

END OF SUMMER REPORT 2019



ALDERSGATE
Camp & Retreat Center







DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Again, Aldersgate was abuzz this summer with the love and joy that campers bring. Aldersgate continues to be a home away from home, a place where campers can be their authentic selves, and a testing ground for new activities and skills. It is amazing to watch a camper get their first bulls eye at archery, fly down the zip line, or learn to paddle a canoe.

This summer, our staff and campers focused on building community. They talked about including others and making the camp as welcoming to all as possible. Aldersgate truly became a community that was shaped by the people within it.

Aldersgate continues to be a sacred space, where everyone can feel empowered to grow in faith and build friendships, where campers practice what they learn at camp to change the world..

JOHN MICHAEL SPELMAN

**ALDERSGATE CAMP AND RETREAT
CENTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



CAMPER EXPERIENCE

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. (Acts 2:46)

This summer, Aldersgate's weekly theme centered on the idea of community. Our worship team designed and led daily age group discussions and full camp worships highlighting the aspects of the early church community that we emulate at Aldersgate: Building Covenants, Shared Belief, Caring for Each Other, and Radical Hospitality. We highlighted ways campers could open their circle wider and live out those ideas once they left camp.





DAY CAMP

Aldersgate's Day Camp program provides campers from northern RI and the surrounding area with a faith based traditional day camp program.

Day Camp continues to give campers an amazing camp experience, emphasizing the outdoors, traditional camp activities, and fantastic staff. Campers are able to choose from many different programs, including pond study, sports, archery, music, and fishing.

2019 saw the first year of Day Camp Leaders-in-Training (LIT). These campers "aged out" of normal day camp programming and continued on through this program. LITs met with the Day Camp Director each morning for leadership development and assisted staff with small groups in the afternoon. We are excited to see these campers grow into the next generation of Day Camp counselors.



CAMPERS' CHOICE

Campers' Choice was redesigned this summer to focus on developmentally appropriate skills based curriculum.

Some of the program offerings included Challenge Course, Water Adventure, Arts and Crafts, Sports, and Archery. The challenge course was utilized more than ever this year, both in the specialty area time and by cabin groups. STEAM activities were incorporated throughout the challenge course specialty area program to challenge campers not only physically, but mentally as well. Water Adventure was led by our waterfront director and took advantage of another staff's experience playing polo competitively.

The Arts and Crafts program was designed by a retired art educator and enhanced by our returning staffs' skills. Sports was limited to our 8-10 year old campers to provide a safe space for these campers to develop skills and play with campers of the same age and similar ability. The archery program followed the USA Archery "Exploring Archery" curriculum, which focuses on teaching and improving five key skills.



SPECIALTY WEEKS

This year, Aldersgate offered specialty camps that focused on cooking, science, and outdoor living skills.

Cooking - In Global Chef (ages 11-13) campers cooked for themselves and learned about different cultures while doing it. They made Hungarian stew, English scones, and about what makes a healthy meal.

Science - Campers explored Aldersgate through science based activities at Early Explorers (ages 8-10) and Discovery Camp (11-13). Activities included making bottle rockets, studying the plants and animals in the lake, and extracting DNA from various fruit.

Outdoor Living Skills - in Trailblazers (ages 7-8), Camper vs. Wild (ages 8-10), and Aldersgate Adventure (ages 11-13) campers challenged themselves to venture further into camp. With activities like hiking, learning to make a fire, or building natural shelters, campers could sleep soundly, even on their camping overnight!

Teddy Bear Camp - Teddy Bear Camp again gave first time campers something to remember. Their teddy bear dance party was the talk of camp and we hope to see them all again next year!



COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING (CIT)

Eight long-time campers completed the Counselor-In-Training Program this year.

These campers completed CIT Camp which empowered them to further develop their leadership skills, such as initiative, problem solving, and responsibility. The CIT curriculum is adapted from the Michael Brandwein "Learning Leadership" program, which advocates for teaching "soft skills" to teenagers before they learn the "hard skills" of counseling.

All CITs returned for two weeks of volunteer counseling as assistants to the staff. Each CIT did one week of Day Camp and one week of Overnight programming to expose them to everything Aldersgate has to offer.





STAFF

This year, 33 seasonal staff helped Aldersgate's campers have an amazing summer!

