# CHIMNEY CORNERS CAMP



# **OPENING DAY GUIDE** SUMMER 2024 SESSION 1

# Welcome to Camp!

We are so excited to have your child join us this summer. Our camp programs are nurturing experiences that support a child's ability to grow, make new friends, take on challenges, and experience new things. Our goal is not only to provide our campers with positive summer experiences but also to help parents and caregivers feel supported and informed while their child is away. Please hold on to this guide. It contains helpful information for you while your child is away at camp.

Camp is a wonderful way for children to gain independence. Camp is a technology-free space where kids can be themselves and not worry about what's happening at home. While it can be hard to be away from your child, we have found over our many years of running camp that limiting contact with home truly helps children thrive and reduces homesickness. That said, there are certainly ways for you to find out what's happening here at camp.

# **Communication from Camp**

All first-time campers' families will receive a call home from their child's counselor in the second week of camp. Other families are welcome to reach out to see how their child is doing. This outreach would be best scheduled by emailing your Unit Director or Village Director.

Families may also get other calls from camp for a variety of reasons, including routine questions or updates. The medical staff will contact you if your child is admitted to the infirmary for an extended stay, is put on a new prescription medication, or if your camper has an off-camp trip for a medical/dental reason. The medical staff will NOT call for routine care or concerns such as mild illness and injury.

Camp will send emails and texts reminding you of upcoming events and sharing general updates about the session. Unit and Village Directors will also send email updates on activities and special events to help you learn more about the camp experience. Make sure that your contact information is up to date in your UltraCamp account so you are sure to receive all communications. You will be able to see some pictures on our social media and SmugMug. (More on this below)

# **Communication to Camp**

Please direct all of your communication to camp staff through the summer camp office. To reach the **Chimney Corners Camp Office/Camp Becket Office,** please dial:

# Chimney Corners Camp Summer Office: 413-623-8991 ext. 115 Camp Becket Summer Office: 413-623-8991 ext. 118

The Office is open between 9 AM and 8 PM daily. Your call will be directed to the person best able to help. The office is not open during meals, and you may be asked to leave a voicemail. A staff member will return your call as soon as possible. Please note that the office is busy throughout the summer, and it may take some hours to do so.

If you have an urgent matter that needs immediate attention, the summer office message will direct you on how to reach a director on duty who is available 24 hours a day to respond to your call.

CHIMNEY CORNERS	
Staff Member	Email Address
Aline Ferris - Senior Registrar	registration@bccymca.org
Abbot Pittman - Associate Camp Director	apittman@bccymca.org
Gwen Major-Williams - Chimney Corners Seasonal Assistant Director	gmajor-williams@bccymca.org
Shannon Donovan-Monti - Chimney Corners Camp Director and Chief Program Officer	sdonovan-monti@bccymca.org
Chimney Corners Camp Office	cccoffice@bccymca.org
Senior Unit Directors	seniorunit@bccymca.org
Intermediate Unit Directors	intermediateunit@bccymca.org
Junior Unit Directors	juniorunit@bccymca.org
Camp Infirmary	medical@bccymca.org

You may also choose to email camp. Here is a list of email addresses:

CAMP BECKET	
Staff Member	Email Address
Aline Ferris - Senior Registrar	registration@bccymca.org
Dan Berg - Camp Director	dberg@bccymca.org
Conor Doyle	cdoyle@bccymca.org
Camp Becket Office	cboffice@bccymca.org
Camp Infirmary	medical@bccymca.org

# **Communication with your Camper**

# Mail

You are welcome to send letters to your camper. Please address them in the following manner:

*Child's Name Unit and Cabin Name Chimney Corners Camp 748 Hamilton Road Becket, MA 01223* 

Campers are encouraged but not required to write home. Don't be surprised if letters in the beginning express some homesickness. This is a natural part of time away from home. Camp staff will be in touch if homesickness becomes a concern. Campers do not call home or have access to phones, which helps them stay focussed on the camp experience.

# Packages

**Campers may not receive packages**. Any package sent to a camper where special arrangements have not been made in advance with the camp office will immediately be returned to the sender. Please inform other family members of this policy.

If there is a necessary item that you need to get to your child, please reach out to the camp office for instructions.

# **Emailing Your Camper**

If you'd like to send a message to your camper without the hassle of postage or the potential delay of the US Postal Service, you may email them through our one-way email system. Campers will receive a printout of the message.

- Log into your Online Account
- Click the three lines in the upper left corner
- Click on Message Center
- Click on Email a Camper or Friend Accounts Your camper will populate in the drop-down once their session has begun.

You can invite other family members and friends to email your camper by sending them a friend code on the email-a-camper page.

# Photos

Camp will upload photos highlighting the week to our SmugMug account. Photos will typically be posted on Sunday nights around bedtime.

View Photos: Chimneycorners.smugmug.com Password: chimney2024

# Social Media

Our camp staff are very focused on the campers and running programs during the summer. We have a lighter presence on social media during this time. Follow us on Instagram and Facebook for weekly updates.

- <u>https://www.instagram.com/chimneycorners</u>
- facebook.com/chimneycorners

# **Closing Day**

Starter 1-A: Friday, July 5, 10:00 am 1st Session and Starter 1-B: Friday, July 19, 9:30 am - 11:30 am

# Staff Biographies

# AD STAFF

# Shannon Donovan-Monti - Chief Program Officer/Camp Director

Since she was six years old, Shannon Donovan-Monti has spent her summers at camp. A Midwest native, Shannon hails from Minneapolis, Minnesota (ya sure). After spending a year at the University of Montana-Missoula, Shannon transferred to the University of Wisconsin–Madison where she earned her degree in English Literature and Women's Studies. A YMCA camping professional since 1990, Shannon joined the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA in 1997 as the Executive Director of Chimney Corners Camp for Girls. Shannon invites parents, campers and friends to contact her anytime of the year to answer questions or give a camp tour.

# Abbi Pittman - Associate Camp Director

Abbot "Abbi" Pittman joined Chimney Corners Camp in February 2022. He grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina (that's right y'all) and earned his BS in agriculture and BA in Spanish from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC before completing an MS in hospitality and recreation at the University of Florida (go Gators!).

Abbot started his camp career at 18 when he applied to work at a summer day camp in Raleigh in 2011. From that summer forward, he has done everything from counselor to camp director to food service manager to maintenance man on the side — planning menus, fixing toilets and mowing lawns on Saturdays and checking campers in on Sundays. His most recent role and first foray into overnight camping was at YMCA Camp Immokalee in Keystone Heights, FL as the assistant camp director and hospitality director for three seasons.

When he's not planning for the upcoming summer, Abbot enjoys riding his motorcycle, discovering new music, pretending to be a graphic designer, and hanging out with his three cats: Dalí, Hazzy, and Toby.

# Gwen Major-Williams - Seasonal Assistant Director

This summer will be Gwen's 16th at Chimney Corners! She started at Chimney in 2008 in cabin Atlantis and went on to do the ICEP and Reach (which is now combined with the aides) programs. Gwen was also a counselor in the Junior Unit, Junior Unit Director, and Reach director. She graduated from Hobart and William Smith College in 2019 with degrees in education and gender studies and has a master's degree in elementary education from Boston University. Gwen currently lives in sunny Tampa, FL with her partner, her dog, and her cat. She loves dancing, cheese, and rewriting the words of songs to be about her pets. Gwen is so excited to be back this summer as a part of the amazing leadership team of Ad Staff and she cannot WAIT to see everyone on opening day!

# Laurie DeLuca - Logistics Director

Laurie DeLuca has spent 15 summers as a seasonal staff member in various roles from unit director to assistant director at Chimney over the past 27 years. This summer, in her role as Logistics Director, she will help make sure people get where they need to go, get the thing they need, and have fun doing it!

# Eliza Madigan, "Madigan" - Assistant Logistics Director

Eliza Madigan is from Newton, Massachusetts and will be returning for her 11th summer at Chimney Corners. Madigan started as a camper in 2012 and went onto become an ICEP New Zealand participant in 2017, an aide in 2018, counselor in 2019 and 2021, and was most recently a member of the 2023 Ad Staff in her role as Senior Unit Director. Madigan graduated from Bowdoin College in May with a degree in Economics and History. She is so excited to return for yet another amazing Chimney summer.

