

Rainbow Connection



[A Word from the Director: Kat Martin Nelson]

I was reading Caleb a book the other night. It's poetry and has beautiful painted pictures. It is called *The Wonderful Things You Will Be*, it is written by Emily Winfield Martin (<http://www.emilywinfieldmartin.com/>). As I read the sweet words and poured over the beautiful pictures, I dreamt not only of Caleb's future but I thought about my Kamaji girls...

*When I look at you and you look at me, I wonder what wonderful things you will be.
When you were too small to tell me hello, I knew you were someone I wanted to know.
For all of your tininess couldn't disguise a heart so enormous...and wild...and wise.
This is the first time there's ever been **you**, so I wonder what wonderful things you will do.
Will you stand up for good by saving the day?
Or play a song only you know how to play?
Will you tell a story that only you know?
Will you learn what it means to help things to grow?
Will you learn how to fly to find the best view?
Or take care of things much smaller than you?
I know you'll be kind...and clever...and bold.
And the bigger your heart, the more it will hold.
When nights are black and when days are gray- you'll be brave and be bright so no shadows can stay.
Then you will discover all there is to see...and become **anybody** that you'd like to be.
And then I'll look at you and you'll look at me and I'll love you, whoever you've grown up to be.*

Obviously, this book spoke to me as mom to Caleb, but it struck me so deeply that this is how I also feel as camp director, to you. Each summer, on the first night of the session I walk around to each of the dinner tables. I greet each cabin group, make sure I say "hello" to each and every new camper and do my usual jokes and hugs and winks at my returners. The nervous excitement in the room is almost palpable. When I look into your eyes, I see you.

As I look at each of you, I wonder... how will you make your impact on this special place?

... will you go out of your way to make friends with campers new to you...will you get up in the middle of the night to go to the washhouse with your friend... will you spend your free period cheering on a cabinmate who is practicing her swim strokes... will you write your own song to perform on stage... will you make friendship bracelets for those whom you've just met... will you share your facepaint, nail polish and fake tattoos with your tribemates...will you run for Tribe Leader or will you be a leader in your tribe regardless of the official title... will you try an activity you've never done before... will you volunteer to carry the heaviest pack on a camping trip... will this be the summer you sail an x-boat on your own or ride Storm bareback...will you sing a song when there is a storm outside to calm nerves... or go up to the kitchen window to thank the cooks for a good meal... will you give someone a hug just because they look

April/May 2017 Newsletter

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Camp Kamaji for Girls



@KamajiKat



@CampKamaji

like they need it...will you wear a tutu to dinner simply because you feel like it... will you gaze up at the stars and share your dreams with your friends...will you toss rocks into the lake or climb to the top of the wall... will you hold a Hatchery camper's hand as you walk up to Council Fire or walk a new camper up to the barn for the first time?

..."I know you'll be kind...and clever...and bold." And I know whatever role you play at camp, the person you are and the one want to be, the mistakes you make, how you make it better, the tears, the laughs, the safe risks, the costumes, the activities, the lip synch performances, the Capture the Flag strategies and the singing... I will love, care and support you, whomever you grow to be.

To read Emily Winfield Martin's beautiful book yourself, you can find it on Amazon here: [The Wonderful Things You Will Be](#) and don't forget to register for [Amazon Smile](#) so that your purchases will raise money for [Camp for All Kids](#) !



Randy's Ramblings



Hello again from the woods of northern Minnesota. We have been having some very nice weather for the end of March. For the last week, the days start out in upper 20s and end in the 40s and maybe even in lower 50s. The ice is still on the lake but not safe to walk on. I heard on the radio that a couple of people fell through the ice on Red Lake and now they said no more people are allowed on lake. Luckily, they were pulled out alive but were very wet and cold.