The Aldersgate staff was made up of 61% returning staff, an new high for Aldersgate. 30% of the Aldersgate staff were international hires, coming from Mexico, China, Germany, Australia, Spain, South Africa, Hungary, Scotland, Sweden, and India.

The staff started their summer with a two week staff training that included guest speakers from the UMass Dartmouth Unity House, a health educator, and a Rhode Island Association of Camps training day.

This year's addition of an Inclusion Specialist was instrumental in the staff's overall success this summer. The Inclusion Specialist worked with campers and families before, during, and after camp to ensure campers could be as successful as possible. This included reviewing medical and behavioral information with families prior to camp, creating plans for campers to manage behaviors, and deescalating campers who where overwhelmed, frustrated, or otherwise not successful at camp.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Aldersgate awarded 4 staff scholarships in 2019!

Staff were given the opportunity to apply for a scholarship through Camp Aldersgate. Staff submitted responses, in whatever form best expressed their feelings to the question:

"This summer we have been teaching campers about an Acts 2 community, a community that worships together, shares common space, and breaks bread together. How has living in Christian community affected you this summer?"

The 2019 recipients of staff scholarships are:

Christopher Clark

Nidhiyaa Anagananthan

Kalasia Richer

Jorge Bonilla Torres



SPIRIT OF ALDERSGATE

The Aldersgate staff recognized two of their own for living out the mission of Aldersgate.

The 2019 staff selected two staff for living out the mission of Aldersgate:

Maddie White ('13, '14, '15, '19)

Matthew Shea ('18, '19)

These staff were chosen by their peers as the best representatives who lived out the mission of Aldersgate by keeping Aldersgate a sacred space, empowering all staff and campers, living out their faith, being a good friend, and changing the world.



REGISTRATIONS

Aldersgate hosted almost 700 weeks of camp this summer!

This summer Aldersgate welcomed over 300 individual campers and 14% more overnight campers than last year. Aldersgate's overnight programs really exploded this year with over 20% more weeks of camp hosted! More and more campers are coming back to Aldersgate for multiple summers, enjoying all that Aldersgate has to offer.

Campers come to camp from all over! This year, Aldersgate campers come from 11 different states, and 2 foreign countries!





CAMPERSHIPS

22% of Aldersgate campers received campership support this summer (53 campers).

This is consistent with 2018 (22%). Aldersgate awarded over \$25,000 in campership gifts this summer.

The average campership gift also stayed consistent with from 2018 (\$337) to 2019 (\$339)

We receive campership support from RI grant making organizations, Adoption Rhode Island, and individual donors. Our goal for the future is to grow the Aldersgate Campership Endowment to provide consistent campership support each year.



THE ACADEMY AT HARVARD SQUARE

This year, Aldersgate was contacted by The Academy at Harvard Square (TAHS) to provide an American summer camp experience for their participants from Vietnam.

Aldersgate welcomed 23 students, between the ages of 11-17, from Vietnam this summer. These students were part of a cultural exchange program to learn about American culture and American teens.

Hello - xin chào
archery - bắn cung
friend - bạn



VOLUNTEERS

Aldersgate would like to thank these generous volunteers for giving their time, talent, and wisdom to the staff and campers this summer:

- Amy Heffernan
- Rev. Alicia Stewart
- Rev. Althea Jackson
- Austin Gennant
- Bonnie-Jean Rowe
- Blackstone Valley UMC
- Carter Memorial UMC
- Rev. Bruce Pehrson
- Cheryl White
- David Burke
- Devora Jones
- Donna Dias
- Rev. Ed Bove
- Rev. Garvin Wardin
- Rev. Gary Nettleton
- George White
- Gregory Pehrson
- Harrison Stewart-Racicot
- Jay Godfrey
- Jenn White
- Joan White
- Jonathan Owen
- June Sousa
- Karen Pehrson
- Kathy Leal
- Kris DaCosta
- LaSella Hall
- Laura Whitefleet-Smith
- Matt Carriero
- Molly McCleary
- Nancy Conlon
- Norma Stewart
- Roberta Bragan
- Scott Lynch
- Tim McCleary
- Westborough ASP



ALDERSGATE

Camp & Retreat Center

1043 Snake Hill Rd.,
North Scituate RI 02857

www.campaldersgate.com
401-568-4350