# **Jules Campbell - Program Director**

Jules Campbell is from Boston, MA. This will be her 9th summer at Chimney Corners and 4th year on staff. She was a camper, participated in TLS and the Aides program and was a counselor in 2021 and 2022. This summer she will be returning for her second summer as one of the Program Directors on the Ad Staff team. Jules works at Flour Bakery in Boston during the off season, but she really loves to travel and go camping, biking, and kayaking! Jules is so excited to return to camp and see campers having fun, learning, and making new friends during all the wonderful activities (especially at the waterfront)!

# Sophie Mitchell, "Smitch" - Program Director

Smitch Is from Western Australia. This will be her 3rd summer at Chimney but 1st year on Ad staff. In 2019 and 2023 she worked as a part of the program staff, instructing landsports and PC. In between summers at chimney Smitch works at an adventure bush camp in Australia, developing her instructing and leadership skills. Her favorite camp meal is garlic knots and she is most excited for her fist P-staff takeover as program director.

#### **Emily Axelrod - Aides Director**

Emily Axelrod hails from Bethesda, MD but spends almost all of her time in the Berkshires between camp and school. She's so excited to return for her 13th summer at Chimney to be an Aides Director. When not at camp, Emily attends Williams College where she is pursuing a double major in Religion and Math, and she just returned from studying abroad in Granada, Spain. She can't wait for another magical summer!

#### Becky Caswell-Shacham - Aides Director

Becky Caswell-Shacham is so excited to be back this summer as an Aides Director! Chimney has been Becky's home away from home, in NYC, for the past 11 summers as: a camper, a

participant on ICEP Vietnam and Aides in 2018, two counseling summers, and last summer as an Intermediate Unit Director. In the off season, Becky is studying Psychology and Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Clark University where she will also be graduating with a Master's in Communications next spring. Becky can't wait to jump in the lake and sing dining hall songs with you all!

# Sophia Korostoff-Larsson - Aides Director

Sophia Korostoff-Larsson is so excited to be back at Chimney Corners for her 11th summer!! After being a camper from 2009-2012, Sophia participated in ICEP Chile in 2013 and was an Aide in 2014. After being a counselor for three summers, she took a few years away from camp before returning in 2023 to lead NOLS Alaska. She is so excited to be one of the Aides Directors this summer!! Sophia graduated from Wesleyan University in 2021 with a major in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. This past year, Sophia has been working as a barista in the Boston area while figuring out her next step! She is so excited to be back at camp surrounded by all of the joy, friendship, and laughter that a summer at Chimney brings.

# **Caroline Michaud - Aides Director**

Caroline Michaud is from historic Lexington Massachusetts. This will be her eighth summer at camp and third year on staff. She was a camper, ICEP Vietnam participant, Deviade, TSP leader, and Senior Unit Leader. This summer she will be joining us as Aides Director! Caroline is a recent graduate of Colgate University with a degree in political science and religion. While at Colgate, she was a part of their D1 Women's rowing program and the sports editor for the newspaper. She will be moving to New York City following the summer to begin her career!

# JUNIOR UNIT

# Hava Chishti - Unit Director

Hava Chishti is from New York City and will be returning to Chimney for her 11th summer as one of the Junior Unit Directors. She was a counselor in the Junior Unit for 3 years, a Reach participant in 2017, an ICEP Australia participant in 2016, and a camper for five summers. Hava graduated from Pitzer College in 2023 and will begin a master's program at the Columbia Climate School this fall. She loves music, chocolate chip cookies, and hanging out at the farm. She is so excited to be back at camp this summer!

# Sophie Molesworth-St Aubyn - Unit Director

Sophie Molesworth comes from Cornwall, England. This will be her third summer at Chimney Corners. She is going into her fourth year at the University in Edinburgh studying Linguistics. Sophie loves to ride horses, read, run, and play the clarinet. Sophie cannot wait to meet all of the campers, and is most excited to 'boogie down' in Dining Hall Disco and teach everyone all of the British lingo!

#### Elise Adamenko - Counselor

Elise Adamenko is from West Hartford, CT. This will be her 10th summer at Chimney Corners and second year on staff. She was a camper, participated in TSP, was an AIDE in 2022, and a counselor in 2023. She has completed her freshman year at Marist College in Florence, Italy studying biomedicine. Elise is a black belt in Taekwondo and is a martial arts instructor during the school year. Elise can't wait to build gnome houses with her campers!

# Hanny Altamirano - Counselor

Hannia is from Chihuahua, Mexico. This will be her 2nd summer as a counselor at Chimney Corners. Hanny loves reading and playing sports. Her favorite food is tacos and pozole. She can't wait to be back at camp and have another birthday here.

# Sophia Amador - Counselor

Sophia Amador is from White Plains, New York. This will be her fifth summer at Chimney Corners and 2nd year on staff. She was a camper, participated in TSP, aides, and was a counselor in 2023. This summer she will be working in the Junior unit. Sophia has completed her freshman year at Tufts University. Sophia is really excited for the summer!

# Astrid Andrade - Counselor

Astrid Andrade is from Trumbull, CT. This is her first year at Chimney Corners, she will be a counselor. She just graduated from Southern Connecticut State University this past May and is planning on pursuing her masters degree in school psychology. She currently works as a nanny, but will be a paraprofessional in the upcoming school year. Astrid loves arts and crafts, hiking, and her little yorkie terrier. She is very excited to join camp and meet all the campers!

#### Jamie Cairns - Counselor

Jamie Cairns is from Edinburgh, Scotland. This will be her first summer at Chimney Corners Camp. She is currently studying Social Science at Edinburgh college and working part time at Ikea. Jamie is looking to pursue a career in criminology. Jamie loves to travel and recently went to Italy to enjoy the culture and scenery. She can't wait for her first summer at camp and to meet all the campers and counselors.

# **Claire Carroll - Counselor**

Claire Carroll is from Newton, Massachusetts and just completed her freshman year at Davidson College, where she is studying environmental and political science. This will be her second year as a counselor and her ninth year back at camp. She loves all of the waterfront activities, hiking, and arts and crafts. Claire is happiest spending time outside and can't wait to meet her campers this summer!

#### Isabel Chan - Counselor

Isabel Chan is from New York City. This is her ninth summer at Chimney Corners and 2nd year on staff. Isabel participated in BAS in 2021, was a Kalonaide in 2022, and worked as a counselor last summer. She attends McGill University and is entering the year studying Political Science and Hispanic Studies. Isabel teaches kids of all ages how to swim during the school year and also works as a lifeguard. She loves the waterfront, the junior unit, and fruitfulls, and can't wait to come back to camp this summer!

# Anna Cooper - Counselor

Anna Cooper is from Needham, Massachusetts and this will be her 10th summer at Chimney Corners Camp and 2nd year on staff. She was a camper, participated in the LIT program, and was a counselor in 2023. Anna has just completed her freshman year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she is studying global health. Anna loves dogs and has one standard poodle named Frankie and one mix named Rocky. Anna's favorite all camp activity is the Fourth of July carnival and can't wait to meet all of the campers!

# Kyra Cooper - Counselor

Kyra Cooper is from San Francisco, California. This will be her 9th summer at Chimney Corners and 2nd year on staff. She was a camper, participated in BAS, and Reach/Aides of 2022 and was a counselor in 2023. This summer she will be a second year counselor. Shirley completed her first year at George Washington University studying political communication. Kyra loves to paint and do yoga which she does at least once a week. Kyra can't wait for another summer ahead!

# **Molly Crist - Counselor**

Molly is from Ridgefield, Connecticut. This will be her 8th summer at Chimney Corners and 2nd year on staff. She was a camper, participated in BAS, the Aides/Reach program, and was a counselor in 2022. Molly enjoys spending time outside and swimming. She attends Colgate University where she is a member of the rowing team. Molly loves camp and is so excited to be a counselor this summer!

# Taryn Fairley - Counselor

Taryn Fairley is from Sydney, Australia. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners, where she will be a counselor. Taryn enjoys all things music, i.e. singing, dancing, performing in and attending concerts and musicals. She has spent the past 2 years working as an Early Childhood Educator whilst completing her qualification in this field. Taryn is very excited to get involved and show her spirit in all of the camp traditions as well as experiencing American culture for the first time!