I have been working on a bunch of different things at camp, one of them was fixing the broken roof on cocoon from last summer's storm. I replaced six of the trusses that broke from a massive tree branch landing on it. I still need to put new shingles on roof but was waiting for all snow to melt off roof. The snow has disappeared this week but I need to finish the remodel of Kat and

Jason's bathroom first. I have also been cleaning up dead trees all over camp. This is a never-ending job just to try and keep up. You never realize how many trees are in camp until you start trying to clean up all the dead ones! My next project is refurbishing Natalie's porch. I'm going to put new decking and benches on all of the levels. Big project but I plan on having it done by the start of camp!

Patch and Oreo have been coming to camp every day and making the rounds. I just took them in for their summer haircuts so we must be getting close to camp time! Well, that's enough rambling from me. See ya soon!

-Patch, Oreo, and Randy



Camper Enrollment

NEW TO KAMAJI IN 2017!

Join us in welcoming Kamaji's newest campers!

1st Session:

BROOKE ALOE (3rd grade) from San Marino, CA, **YAHAIIRA CABRERA** (4th grade) from Chicago, IL, **KATE DAVIDSON** (4th grade) from Saint Louis, MO, **NATALIE GRICE** (4th grade) from Ferguson, MO, **EMPORIA POWELL** (4th grade) from Ferguson, MO, **KATHERINE ROGULA** (3rd grade) from Glenview, IL, **IRAZU TORRES** (8th grade) from The Woodlands, TX, **MAISY WEISS** (5th grade) from Englewood, CO and **MADELEINE WYLIE** (5th grade) from Elmhurst, IL.

2nd Session:

CAMPBELL AMROL (4th grade) from Glenview, IL, **IRIS BARRINGER-MILLS** (3rd grade) from Ixelles, Belgium, **ALEXANDRA GERBER** (3rd grade) from Dallas, TX, **SAMANTHA GORDON** (2nd grade) from Highland Park, IL, **GRACE MOORE** (7th grade) from St. Louis, MO, **ELLA POLONSKY** (3rd grade) from Deerfield, IL, **CATHERINE REEDER** (3rd grade) from Glenview, IL, **JAELE ROGERS** (3rd grade) from Clayton, MO, **NORA RUBIN** (3rd grade) from Wilmette, IL, **ABIGAIL SCHOTTENSTEIN** (7th grade) from Tiburon, CA, **SANIYAH STEPHENS** (7th grade) from Maryland Heights, MO, **LUCY VOGEL** (3rd grade) from Chicago, IL, **ZOE WARTICOVSKI** (2nd grade) from St. Louis, MO, **PROMYSS WOLFE** (2nd grade) from Edmundson, MO, **ZAVIERA WOLFE** (3rd grade) from Edmundson, MO.



Since the last time The Rainbow Connection went to press, the following campers have enrolled for the summer of 2017:

1st session

Ana	Abitbol -- Bouet	5th grade	Bougival	France
Kailee	Adler	3rd grade	Seattle	WA
Sofia	Bogucki	8th grade	Purcellville	VA
Lindsay	Cook	7th grade	Boulder	CO
Lucy	Gallun	8th grade	Evanston	IL
Lila	Portis	6th grade	Evanston	IL

2nd session

Kate	Engel	6th grade	Minneapolis	MN
Makayla	Johnson	7th grade	Cleveland Heights	OH
Princess	Lang	9th grade	Maywood	IL
Chloe	Martin	5th grade	St. Louis	MO
Bahno	Singh	7th grade	Cleveland Heights	OH
Caileigh	Sullivan	9th grade	Watertown	MA

8 weeks:

Sydney	Berger	9th grade	Chicago	IL
Maddie	Gordon	9th grade	Highland Park	IL
Karina	Held	5th grade	Silver Spring	MD

Do you know someone who might be interested in Camp Kamaji? Let us know so that we can get in touch with them!

[Request More Info](#)

If you haven't already be sure to enroll your camper today!

[2017 Enrollment Form](#)

Things we can't forget

First Session:

Ukulele sing along... wonder women... Captain America... Frank's dad... pictionelophone... shnizzle wizzle... salsa dancing... bandana kidnapping... jingle bell rock... make it work... chicken calendar... dabbing... Hamilton... bird is the word... Oma.



