches middle schoolers in Hopewell Valley Township. She is one of the kindest people we know and has a great sense of humor not only with adults but with her campers as well. In a few short weeks last summer, Jamie made great connections with her staff and campers and we are very lucky to have her back again. Jamie and her boys love dogs and she even dog sits for Hanna and Barry & Ruth Ann when they go away. Jamie lives in the Hightstown area with her boys who, of course, come to camp. She is looking forward to being able to spend time outdoors with the girls and work closely with Todd, the Division Leader for 5th and 6th grade boys.



Vicki is also back again this year for her 4th summer to oversee the Ropes and Sports areas of camp. Last summer she worked on creative new lesson plans to add more sports and outdoor adventure into the campers' programming. As a former college athlete, Vicki feels strongly about the staff and campers staying active outdoors. Vicki is also a middle school teacher, working in the Sayreville School District.

Families who live in the area may know her for volunteering her time with Fast Break Basketball in East Brunswick as a coach for the girls. Vicki is also involved with her daughter's girl scout troop. She lives locally with her husband and her daughter who attends camp. Vicki is known around camp for her ability to make others laugh and is always willing to go the extra mile to help anyone around Eagle's Landing.



Get Connected with ELDC

We're on **TikTok!** Find our weekly videos by following us **@EaglesLandingDC**. "Like" our **Facebook** page (**Eagle's Landing Day Camp**) for the latest updates, discounts, and unreleased photos!! Not a Facebook fan? Follow us on **Instagram** at **@EaglesLandingDC**. If none of those suit you, then check out our **Pinterest** page with lots of SUPER ideas for your campers at **@EaglesLandingDC!** You can now be connected with ELDC all year long. We have exciting news and projects that are online only, so **start following up TODAY!**

Camp is Growing and We Need Your Help

As enrollment continues to increase, our staff needs to grow so that we can keep the same low ratios for our campers. We are currently looking to fill different positions and we invite you to join our staff family and discover all the benefits of working at camp!

High School Students work directly with campers as group Counselors, as Lifeguards on our Aquatics staff, or in Food Service gaining new skills and job experience. There are no nights or weekends. It's a great place to socialize and make friends, and it's only 39 days of work! Working at camp also gets them off their phones and technology and gets them outside doing fun activities like swimming, art, and sports, all while being a role model to others. We train everyone, feed them daily, and help them organize a way of getting to and from work every day.

College Students have the same benefits as High School Students including competitive salaries, fantastic hours, and on-the-job training. There are opportunities for students in several majors, including education, videography / photography, grounds keeping, food service, the arts, and of course, physical education.

Parents and Grandparents should also think about working at camp. You would have the same hours, competitive salary, AND reduced or free tuition for your kids or grandkids to attend camp (which can be worth \$10,000+ for only 39 days of work). We currently have 3 grandmothers who work with us in the office and in the kitchen, ranging from 65 to 83 years old (yes, you read that correctly!).

We have job openings for Counselors, Lifeguards/Swim Instructors, sports, ropes, art, baking/cooking, kitchen staff, and maintenance. Please email RuthAnn@EaglesLandingDayCamp.com if you're interested or have any questions.

KEY POSITIONS AT CAMP

As our camp continues to grow, we are always looking for qualified people to fill our available openings. This month we are looking for applicants to fill very specific positions (one of them is a year-round job)! We know that some families may be in transition with a job, and we would prefer to help a camp parent or someone you know before posting these online. **If you know anyone interested in any of these positions, have them reach out to Barry@EaglesLandingDayCamp.com.**

Maintenance Supervisor - This person is responsible for maintaining all aspects of the camp property. This full-time, year-round, hands-on position supervises a crew of people to run the outside of camp. This is a varied job and the successful applicant will have experience in light construction, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, and small engine work. They must have a happy disposition to work around children, have experience in a supervisory position, and speaking

Spanish is a plus. We offer full health care, a matching 401K, free camp for your child or grandchild, and flexible hours during our off season. The hours are seasonal with longer hours from April through August. September through March is Monday - Friday, 8:00 - 4:30. We are looking for someone who would become a part of our family and hopefully stay in the position for a very long time.

Kitchen Supervisor – This position is from late May through early September and is perfect for someone who works in education, as a kitchen manager, or as a private chef. The successful applicant must have a background in commercial food service and have ServeSafe certification. This hands-on position is responsible for meal planning, food ordering, and supervising a staff of 12 as they prepare, serve, and clean the kitchen daily. Additional hours are available by working our corporate picnics on weekends. Barry will help them get up and running with more hands available as needed to help. This is a wonderful way to make a substantial amount of money without working all year long. Speaking Spanish is a plus and they also get free camp for their child or grandchild.

Office Staff – We have 1 position open in our front office. This job begins on June 10 with paid training to learn our database and practice on our phones. We staff our office in the months leading up to camp to answer parent phone calls and to help prepare for the campers. Ilyse, our Office Manager, creates a schedule that works for everyone. This person must have strong computer and phone skills, and have a pleasant demeanor for working with our campers and their families.

CDL drivers – We are looking for Class B or Class C CDL drivers with P and S endorsements. If you know anyone who may be interested who does not currently have a CDL license, we will help them through the CDL process and cover the cost. Eagle's Landing uses both 24-seat and 52-seat buses, and all of our drivers and staff are required to pass a criminal background check. If you are a parent, grandparent, or you know someone who would be willing to drive a bus, we offer either a salary or free camp for a child or grandchild. If that person is willing to stay the entire day to help us inspect the buses, fill them with gas, and run some errands, they will earn additional income. We already have a few camp parents who drive our morning and afternoon bus runs, and one day trip each week.

TRAINING IS KEY

Every year we look for ways to improve the Eagle's Landing experience. This year we're excited to bring in some outside help to polish our customer service and other programs. We've hired a training consultant to help evaluate our office systems, orientations for our staff and campers, programming, and more. She will attend our pre-season meetings and provide a fresh perspective on how we can improve and assist with in-service training during the camp season. We'll fill you in as we work out the exciting details.



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EaglesLandingDayCamp.com



Join us
Jan 20 - 21
12 - 3 pm for

January WinterFest Weekend Tours

(Let's meet by the Misting Fans!)

CAMP STARTS IN 182 DAYS!