#### Madeleine Gardephe - Counselor

Madeleine Gardephe is from Brooklyn, NY. This will be her 8th summer at Chimney Corners and 2nd year on staff. She was a camper, participated in TLS and Reach/Aides, and was a first session counselor in 2023. This summer she will continue lifeguarding at the lake. Madeleine has completed her freshman at Sweet Briar College in Virginia, where she is majoring in business. She is so excited to be back at camp this year!

#### Hanna Heaton Wellenstein - Counselor

Hanna Heaton Wellenstein is from Pittsfield, MA. This will be her 9th summer at Chimney Corners and 1st year on staff. She was a camper, went on NOLS Alaska, and participated in the AIDES program in 2023. Hanna plays lacrosse and soccer and is an avid lover of all things music. Her favorite camp activities have always been archery and swimming, and she can't wait to play games at the waterfront with campers! Her favorite camp meal is waffles and she's so excited to be back in Becket this summer.

# **Delia Howell - Counselor**

Delia Howell is from Brooklyn, NY. This will be her 9th summer at Chimney Corners and 1st year on staff. She was a camper and participated in DCEP and LIT Program as an Amoraide. This summer she will be a counselor at Chimney Corners. Delia will be attending Northeastern University in the fall where she will be a freshman. Her first semester will be in Glasgow, Scotland before returning to Boston for the rest of her time in college. Delia is an enthusiastic swimmer and coach. Delia's favorite camp meal is cookout and she can't wait to spend her time at the waterfront with campers this summer!

#### Jenna Johnson - Counselor

Jenna Johnson is from Watertown, MA. This will be her 10th summer at Chimney Corners and 3rd year on staff. She was a camper, participated in ICEP Chile and the AIDES program, and was a junior unit counselor in 2022 and 2023. This summer she will be returning as a counselor. Jenna has completed her sophomore year at Ithaca College where she is a Television and Digital Media Production student. Jenna produces a show on her college television station as well as sideline reports for her school's football team. Jenna's favorite place on camp is the Junior Unit Green and she can't wait to have unit activities with campers this summer!

#### Anais Jordan - Counselor

Anais Jordan is from Silver Spring, Maryland. This will be her 3rd summer at Chimney Corners and 1st year on staff. She was a camper and participated in the TSP North East trip. This summer she will be a Counselor. She just graduated from High School and will be entering her freshman year at the University of Maryland in College Park. She plans on studying kinesiology in the hope of becoming an athletic trainer in the future. Anais is a former Varsity team swimmer and lacrosse player and loves to take pictures at sporting events. Her favorite camp memory was having a lake afternoon and learning how to paddle board.

# Maya Massey - Counselor

Maya Massey is from Needham, MA. This will be her 9th summer at Chimney Corners and her 1st year on staff as a counselor. She was a camper starting in 2015, participated in DCEP West, and was an Aide in 2023, when she went on Reach. Maya graduated from Needham High and will be attending the University of Vermont this fall as a nursing student. Maya's favorite camp activities are outdoor cooking and sailing. She is very excited for this summer and can't wait to meet her campers!

# Paige McCallion - Counselor

Paige McCallion is from Brooklyn, NY. This will be her 9th summer at camp and third year as a counselor. She was also a camper and participated in ICEP and AIDES. Paige will be going into her sophomore year at Oberlin College in the fall and loves to read, do yoga, sew, and play frisbee.

# Shanti Narsih - Counselor

Shanti is from England, UK, and this will be her first ever summer away from home. She is enthusiastic and has a strong passion for soccer and other sports. She can't wait to meet all the new campers this year and play lots of sports!

#### **Gillian Nevins-Saunders - Counselor**

Gillian Nevins-Saunders is from Brooklyn, NY. This will be her eighth summer at Chimney Corners and first time on staff. She was a camper, went on DCEP Northeast in 2022, and was an aide in 2023. She will be headed off to study fashion design at WashU St. Louis in the fall. She also enjoys backpacking, skiing, and biking, and has done a ten day ski trip living in igloos!

#### Leela Phillips - Counselor

Leela is from Westchester, New York and this will be her 9th summer at Chimney! She participated in BAS and was an AIDE in 2022. Leela is entering her sophomore year at Georgia Tech where she studies Biomedical Engineering. Camp has always been special for Leela. Her favorite activities as a camper were pottery, sailing and yoga. Leela can't wait to return to the Chimney magic this summer!

#### Sonia Presser, "Sonnie" - Counselor

Sonia, 'Sonnie' Presser is from Brooklyn, NY. This will be her tenth year at Chimney Corners and her first year as a counselor. She will be starting college at Bryn Mawr in the fall. Her hobbies include making art, acting, and writing. Sonnie is especially excited to be out in nature with campers this summer!

# Kennedy Richards - Counselor

Kennedy Richards is from London, and this will be her first year at Chimney Corners. She will be a counselor. Kennedy enjoys acting and taking time out of the day to relax and meditate. She attends Middlesex University London, England where she is studying early childhood studies and is maybe hoping to become a teacher or specialist teacher. Kennedy has had experience working with children and she knows how rewarding it is to guide children. She is very excited to meet the campers.

# Maeve Ross - Counselor

Maeve Ross is from Brookline, MA. This will be her 6th summer at Chimney Corners and 1st year on staff. She was a camper and participated in DCEP Northeast and the AIDES program. She just finished her Senior Year at Brookline High School and will be attending McGill University in the fall with a major in Gender Studies, but she plans to become a doctor. Maeve enjoys rowing, swimming, and good music. She can't wait to meet her campers and share her love of Fruitfulls!

# **Dorothy Seek - Counselor**

Dorothy Seek is from Charlottesville, Virginia. This will be her 8th summer at Chimney Corners and her 1st year on staff. Last summer she was an Amoraide, and before that she participated in DCEP Northeast and was a camper. She will be attending Virginia Tech as a freshman in the fall, studying pre-med. In her free time, Dorothy enjoys playing tenor saxophone and dancing around her kitchen. Dorothy's favorite place at camp is the Brewster House, and she cannot wait to meet her campers!

# **Gigi Wagner - Counselor**

Gigi Wagner is from Newton, MA. This will be her 10th summer at Chimney Corners and her 2nd on staff. She was a camper, participated in BAS and Aides, and became a counselor in 2023. Gigi has completed her freshman year at Bucknell University where she is majoring in political science and economics with a minor in dance. She is a member of the Bucknell Dance Company and the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society. She enjoys exploring the outdoors and swimming in the lake. Gigi's favorite camp meal is the french toast sticks and she is looking forward to being a lifeguard as well as swimming with the campers this summer!

#### Hailey Wellington - Counselor

Hailey Wellington is from Victoria, Australia. This will be her first summer at Chimney Corners where she will be a camp counselor. Hailey has completed her 13 years of schooling and is a children's athletics coach. She hopes to one day decide on a profession in the sporting or traveling industry. Hailey is beyond excited to meet her campers for the summer and sing along to Taylor Swift every day!

# **Beth Whitehead - Counselor**

Beth Whitehead is from London, England. This will be her 2nd summer as a camp counselor. She loved day camp as a kid and participated in many different activities including most water activities. She also loves low/high ropes, horse riding, rock climbing, and archery. She loves outdoor activities and is a keen athlete. She has just completed her 2nd year of university where she studies biological science. Beth is also a member of many clubs including athletics and rock climbing.

# INTERMEDIATE UNIT

# Miska Lewis - Unit Director

Miska Lewis is from Ancud, Chile. This summer will be her 11th summer at Chimney after starting in the Junior Unit as an 11-year-old in 2012. She will be one of the Intermediate Unit Directors this summer, and she is so excited to return to the unit she was a counselor in! Outside of camp, Miska just completed her senior year at Barnard College studying Environmental Anthropology and will be staying in New York City this coming year. She is excited for the unknown. In her free time, Miska loves to cook, bake, and document everything with her film camera.

# Mairin Mahaffey-Dowd - Unit Director

Mairin Mahaffey-Dowd is from Brooklyn, New York. This is her 11th summer at Chimney and her third summer as a staff member. She was a camper, a YAS participant, an Ebulaide in 2019, a counselor for 2 summers, one as an Adventure Odyssey leader, and now she's Intermediate Unit Director! In May, she graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.S. in Food Systems and a minor in Public Policy Analysis. After spending time doing Workaway in Europe this Fall, she hopes to return to Vermont or the New York area to work in food policy or food and public health. She can't wait to be back in the Berkshires this summer!