Second Session:

Costumed dinners... the fort... lodge sleep over... I'm walking on water... the Nut 3 beat ... the napkin song... burning marshmallows... free swimming...

bunny bunny (x2) owa owa!.... broom game... today.... riff offs... Russian lullabies... the magical arrow.. beach volleyball... hair wraps.



Boy Oh Boy is That Tasty

MACARONI AND CHEESE

Ingredients

- i 1 (8 ounce) package elbow macaroni
- i 1 (8 ounce) package shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- i 1 (12 ounce) container small curd cottage cheese
- i 1 (8 ounce) container sour cream
- i 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- i salt and pepper to taste
- i 1 cup dry bread crumbs
- i 1/4 cup butter, melted

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil, add pasta, and cook until done; drain.
2. In 9x13 inch baking dish, stir together macaroni, shredded Cheddar cheese, cottage cheese, sour cream, Parmesan cheese, salt and pepper. In a small bowl, mix together bread crumbs and melted butter. Sprinkle topping over macaroni mixture.
3. Bake 30 to 35 minutes, or until top is golden.

Servings: 6– 9

Check out the official [Camp Kamaji Cookbook](#) for more tasty recipes.

Each column features one or more of Kamaji's most requested recipes. Email bri@kamaji.com to let us know which recipe you would like to see featured next!



Cocktails Around the Campfire

Join us for a spectacular evening of live music and camp fun to help send more kids to camp!

Camp for All Kids invites you to join fellow alumni and parents from Camp Kamaji, Birch Trail, Chippewa Ranch Camp, North Star, and Timberlane.

Saturday, April 22 at 7 pm
210 Restaurant & Live Music Lounge
in Highwood, Illinois
Open Bar, Dinner, Auction & Live Music
Tickets: \$175 (\$150 early bird pricing)

Purchase tickets online: [Cocktails Around the Campfire](#)

Camp for All Kids impacts the camp community and changes lives by sending kids to camp. All proceeds go toward renewable camperships for students from our partner schools in Chicago, Cleveland, and St. Louis.

Please direct questions to josh@campforallkids.org or 314.910.8595.



Paperwork, Travel

Yes and Yes! Parents, please log into your CampinTouch accounts in order to complete the necessary paperwork before camp. There are a lot of mandatory forms that need to be submitted so we can BEST care for your camper.

If you have not made your travel plans yet, contact Travel One (800-245-1111) ASAP and/or jason@kamaji.com for assistance.

If you have any questions about your CampInTouch account, please email bri@kamaji.com.

Family Camp

Come join us for a long weekend of camp in the Northwoods of Minnesota!

Wednesday, August 16th –
Monday, August 21st, 2017

Come to Family Camp to experience camp with your own family, spend time with your children, to play at camp with your childhood friends, to relax with friends you do not get to see often, to meet new people and to relish in the sounds and smells of the Northwoods.

Contact us at 218-556-1805 or email jason@kamaji.com with any questions. We hope you'll join us!

Kamaji Webstore

The highly anticipated launch of the [Camp Kamaji Webstore](#) is finally here!

We recently teamed up with Amerasport in an effort to make ordering Camp Kamaji gear more accessible to our campers and alumni. The webstore will allow you to order Kamaji gear year-round! We will no longer be ordering clothes using Camp InTouch forms. You will be receiving your camp clothing BEFORE coming to camp so order yours today!

Take a look around and let us know what you think! Visit the store [here](#).





