



CHIMNEY CORNERS CAMP

AIDES OF 2024

Hi Chimney Corners Aides of 2024!

We are so excited to finally introduce ourselves and start getting to know you all! We can't wait for you all to be back at camp this summer and share in more Chimney magic all together! Aides summer is truly an invaluable experience and we can't wait to watch you make it your own. You'll work closely with each other, your directors, staff, and campers at both Chimney and the YMCA of the Seven Council Fires to continue growing into strong leaders. As you step into a new role at camp, we're thrilled to help you form a community rooted in joy, empathy, and unconditional love. We are so eager to be back in the beautiful Berkshires with you all, but in the meantime, let us introduce ourselves!

Becky Caswell-Shacham

Hi y'all, my name is Becky and I'm so excited to be one of YOUR Aides Directors this summer! This spring I'll be graduating from Clark University with a major in Psychology and Entrepreneurship, and finishing a Master's in Communications next year. When I'm not in school or at Chimney, I love to sing, travel, do pottery (my new favorite hobby), or be at home in New York City!

Since 2012, Chimney has been my second home; from my camper years to ICEP Vietnam with Caroline, to becoming an Aide in 2018, and then my two counseling summers. After a year away from camp, I had the pleasure of being Intermediate Unit Director with Emily last summer and by the end I knew I had to come back!

Camp is such a special place to learn, laugh and simply have fun! The wonderful memories and friendships I've made at camp have grown deeper with each summer and I can't wait to make those same memories with you all!

Caroline Michaud

Hi everyone! My name is Caroline. I am from historic Lexington Massachusetts and currently a senior at Colgate University studying Political Science and Religion. At Colgate I'm the head sports editor for our college newspaper and have been apart of our D1 rowing team. Following graduation and this summer I will be moving to New York City and working in business!

My first summer at camp was 10 years ago and I cannot wait to be back in the Berkshires! I went on ICEP Vietnam in 2017 and was a Deviate in 2018. After a few years away from camp I spent the summer of 2022 leading two TSP trips as we explored the Northeast! Last summer I was Senior Unit Director and spent two weeks in South Dakota with the Amoraides. I am so excited to go back to South Dakota and share that experience with you!

Aides summer is the beginning of a new adventure at Chimney. For me, many of the friendships that I made during Aides summer are what keep me coming back to camp and are a big part of my life today.

Emily Axelrod

Hi, I'm Emily! Though I'm from Bethesda, Maryland, I spend almost all of my time in the Berkshires, between working at Chimney and attending Williams College. I'm a current junior at Williams, where I study Religion and Math, and I'm spending this semester abroad in Granada, Spain!

I can't wait to be back at camp this year for my 13th summer! After serving as Intermediate Unit Director last summer alongside Becky, I know how wonderful it is to work with your friends, so I am beyond excited to be a part of this team of Aides Directors. Prior to being Unit Director, I spent three years as a counselor, where I was lucky enough to spend my summers with some of you. My time on REACH in 2018 was incredibly formative and I feel so grateful to be able to return to South Dakota with you all and share in that experience once again.

I know this summer will be filled with love, growth, adventure, and joy, and I am so looking forward to spending it with all of you. In the meantime, I'm only an email or text away!

Sophia Korostoff-Larsson

Hello hello :) I am Sophia! This past summer I was lucky enough to lead NOLS Alaska after spending a handful of years away from Chimney. Being back in the camp world brought back an immense amount of joy and comfort, and I knew that I had to return this summer!! I am SO excited that I get to spend my summer with all of you.

After graduating from Wesleyan University in 2021 with a major in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, I have been hopping around the country (and world), living and working in a variety of places, and primarily indulging in my love of being outside. I have recently landed back in my hometown of Needham, MA with my mom and my puppy, working as a barista at a local coffee shop, while I try to figure out what's next for me.

This summer it will be 10 (!!) years since I was an Aide in 2014, and many of my fellow Aides are still my closest friends in the world. These individuals taught me how to give and receive love and support, embrace challenge and uncertainty, and find confidence in myself as a leader. They also made me laugh SO hard every single day. I truly cannot wait to watch you all come together as a group, helping to uplift one another and finding strength and comfort in this community. I am so looking forward to all of the things I will learn from each of you and I can't wait for a summer FILLED with laughter and love.



The Aides Program has undergone some changes in recent years. Each year, camp strives to create a comprehensive training program for future counselors that is interconnected with the entire camp community.

Your LIT summer includes a domestic exchange that was once an integral part of the REACH program: Each aide will spend two weeks in South Dakota at the YMCA of the Seven Council Fires and the other six weeks of the summer at Chimney. Your time in South Dakota will consist of a week at a day camp at the YMCA in Dupree, a week at overnight camp Camp Marrowbone, and some time exploring the Badlands and Black Hills of South Dakota. Your time at Chimney will include everything from writing birthday songs to mentoring a cabin group, from washing dishes to planning camp-wide activities, from getting your lifeguard certification to adding your Aides sign to the walls of the Sign Barn.

Aides summer is filled with new responsibilities and rewarding challenges — it's a rigorous two months filled with hard work that will push you to grow in new ways, to lean on each other and us, and to be role models that campers of all ages look up to. We can't wait to experience it all with you!

In the meantime, please email us at CCCAides@bccymca.org with your answers to these questions so we can get to know you better!:

1. Sunrise or sunset?
2. Three songs you've been listening to lately
3. Rose, bud, thorn of your school year this far
4. One thing you're looking forward to this summer!

Once you've responded to these questions we'll email you back our answers as well as a link to join the GroupMe!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions! If any date conflicts arise before summer, camp will work with you so you can meet your other obligations and still participate in the program. Contact Shannon at sdonovan-monti@bccymca.org with any questions you have regarding program dates.

Agape,

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