#### Sonia Appen - Counselor

Sonia Appen is from New York City. This will be her ninth summer at Chimney Corners and her first year on staff. Sonia is entering her freshman year at Columbia University where she will study architecture. She likes to read, bake, and juggle, and she has a hidden talent for finding four leaf clovers. Sonia can't wait to be back at camp and get to know her campers!

#### **Maisy Aronson - Counselor**

Maisy Aronson is from New York City. This will be her 9th summer at Chimney Corners and her 2nd year on staff. Maisy was a camper, participated in BAS, and was an aide in 2022. She just finished her freshman year at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where she is studying public health and environmental science. She loves to run and play volleyball and ultimate frisbee!

# **Emily Baglio - Counselor**

Emily Baglio is from the Bronx, NY and is currently attending McGill University in Montreal. This will be her 11th summer at camp. She started coming to camp at the age of 7 and has participated in various BCCYMCA programs such as BAS in 2021, and the LIT Program in 2022. This will be her second year as a counselor in the amazing Intermediate Unit. Emily loves doing art and going on random adventures. She loved running through the camp having dance parties last summer with her campers and is beyond excited to do it again!

# Esme Barker - Counselor

Esme Barker is from the UK but grew up in Germany. She is currently at the University of Chester and is studying psychology. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners, and she is super excited about it. Esme currently volunteers at a church where she works with kids of every age doing different activities such as arts & crafts and sensory activities and also a variety of games! Esme can't wait for this summer to meet her campers and make it the best summer they have ever had!

# Wren Brudvik Lindner - Counselor

Wren Brudvik Lindner is from Nelson, New Zealand. She currently works at McDonald's and finished high school last year. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners, where she will be a counselor. She plays the flute and loves to cook and bake. Next year, she hopes to start university at either Victoria University in Wellington or at Canterbury University in Christchurch. She can't wait to meet all of the campers!

#### Abi Byron - Counselor

Abi Byron is from the UK, and this is her first summer at camp, where she will be a counselor. Abi enjoys swimming, singing and water activities. She currently works as a waitress. Abi has grown up surrounded by younger children and loves making people smile and have a good time. Abi can't wait to work at camp and is so excited to meet the campers and have the best summer!

#### **Cassielle Campi - Counselor**

Cassielle Campi is from Manhattan, New York. This will be their eighth summer at chimney and second summer on staff. As a camper, they participated in the odyssey program, and went on to be an aide. They just finished their first year as a cinema studies major at Oberlin College and Conservatory. They love working with kids and have been doing so quite a few years before becoming a camp counselor. They've also worked as a babysitter and a day camp counselor. They love to craft, have dance parties, and overall be silly! They are ecstatic to meet their campers this summer and go on so many adventures.

# **Taylor Caraballo - Counselor**

Taylor Caraballo is from Manhattan, NY. This will be her 9th summer at Chimney Corners and her 2nd year on staff. She attends Rochester Institute of Technology and is studying Advertising, Photography, and Public Relations. Outside of school, Taylor loves making arts and crafts, singing, dancing and hanging out with friends. Her favorite parts of camp are dining hall disco, and all camp activities. She is so excited to meet her campers this summer!

# Becca Carballal - Counselor

Becca Carballal is from New York City. This will be her ninth summer at Chimney Corners, and her first year on staff. She just graduated from Phillips Academy Andover, a boarding school in Andover Massachusetts, and next year she will be going to McGill University in Montreal where she plans to study biology. Becca loves playing softball, going for runs, and anything outdoors, and she also loves reading and playing guitar. She is so excited to meet all her campers this summer!

# Abbie Collins - Counselor

Abbie Collins is from Portsmouth, England. She's just finished her degree in Sociology from the University of Warwick, and this is her first summer at Chimney Corners Camp. Abbie started playing rugby in the last year, loves running, and completed a marathon last year. She cannot wait to meet the campers and bring her big sister energy to camp (Abbie has two younger sisters back in Portsmouth). Abbie is super excited to try out all the activities with the campers and loves a good campfire! After camp, Abbie is hoping to travel for a few months before moving to London to start her career in social research.

#### Hailey Coval - Counselor

Hailey Coval is excited to return to Chimney Corners for their seventh summer and first year on staff! A recent Milton Academy graduate hailing from Milton, MA, Hailey plans to study Computer Science at Brown University in the fall. Hailey is a huge Swiftie, avid rock climber, and enthusiastic robot nerd. They can't wait to plan silly morning activities and spend time with their campers this summer!

#### Audrey Garfinkel - Counselor

Audrey Garfinkel is from Brooklyn, NY. This will be her 10th summer at Chimney Corners and 3rd year on staff. She was a camper for five years, went on ICEP Chile in 2019, and was an Amalgamaide in 2021. Audrey is currently an undergraduate student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she is studying education and dance. In her free time, Audrey loves to take dance classes, walk with friends outside, and try new vegan foods! Audrey's favorite place on camp is the waterfront and she can't wait to jump in this summer!

# **Rose Goldman - Counselor**

Rose Goldman is from Brooklyn, NY. This will be her 8th summer at camp and 2nd year on staff. She was a camper, participated in TSP and the LIT program, and was a counselor in 2023. During the year, Rose is an engineering student at Northeastern University. She is a ski instructor and races for the Northeastern ski team. Her favorite spot on camp is the Brewster House!

# Lola Herzik - Counselor

Lola Herzik is from Brooklyn, NY. This will be her 6th summer at Chimney Corners and 1st year on staff! She was a camper and participated in TSP, Aides, and Reach. She has just finished her senior year of high school and will be headed off to college in the fall where she hopes to study biochemistry. Lola loves the arts -- she's painted three murals in her life. She's excited to meet new people and swim in the lake.

# **Greer LaFiura - Counselor**

Greer LaFiura is from Rockport, Maine. This will be her 8th summer at camp and her 1st year on staff. She was a camper, participated in DCEP west, and was an aide in 2023. Greer will be attending the College of William and Mary in the fall where she plans on studying biology for a pre-dental track. Greer loves spending her time on the water. She sails both for fun and in regattas. She also spends the cold winters in Maine alpine ski racing! Her favorite camp meal is mac and cheese, and she can't wait to go swimming!

# Emmaline LeBuhn - Counselor

Emmaline LeBuhn hails from Irvington, NY. A rising college freshman, she has attended camp for nine summers, including TSP on DCEP West and as an Amoraide in the summer of 2023. Emmaline is very passionate in the field of sustainable urban planning and environmental sciences, and she loves the outdoors. She loves sports, plays lacrosse, field hockey, and basketball, and has artistic skill in drawing, painting, sewing, and ceramics. She can't wait to return to camp, meet her campers, see her friends, and have a wonderful summer.

#### Zoe Love - Counselor

Zoe Love comes from the small town of Richmond in the Yorkshire Dales, England. This is her 1st year working as a camp counselor. She is currently studying Linguistics and German at the University of Edinburgh and would eventually like to become a computational linguist. She loves anything to do with water such as sailing, swimming and kayaking. Zoe is excited to come to Chimney Corners and experience the camp life this year!

#### Ella McQuaid - Counselor

Ella McQuaid comes from Fairfield, CT. This will be her 9th summer at Chimney where she will be a counselor. Ella enjoys swimming, collaging, and anything outdoors. Ella just graduated

high school and will be attending Tulane University in the fall to study finance. She can't wait to meet her campers and spend the summer with them!

#### Mimi Nusser - Counselor

Mimi Nusser is from Westchester, NY. After being a camper, TSP participant, and Aide, this will be her 9th summer at Chimney and second year on staff. She just completed her freshman year at the University of Vermont. She is looking forward to creating more camp memories with campers and staff through unit activities and cookouts!

# **Tatiana Picquet - Counselor**

Tatiana Picquet is from Winter Springs, FL. This will be her 6th summer at Chimney Corners and her 1st year on staff. She was a camper, participated in TSP, and was an AIDE in 2022. She attends The University of Alabama where she studies political science. She plans on becoming a lawyer. In her free time, Tatiana plays rugby for her university and makes pottery. Tatiana can't wait to make friendship bracelets with campers this summer!