Meet the Staff

Summer 2017

Read below to see who is joining us at camp this summer! For the full staff list please visit our website:

[Kamaji Staff 2017.](#)

BRIANNA SULLIVAN

Cabin Counselor
Watertown, MA
Years at Camp: 9

CAITLIN WILLIAMS

Wilderness Trip Leader
One Tree Hill, South Australia
Years at Camp: 1

ELIYA BOX

Cabin Counselor
Leeds, United Kingdom
Years at Camp: 1

ELIZABETH DEHLIN

Cabin Counselor
Galesburg, IL
Years at Camp: 1

EMILY MORRIS

Cabin Counselor
Bridgewater, Somerset
Years at Camp: 1

JULIANNA PATTERSON

Wilderness Trip Leader
Ashland, WI
Years at Camp: 1

KATHRYN (KATY) COSEGLIA

Cabin Counselor
Galesburg, IL
Years at Camp: 1

LAURIE BUSH

Cabin Counselor
Overland Park, KS
Years at Camp: 6

LEAH STAR

Cabin Counselors
Santa Clara, CA
Years at Camp: 1



MAHAYLIAH CASIMIR

Assistant Cook
Miami Gardens, FL
Years at Camp: 1

MARIEL VANLANDINGHAM

Wilderness Trip Leader
Saint Louis, MO
Years at Camp: 8

MATT ALLEE

Maintenance Assistant
Mooreville, IN
Years at Camp: 1

MATT SMITH

Administrative Office Assistant
Bournemouth, Dorset, Great Britain
Years at Camp: 1

OLIVIA LANEY

Nursing Assistant
Columbia, SC
Years at Camp: 1

REBECA VARELA

Cabin Counselor
San Pedro Garza García, NL,
Mexico
Years at Camp: 2

RHIANNA COOK

Wilderness Trip Leader
Chelmsford, Essex, Great Britain
Years at Camp: 1

SARA "ETS" HOROVITZ

Nanny
Highland Park, IL
Years at Camp: 12

VALERIE FROEMING

Assistant Cook
Galesburg, IL
Years at Camp: 1

Staff Travel Plans

All staff members need to submit their travel plans to Camp InTouch. Be sure to send bri@kamaji.com an email once you've completed the form.

Don't forget, we are offering a staff shuttle for all 3 arrival dates. Reserve your spot today!

Join #KamajiStaff2017

If you are interested in [working at camp](#) this summer or know of a fun, trustworthy, hard-working, dedicated, enthusiastic, tireless, energetic, empathetic, funny, qualified person who would like to learn more about one of Kamaji's many and varied positions, email kat@kamaji.com today!



Staff Notes

Camp InTouch is your one stop shop for all forms. Be sure to login and fill out all required forms. Link available [here](#).

It's time to start planning your trip to camp! Be sure to submit your final itinerary to Camp InTouch.

If you are interested in working at Family Camp this year email Kat (kat@kamaji.com).

If you have any questions about forms, travel, or packing please email Bri (bri@kamaji.com).



Chit Chat with Bri

Hello Everyone!

It has been busy here at the Indiana office! I like to think that's just one of the many signs that summer is close by.

I have been spending my days sending welcome emails to familiar faces and new ones too! You can check out the entire crew on the staff page, [here](#). I think Kat and Jason have put together a fun, camp-loving group!

Now that it is finally warming-up in Indy, I'm able to work with the windows open! It reminds me of all the time I spend in the Kamaji office at camp with the windows open and sun shining through. I just hope the nice weather is here to stay!

Counting down the days until summer!

-Bri from the Office



It's a Small World After All



If you run into any Kamaji friends, remember to snap a picture and email it to Kat kat@kamaji.com or Bri bri@kamaji.com. You never know, it might even make the Instagram or Facebook page.

And don't forget to send us your creative poems and drawings, humble brags, and camp related stories!

Spring is officially here which means summer is not far behind!

Until then, we're staying very busy! We know you are busy too, but please be sure to make time to check your [Camp InTouch](#) account for required forms and important information.

Don't forget to check out [Kamaji.com](#) to view our newly launched [webstore](#), the [2017 Staff](#) roster, and info about registering for [Family Camp](#)!

Camp will be here before you know it. We hope you are as excited as we are!

With hugs and high fives,
Kat, Jason, Bri & Caleb too!

