



June 24, 2021

Dear Camp Community:

This week, counselors have been working hard to prepare Camp for the long-awaited arrival of Campers. After missing last summer's season – and so many other aspects of our daily lives over the past year – there is a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and excitement to be able to bring Camp life back to its fullest. Camp is bustling with activity and with energy, and we look forward to sharing that with this year's Campers. We are humbled and appreciative to be able to return to Camp this summer, and that Camp families have entrusted us with the safety of their children after holding them so closely to home during the pandemic.

We write to share updated information about the prior reports of sexual abuse by Matt Scavitto, a former Camp counselor from 2001 to 2014. Many of you have been following our communications in both 2015 and 2020 regarding Scavitto's arrest in 2015 for sexual abuse involving a minor in Pennsylvania, who was also a junior counselor and Camper at Tecumseh, and the more recent report last fall by another former Camper, Will Addis, who shared that Scavitto sexually assaulted him in the early 2000s. Will, who asked that we share his name with the community, subsequently filed a civil complaint in New Hampshire.

Earlier this year, we worked closely with Will and his counsel to reach a mediated settlement agreement that resulted in the dismissal of the lawsuit. We anticipate an article in The Boston Globe in the coming days that may address Will's experience, which we hope will continue to bring awareness to these issues. We cannot predict the tone or tenor of the article, or when it will be published, but thought it important to share this information with you. We believe it is critical to bring these issues into the daylight and to discuss them with candor. They have provided an important moment of reflection for Camp.

Hearing directly from Will about his experiences as a young Camper, and the long-term impacts of abuse, was nothing short of heartbreaking. One of the things that Will shared with us was his perspective that Camp practices or culture at the time fostered an environment where the abuse was more likely to occur. Many longtime families will remember practices from decades ago, like nude swimming, which – while not historically atypical of some all-male institutions – ceased to be a sanctioned part of Camp in the early 1990s. Many will also remember the open setting of the Widdow, which was modified in the early 2000s to include a dividing wall. This season, Camp also added doors to the bathroom stalls and curtains on each shower. Most importantly, Camp has long prohibited bullying and hazing, whether verbally or physically. Our efforts to make good boys better have always included modeling and encouraging respectful and kind interactions between Campers and providing accountability for conduct that does not meet Camp standards. As we have learned through our own experience, as well as that of other institutions, what may have been widely accepted as adolescent humor or acceptable behaviors

in camp or school environments 20, 30, or 40 years ago is anything but today – and rightly so. The changes in Camp practices and culture were part of our concerted efforts to create an environment where Campers feel safe and are protected by clear boundaries, guidelines, and multiple layers of oversight.


Our commitment to addressing any report of abuse – by Scavitto or anyone else – remains steadfast. We will always listen, learn, and grow to ensure Camp Tecumseh fulfills our commitment to ensuring the highest standards of safety and welfare for our Campers, past, present, and future.

We are grateful to our former Campers and counselors who have come forward and appreciate their engagement with us as part of our efforts to protect future Campers. Through them, Camp today is a better, stronger, safer Camp.

Camp Tecumseh is more than a Camp. It is an ideal where our founding mission and sustaining values demand an environment where the character and personal development of Campers can flourish, where respect for others, good sportsmanship, and encouragement are established expectations and longstanding traditions. At our core, we are a brotherhood, bound by the shared ideals that helped us grow to be better boys and, ultimately, the men we are today.

At Camp Tecumseh, the only way forward is True North, guided by the principles we have sought to instill in our Campers for generations and the values exemplified by our founder, Alexander Grant. Strength, character, and integrity. Those prevailing standards have informed and dictated our every response and will continue to lead and govern our actions.

Sincerely,



Cornelius Merlino  
Chairman



Doug Knight  
Camp Director