# Cristina Rubio - Counselor

Cristina Rubio comes from Zaragoza, Spain. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners Camp where she will be a counselor. Cristina enjoys nature, water sports, and hiking. She attends the Sacred Heart of Jesus School and is planning on studying chemistry. Cristina can't wait to meet her campers and have an unforgettable summer of fun with her campers.

#### Jocelyn Ixchel Santamaria Flores - Counselor

Jocelyn Ixchel is from Mexico, and this will be her first year at Chimney Corners. Jocelyn's interests include astronomy, fashion, and nature. She studies electronics at the University of Puebla, and her dream is to work for NASA someday. Jocelyn loves to spend time with kids and is excited to make lifelong connections this summer. She can't wait to meet her campers!

#### Alexa Schneeberger - Counselor

Alexa Schneeberger is from Cape Cod, Massachusetts. This will be her sixth summer at Chimney Corners and her second year on staff. This summer she will be a counselor for the second time. During the rest of the year, she attends UC Santa Cruz in California and has just completed her freshman year. Although still exploring majors, she is interested in a double major in art and ecology. She has a deep love for all kinds of art and also enjoys yoga and journaling. She enjoys spending time outdoors skiing, hiking, surfing, and climbing as well. Alexa is excited to meet her campers and help them grow this summer.

# Amelia Scott - Counselor

Amelia Scott is from Philadelphia. This is 9th year at camp and her second year working as a counselor. She was a Kalonaide of 2022 and participated in TSP. Amelia is an engineering

major at Smith College and will be starting her second year in the fall. In her free time, she enjoys synchronized swimming and exploring nature!

# Miriam Skeats - Counselor

Miriam Skeats is from Kent, England. This is her first year at Chimney Corners Camp. She will be a counselor. Miriam enjoys to crochet and make her own clothes whilst also taking an adventure like going on hikes or paddle boarding. Miriam is looking forward to meeting all her campers and getting stuck into everyday camp life. She is thrilled to be having an American summer!

# Anique Taylor - Counselor

Anique Taylor is from Nottingham, England and is a first time counselor. This is going to be her third and longest trip to the USA. Anique has taught acting to children between the ages of 7 and 16 and loves watching children grow and seeing their ideas blossom.

# Dana Thayer - Counselor

Dana Thayer is from Rhode Island and has recently moved to New York. Dana attends Elon University in North Carolina as a Sociology major with minors in Leadership Studies and Human Resource Management. This summer will be her eighth year at Chimney Corners and her second year as a counselor. Dana is so excited to meet her campers and foster a fun, loving, and supportive environment.

#### Nerea Vegas - Counselor

Nerea Vegas comes from Madrid, Spain. She is very excited to start her first year as a Counselor at Camp Becket. Nerea just finished her last year of her Bachelor of Fine Arts and wants to be an Interior Designer. She loves to play the guitar and tennis, but what she loves the most is spending time with her family and friends.

#### Leilani Wizner - Counselor

Leilani Wizner is from Manhattan, NYC. She just finished her sophomore year at NYU where she studies social media marketing in the entertainment industry. Leilani has been attending Chimney Corners since 2013, and this is her 3rd summer as a counselor. Some of her hobbies are music, theater, and baking, and her favorite camp event is the carnival! Leilani can't wait to get to know her campers and is so excited for the best summer ever!!

#### Maddie Yager - Counselor

Maddie Yager is from Brooklyn, New York. This will be her 8th summer at Chimney Corners and her 2nd on staff. She was a camper, participated in BAS and the AIDES program, and was a counselor in 2022. Maddie has just completed her first year at Occidental College in Los

Angeles, California and is studying Urban Environmental Policy and Critical Theories of Social Justice. She is so excited to be back at camp and play tetherball with her campers!

# Senior Unit

# Arden Bacon - Unit Director

Arden is from Northampton, MA, and this will be her 11th summer at Chimney. She attends Northeastern University and is studying business and communications with a concentration in marketing. Arden recently completed a 6 month co-op at NARS cosmetics working on the product development team. In her free time she likes to hang out with her cat, go to the gym, and ski. This will be Arden's 3rd summer on staff and she is super excited to be one of the Senior Unit directors.

# Helen Bonardi - Unit Director

Helen Bonardi is from Arlington, MA. This will be her 11th summer at Chimney Corners after participating as a camper, on ICEP, as an Aide, and as a counselor. This summer she will be one of the Senior Unit directors. Helen has completed her third year at the University of Toronto where she studies architecture. Helen enjoys cooking and going for long walks in her free time. She can't wait to spend the summer back at Chimney and get to know the senior unit campers!

# Katie Braden - Counselor

Katie Braden is from Mount Kisco, NY. She attends McGill University in Montreal where she majors in English Literature, and she loves swimming and reading. This will be her 9th summer at Chimney Corners and 2nd year on staff. She was a camper, participated in BAS and the AIDES program and was a counselor in 2023. Katie absolutely loves camp and can't wait to hang out with her campers this summer!

# Izzy Cevallos - Counselor

Izzy Cevallos is from Boston, Massachusetts. This will be her 9th summer at camp and her second year on the Sunit staff. Izzy has completed her freshman year at Davidson College. Izzy's favorite camp meal is three sauce ravioli and her favorite location on camp is the beautiful Smith Pond. She is so excited to be back this summer!

# **Ève Cordier - Counselor**

Ève Cordier comes from Marseille, France. This will be her 5th summer at Chimney Corners and her first year on staff. Next fall, she is going to study Management at McGill University in Montreal. She loves cooking, traveling, scrapbooking, and math. She has always lived in France, French is her mother tongue, and her favorite meal at camp is the French toast sticks. She cannot wait to meet her campers!

#### **Bebe Currie - Counselor**

Bebe Currie is from Brooklyn, NY. This will be her 7th summer at Chimney and first year on staff. She was a five-year camper and an aide in 2023. This fall, Bebe will be attending UCLA. Bebe loves the waterfront and dancing to dining hall disco. She's so excited to be a counselor!

#### **Rosie Dheer - Counselor**

Rosie Dheer is from Leicestershire, England. She attends Nottingham University where she is studying to be a teacher. She is also a teaching assistant. She enjoys playing sports, specifically netball, tennis, and horse riding. She frequently scrapbooks and enjoys doing arts and crafts as well. She loves adventure and exploring the world and frequently goes traveling. This will be her first year as a camp counselor, and Rosie can't wait to meet her campers.

#### Lucy Farrell - Counselor

Lucy Farrell is from Washington DC. This will be her 7th summer at Chimney Corners and 2nd year on staff. She was a camper, an aide, and was a first year counselor in 2023. Lucy now goes to Syracuse University as a freshman. Her favorite camp activities as a camper were arts & crafts and archery. She is beyond excited to be coming back to camp and getting to see old friends and meet new faces!

#### **Ella Fleischer - Counselor**

Ella Fleischer is from Westchester, NY. This will be her 11th summer at Chimney Corners and 3rd year on staff. She was a camper, participated in ICEP Sweden and AIDES, and was a counselor in 2022 and 2023. Ella is a rising junior at Bucknell University studying computer science and engineering. She enjoys spending time outside, hiking, and going to the beach. She is excited for another summer in the Berkshires.

#### Sophie Fucheck - Counselor

Sophie Fucheck is from Poughkeepsie, NY. This will be her 11th summer at Chimney and her 3rd year on staff. She was a camper and participated in ICEP Sweden and the AIDES program before becoming a counselor. She loves the Brewster house and will run the Living History activity for the second time. She is in her third year at Oberlin College where she is studying Psychology and Studio Art. She loves being outside and everything camp-related.

#### Petra Gyenge - Counselor

Petra Gyenge is from Sarkad, Hungary, and this will be her first year at Chimney Corners. She attends the University of Szeged, and she is planning on becoming a flight attendant. Petra is really looking forward to meeting her campers and spending a great summer together at camp.

#### **Charlotte Harkrader - Counselor**

Charlotte Harkrader is from Washington, DC. This is her 9th summer at Chimney Corners and 2nd on staff. She was a camper for five years and went on to participate in the TSP and AIDES programs. She currently attends Occidental College in Los Angeles where she is an Urban and

Environmental Policy major. At school she plays on the ultimate frisbee team and enjoys running and theater in her free time. She is very excited to return to camp this summer and is looking forward to eating lots of french toast sticks.

# Izzy Katinos - Counselor

Izzy Katinos is from Brooklyn, NY. This will be her 9th summer at Chimney Corners and 1st year on staff. She was a camper, participated in TSP on a trip to Montana and Wyoming, and was an aide in 2023. Izzy has just graduated from Millennium Brooklyn High School and will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison on the pre-business track in the fall! She works with kids all year around as a babysitter and after-school pick-up counselor. She loves to adventure in any way, whether that's swimming, ziplining, or on rollercoasters! Izzy's favorite camp meal is mac and cheese and her favorite fruitful flavor is Raspberry. She is so excited to be back at camp this summer!

# Katie LeBuhn - Counselor

Kate LeBuhn is from Irvington, NY. This will be her 11th summer at Chimney and her 3rd year on staff. She was a camper, participated in ICEP New Zealand in 2019, was an Amalgamaide in 2021 and was a counselor in the Intermediate Unit in 2022 and 2023. Katie just completed her sophomore year at Harvard College, where she studies Psychology and Economics. At Harvard, Katie also works as a mentor to local kids and teens at the Harvard Ed Portal and is leading a backpacking pre-orientation trip this fall. Katie's favorite camp meal is Red White and Blue breakfast, and she can't wait to go on the water trampoline this summer!

#### Natasha Lilly - Counselor

Natasha Lilly is from Norwalk, CT. This will be her 6th summer at Chimney Corners and 1st year on staff. She was a camper, volunteered in the Infirmary at Camp Becket, and was in the AIDES program in 2023. Natasha has completed her senior year of high school and will be studying Marketing at San Diego State University in the fall. Natasha's favorite all camp activities are 4th of July Carnival and Wiff n Poof. Natasha can't wait for the session to start and to meet her campers!

#### **Olivia Mansfield - Counselor**

Olivia Mansfield is from New York City. This will be her 10th summer at Chimney Corners and her 2nd year on staff. She was a camper, participated in BAS, and was an LIT. She is a rising sophomore at Tufts University where she studies French and physics. She is excited to return to camp this summer!

#### Joana Melone - Counselor

Joana Melone is from London, England. This will be her 2nd summer at camp as a counselor. She is currently on her gap year working and traveling. She is planning to go to university in September to study English with a foundation year in arts and humanities. She hopes to work as an author or in the publishing industry. Joana can not wait to see all the familiar faces of the kids and staff this summer and get back into the routine and traditions that she loves about camp!

#### **Becca Mishell - Counselor**

Becca Mishell is from San Francisco, CA. This will be her 6th summer at Chimney Corners and 2nd on staff. Becca has completed her freshman year at Northeastern University where she is majoring in Health Science. She also skates on the Northeastern figure skating team. Becca was a camper, TSP participant, and aide at Chimney, and she now looks forward to spending her second summer on staff!

# **Ayelet Morris - Counselor**

Ayelet Morris was born and raised in New York, NY. This will be her 7th summer at Chimney Corners and 2nd summer as a counselor. She was a camper and participated in the TSP and AIDES programs. She is currently attending Scripps College in Claremont, CA where she plans to pursue a major in Psychology. Ayelet's hobbies include watching movies and her favorite soccer team. She can't wait to sing songs in the dining hall again this summer at camp.

# Izzy Nerad - Counselor

Izzy Nerad is from Essex, VT. This will be her 10th summer at Chimney Corners and 1st year on staff. She was a camper for seven years before participating in DCEP NOLS Alaska and AIDES in 2023. She will attend Carnegie Mellon University in the fall and plans to study neuroscience. In her free time, she loves to play volleyball, hike, read, ski, and do arts & crafts. Izzy can't wait to meet all of her campers!

#### Hanna Pilch - Counselor

Hanna Pilch comes from Poland. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners. Hanna loves everything connected with art, especially making jewelry, sketching, and painting. She has a lot of experience with children: she helps her neighbors look after their kids, she leads classes for children, and she has younger siblings. Now she is in high school. When she graduates, she wants to be an architect. Hanna can't wait to meet her campers and participate with them in all those fun activities she saw in so many pictures of camp.

#### **Emily Prevett - Counselor**

Emily Prevett is from Sydney, Australia. This will be her first year at camp. Emily enjoys sports such as netball and football and is hoping that she can teach and encourage others different skills like these. She is starting university next year to become a high school teacher and teach PDHPE, which in Australian stands for Personal Development, Health, and Physical Education. Emily cannot wait to meet everyone and create such a fun and exciting environment.

#### Anny Ramos Guzmán - Counselor

Anny Ramos comes from Neiva, Colombia. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners Camp. She's studying to be an English teacher at Surcolombiana University and has already completed her fifth semester out of nine. During her studies, she has had opportunities to teach children and interact with them, which she really enjoys. Anny loves baking, dancing, reading, writing, and listening to music. She is looking forward to meeting her campers and creating joyful experiences with them.

#### **Amal Saleh - Counselor**

Amal Saleh is from London, England. This will be her first summer at Chimney Corners as a camp counselor. Amal enjoys swimming, cooking, and music. She attends the University of Nottingham, where she studies Politics and International Relations. She plans to become a lawyer. Amal can't wait to join and meet the campers and share the best summer ever!

# Ella Schneeberger - Counselor

Ella Schneeberger is from Darien, CT. It is her seventh year at Chimney, where she will be a returning counselor. She was a camper, participated in BAS 2021, and was an aide in 2022 (yay Kals!!!!). She was also a counselor in 2023. Ella enjoys all things waterfront and arts related. She attends the College of William & Mary and plans on majoring in Economics or something business related. Ella could not be more excited to return to camp and see everyone this summer!

# Ida Schupack-Dias - Counselor

Ida Schupack-Dias is from Croton-on-Hudson, NY. This will be her 7th summer at Chimney Corners and her first year on staff. She was a 6 year camper and participated in DCEP West. Ida is going into her freshman year at Skidmore College. She has been playing tennis since she was 4 years old and loves animals, hiking, and nature. Ida's favorite camp meal is red white and blue breakfast!!

#### Paulina Siakowska - Counselor

Paulina Siakowska is from Poland. This will be her first time at Chimney Corners, where she will be a counselor. She is a dancer and she loves traveling around the world. This year she finished high school, and then she is planning to go to the university to study marketing. Paulina can't wait to go to camp and make the best memories with campers and staff.

#### Julia Teller - Counselor

Julia Teller is from Cambridge, MA. This summer will be her 7th summer at Chimney. She was a camper for 4 years, traveled to Wyoming and Montana on her TSP trip, and was an Amoraide last summer. She is super excited to be back at camp this summer. She'll be spending lots of time with her campers, in the arts and crafts room, and enjoying fruitfulls!! She is currently finishing up her senior year of high school in Cambridge.

# OFFICE STAFF

#### **Emily Gunn - Office Manager**

Emily Gunn is a local Berkshire County resident. This will be her fifth year with Chimney Corners and her third year as office manager. She recently has gone back to school to pursue a degree in elementary education. She loves to go on hikes and play board games with her

husband and three kids. In her rare freetime, she practices many hobbies including reading, baking, cooking, painting, and crocheting.

# Fanni Griezer - Office Assistant/Store Manager

Fanni Griezer comes from Paks, Hungary. This will be her third year at Chimney, where she will be office assistant. Fanni enjoys sports and learning languages. She attends the Silk Road International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage in Uzbekistan. Fanni can't wait to return to the camp and meet her old friends.

# **Charley Cotton - Office Assistant**

Charley Cotton is from New York City. This is his sixth year as a BCCYMCA staff member and first year working in the office at Chimney Corners. He was a camper, counselor, and office staff member at Camp Becket who made the switch this summer. He's excited to be here at Chimney to see how the other amazing camp runs!

# **PROGRAM STAFF**

# Faatimah Akhtar - Culinary Arts

Faatimah Akhtar is from Scotland. She has a degree in International Tourism and Events Management from Glasgow Caledonian University. Alongside her studies, she works part-time at Sky in customer service. Her goal is to travel around the world and become a successful businesswoman. Faatimah is passionate about engaging with others. She spends her free time mentoring young minds by working with summer schools and volunteering with the local girls' Brownies group. She organizes fun outings to the zoo and other places. Faatimah loves exploring new places. She has been on many solo adventures and also traveled with friends and family. Her travels have enriched her understanding of diverse cultures and landscapes. She is excited about the upcoming summer at camp and can't wait to inspire and mentor young individuals. Faatimah is enthusiastic about working with children as she wants to encourage their creativity, curiosity, and sense of wonder. She believes that this will lay the foundation for their future endeavors.

# Zaafirah Azmi - Trips

Zaafirah Azmi is from London, England and works as a production assistant in the film/TV industry. She thrives on bringing stories to life. She loves to travel and explore new cultures and is always seeking new experiences and adventures. When she's not behind the scenes on set, Zaafirah can be found staying active and enjoying quality time with her friends, whether it's exploring the great outdoors, trying out new restaurants in the city, or having a fun night in with games and movies and food. Since her days in school, Zaafirah has dreamt of working at a summer camp. That dream is finally becoming a reality this year as she joins the trips team at Chimney Corners. With her bubbly personality and strong work ethic, she is sure to make a lasting impact on the campers and staff members alike.

#### Nina Bajerowska - Media

Nina Bajerowska is from Warsaw, Poland. This will be her first summer at Chimney Corners, where she will be a camp counselor. She has completed her senior year of high school and is planning on going to the University of Warsaw. Nina has lots of experience working with children, as she would often take care of her younger sister and cousins. One of her favorite foods is chicken teriyaki and she can't wait to pass on her knowledge of photography to the campers!

# Holland Beiser - Dance/Musical Theater

Holland Beiser comes from Cleveland, Ohio. She is very excited for her first summer at Chimney Corners. She recently graduated from Ohio Northern University with a degree in Musical Theatre and Dance. Holland will be a part of the performing arts team as a dance instructor and choreographer. Holland is thrilled to be able to share her love of dance and performance with the campers.

# Sara Castro - Arts and Crafts Director

Sara comes from Xalapa, Mexico (the same place Jalapeños come from!) This will be her second year at Chimney Corners. Last year she was Ceramics instructor, which she enjoyed more than anything, and this year she'll be Creative Arts Director. She couldn't be more excited about it! Sara is a Graphic Design student and she enjoys her free time doing ceramics and drawing all the time. Sara's favorite camp activity is cabin chat and she loves the beautiful night sky at camp.

# Andrea Chingue - Farm

Andrea Chingue is from Ipiales, Colombia. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners and second time working at a summer camp. She enjoys hiking and listening to music. She attended the University of Nariño in Colombia and got an English and French major. This summer she will be a farm instructor. She is planning to continue improving her skills and in the future be a cultural ambassador in her home country, too. She was an *au pair* last year in Atlanta, GA for two years and she has been working with kids and teenagers since she graduated from college 4 years ago. Currently she is an English teacher in a languages academy in her hometown. She loves exploring and learning new things, reading, going out to the country, and spending time with family and friends. She is so excited for the summer because she will be able to teach campers new things, and she has lots of fun activities planned. She wants to support them this summer and make sure they have a memorable experience!

# Maria Fe Espinar, "Mafe" - Media Director

Mafe Espinar comes from Lima, Peru in South America. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners Camp as the Media Director. Maria Fe enjoys everything related to art, from dancing to arts & crafts. She graduated with a degree in audiovisual, media and film production this year and is planning on becoming a professional photographer. Maria Fe can't wait to be part of this

summer experience, get to know people from outside of her home country, and share her culture with others.

# Kaeli Fisher - Riding

Kaeli Fisher is from Seattle, WA. This will be her first summer at Camp Chimney Corners, where she will be a horseback riding instructor! Kaeli recently graduated from Carroll College with a degree in Anthrozoology (human-animal relations). She is an avid Seahawks fan who enjoys swimming, skiing, and spending lots of time with animals. Kaeli can't wait to meet the campers and experience the Chimney Corners traditions!

# Lauren Green - Riding

Lauren Green is from England, UK. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners. Lauren has completed a qualification in childcare and currently works in a school with kids ages 7-11. Lauren loves teaching and horse riding and is looking forward to combining the two at camp. Lauren has had horses from the age of 4 and has completed relevant qualifications in horse welfare.

# Jessa Greuter - Trips

Jessa Greuter is from Topeka, Kansas. This will be Jessa's first summer at Chimney Corners. Jessa has her bachelors of secondary education from Ottawa University. She is currently in school to receive her masters in elementary education. Jessa is passionate about teaching and camp. She has been a camper or staff at numerous camps for 19 years. Jessa loves swimming and stargazing. She can't wait to hike, swim, and make amazing memories with campers this summer!

# **Rachel Gunnell - Waterfront**

Rachel Gunnell is from Darlington in North East England. She works as a junior doctor in London. This will be her second year of working at a camp in the US, but her first year at Chimney Corners. In 2017 she was a Unit Counselor at a Girl Scout Camp. Rachel is interested in rugby, performing arts, girl guiding, reading, hiking, and water sports. Her favorite hobby is watching musical theater shows on the West End (she even has a list to keep up with everything that she has seen!) Rachel is always willing to get involved in trying new things and new foods. Her favorite meal is breakfast regardless of the time of the day (she especially loves a Full English Breakfast with all of the trimmings on it!) She is looking forward to arriving at camp and making a splash with her campers!

# Sára Heinczinger, "Sári" - Riding/Farm Director

Sára Heinczinger is from Budapest, Hungary. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners. Sári has completed her bachelor's degree in International Business Economics, but horseback riding has always been her passion. She is an excellent rider and has competed in show jumping too.

Sári couldn't be more excited to meet her campers and share her love for horseback riding. She hopes her campers will think it's the best summer they've ever had.

# **Catherine Knights - Patisserie**

Catherine Knights is from Wiltshire, England, and this is her second year at chimney corners. She is returning to camp as the patisserie instructor. She cannot wait for 'The Great Chimney Bake Off.' Back at home, Catherine works two jobs as well as running her own cake business. She graduated from Leiths School of Food and Wine, a cookery school owned by Prue Leith of Great British Bake-Off fame. Catherine's favorite thing in the entire world is her cat Lucy, whom she has had for 16 years!

# Laura Lakes - Trips

Laura Lakes is from Dublin, Ireland. This will be her first summer at Chimney Corners. She enjoys hiking, zumba, and playing Gaelic football. She attends University College Dublin and is in the final year of her studies for a Bachelor in Commerce. Laura is super excited about camp life and meeting all the staff and campers there. She can't wait to get involved!

# Ellen Lambert - Trips

Ellen Lambert comes from Wexford, Ireland. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners. Ellen has just completed her final year of university at University College Dublin where she studied Commerce and Accounting. Ellen lives beside the sea in Ireland and enjoys all things outdoors, including hiking and snorkeling! Ellen can't wait to meet all the campers this summer at Chimney Corners!

# **Carmen Miller - Riding**

Carmen Miller is from Washington, DC. This will be her eighth summer at Chimney Corners and her second on staff. She was a camper, participated in YAS, and was a counselor and riding instructor in 2022. Carmen is going into her senior year at Haverford College, where she is studying Comparative Literature and Spanish. In addition to horseback riding, Carmen enjoys rock climbing and cooking.

# Dani Miller - Performing Arts Director

Dani Miller comes from Charlottesville, Virginia and is excited to return to Chimney Corners this summer. This will be her second as a staff member after spending seven summers as a camper. Since graduating from Ohio Northern University in 2023 with a BFA degree in Musical Theatre, Dani has been working as a preschool teacher at University Montessori School in Charlottesville. Dani has been involved in musical theater since the age of four and has performed in more than 40 professional and educational theatrical productions. Some of her favorite roles include Dorothy Brock in *42nd Street*, Natalie in *Next to Normal*, the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, Martirio in *The House of Bernarda Alba*, Grandma in *The Addams Family*, Lucy in *13 the Musical*, Trebonius in *Julius Caesar*, Dr. Benjamin in *Waiting for Lefty*, and the

title role in *Snow White*. In addition to performing, Dani has many years of experience teaching and directing children's theater. When she was 13, she started a children's theater company and has also directed children's productions at a community theater in Charlottesville. As a director, she enjoys the challenges of bringing a story to life and helping actors do their best work. She can't wait to help Chimney Corners campers experience the magic of theater in the same ways she has, learning about themselves and each other.

# Alicja Motylska - 3D/Multimedia/Photography

Alicja Motylska comes from Buczek, Poland. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners Camp. She attends the art high school in Poland and she loves expressing herself through art. Alicja is always looking for new art techniques. Her favorite manual techniques are linocut and cyanotype, but she also takes great pleasure in taking photographs and postproducting them. Alicja can't wait to meet her campers.

# Julianna Nachmann - Waterfront

Julianna is from Clayton, North Carolina. This will be her first summer at Chimney Corners. Julianna enjoys reading, writing, and swimming. She is attending a local community college where she plans to become a nurse.

# Anastasiia Neskromna - Media/Yearbook

Anastasiia Neskromna is originally from Ukraine but now lives and studies in Krakow, Poland. She has completed her sophomore year at the university where she is studying motion design. Anastasiia is passionate about dance, vocals, and acting, and is also skilled in videography. She's so excited for her first summer at the Chimney Corners Camp as a media counselor and is eager to share her experience in digital media production with campers.

# **Nicole Nieto Herrera - Ceramics**

Nicole Nieto comes from Bogotá, Colombia. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners. Nicole enjoys doing arts and crafts like ceramics, painting, illustration, and embroidery. She graduated as an Industrial Designer from El Bosque University of Bogotá and is planning on becoming a professional ceramist with her own ceramics studio. Nicole can't wait to meet her campers and show them that we all have creative souls and minds.

# Sam Oakes - Landsports/Project Challenge

Sam Oakes is from Liverpool, England. She is a full time teacher in a primary school in Liverpool. She loves all sports, especially soccer. It's her first summer here at Chimney Corners. She can't wait to be a land sports instructor. She is most excited to play sports and be with the children all summer long.

# Ashleigh Parker - Lifeguarding Instructor

Ashleigh Parker is from Perth, Australia. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners, where she will be the Assistant Lifeguard Instructor. Ashleigh is currently completing her Doctor of Medicine degree at the University of Notre Dame, Australia. When she's not busy with her studies, Ashleigh is an avid runner, enjoys swimming at the beach, and loves to read. Ashleigh can't wait to meet the campers and looks forward to a summer filled with fun!

# Veronica Peck - Woodworking

Veronica Peck is from Gloversville, NY. This will be her 7th summer at Chimney Corners and 2nd year on staff. She was a camper and participated in ICEP and YAS from 2011-2015. This will be her second summer as the Woodworking Instructor with the Program Staff! She was a tutor during the school year, and will be starting graduate school at Stony Brook University this fall to study language learning. When she's not working, she likes to crochet, knit, and hang out with her chinchilla! She is super excited to do new woodworking projects with campers this summer!

# George Rashbrook - Sailing

George Rashbrook comes from Essex, England. This will be his second year at Chimney Corners. He attends the University of Bristol where he studies English and Philosophy. George can't wait to meet all of the campers and have lots of fun on the water!

# Kay'leigh Red Fox - Assistant Waterfront Director

Kay'Leigh Redfox comes from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners, where she will be the assistant waterfront director. Kay'leigh enjoys swimming and reading. She attends Oglala Lakota College and is planning on becoming a teacher. Kay'Leigh can't wait to meet the staff and campers at camp and to see what the summer holds.

# Blanka Saary - Riding

Blanka Saary is from Hungary. This is her first time in the US. Blanka studies Business Informatics at the Budapest Business School. She is a long-time rider and has helped out at a riding school. She also does horse therapy for children with special needs. She can't wait to spend her summer with her campers and make great memories.

# Estefania Saenz - Drawing/Painting/Jewelry

Estefania Saenz is an English teacher from Colombia. She is joining the program staff at Chimney Corners for the first time after working at the day camp last summer. She is passionate about education, art, music, and outdoor activities, and she is eager to contribute her energy and creativity to make the summer of 2024 unforgettable for campers. She looks forward to new challenges and is excited to share her love for the arts and the outdoors with the Chimney Corners community.

# Anna Scott - Living Skills Director

Anna comes from a small village in Wiltshire, England. This is her 2nd summer at Chimney Corners. Having graduated with an engineering degree back in the summer of 2022, she has filled her time between summers at Chimney with a variety of jobs. Her hope is to settle into an engineering graduate job post summer. Her favorite place to be is still in the kitchen, and she's excited to get back to baking in the ELC.

# Sára Séber - Waterfront

Sára Séber is from Budapest, Hungary. This is her first summer at Chimney Corners and her first time in the US. She just finished her bachelor's degree in International Business. She loves traveling, baking, and swimming! She can't wait to spend the summer on the lakeside getting to know all the campers and staff!

# Isabella Fabia Silva Santos - Singing/Dance/Musical Instruments

Isabella Fabia comes from Ireland but is originally from Brazil. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners. Isabella enjoys singing and has recently taken up running. She attends the Atlantic Technological University in Galway and is studying to become a software engineer. Isabella works at an adventure center as a children's activity leader and she is very excited to spend the summer doing what she loves but now in America!

#### Katarzyna Szubstarska, "Kate" - Climbing/Archery

Kate Szubstarska is from Warsaw, Poland. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners. Kate graduated from the Stefania Sempolowska high school. After the summer she will begin her studies in Psychology at the SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities. She really enjoys sailing and rock climbing and has recently received her sailing license at home in Poland. She can't wait to meet all the campers.

#### Martyna Tomaszewska - Trips

Martyna Tomaszewska comes from Warsaw, Poland. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners. Martyna has completed her bachelor's degree in Political Science at the University of Warsaw. In her free time, she enjoys all the outdoor activities and loves to travel. Her new hobby is running and she hopes to complete a half marathon soon. Martyna can't wait to go on the first field trips with campers this summer!

#### **Erin Uppal - Trip Director**

Erin Uppal is from Irvine, Scotland. This will be her 2nd summer at Chimney Corners. This summer she will be Trips director on Program Staff. Erin has completed her honors degree in Psychology at University of West of Scotland. Despite being afraid of the sea Erin is obsessed with water activities, like paddle boarding and kayaking. She can't wait to meet all the campers and take them out into the outdoors.

# Josephine van Rooijen - Waterfront Director

Josephine van Rooijen lives in Leiden, in the Netherlands. This will be her second summer at Chimney Corners. She enjoys water sports and tennis. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics and will start her master's degree in econometrics after camp ends. She can't wait for camp to start and is looking forward to making s'mores with the campers.

#### Hannah Williams - Volleyball

Hannah Williams is from Perth, Australia. This will be her first ever summer at camp, and she is very excited. Volleyball is her favorite sport. She has taken a gap year and will spend the summer at Chimney Corners before she begins her studies in nursing at Notre Dame University. Hannah plans to spend any free time in the lake or reading out in the sunshine. She would love campers to come and play volleyball with her because it's not as fun by herself!

# Savannah Wright - Trips

Savannah Wright is from Glasgow, Scotland. This will be her first summer at Chimney Corners. She enjoys hiking, camping and traveling. She attends the University of Glasgow where she studies Business Management. She will graduate next year. Savannah has traveled to lots of places including France, Germany, Bulgaria, Spain and more. She is super excited to meet the campers this summer and she can't wait to have lots of fun with them on trips!

# FOOD SERVICE STAFF

#### **Pilar Alvarez**

Pilar is from Veracruz, Mexico. She is studying Business Management Engineering at the Instituto Tecnologico de Orizaba. She wants to be an engineer. She has been coming to the camp for two years and it has been one of the best experiences of her life. She has learned many things and made wonderful friendships at camp. She wants to meet even more people this summer! She loves to travel and see new places and she loves her two dogs Taik and Valentina. They are waiting for her at home.

#### Jessica Denisse Ballinas Martínez

Jessica Ballinas comes from Puebla, Mexico. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners, and she's so excited to work here as part of Food Service Staff. Jessica is studying Business Management at the Universidad de la Américas Puebla (UDLAP). One of her biggest dreams is to own a well-known restaurant franchise around the world. She loves listening to music and enjoying nature. Jess can't wait to meet her colleagues and work together as a great team.

#### Maria Fernanda Carreon Tlalolini

Fernanda Carreon comes from Puebla, Mexico. This will be her first year at Chimney Corners. Fernanda enjoys running, biking, and helping others. She attends the Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla and is planning on becoming a medical doctor. Fernanda can't wait to start the summer, have new experiences, and meet new people.

# Daniel Carrión Peña, "Danny"

Daniel Carrión Peña is from Puebla, Mexico. This will be his first summer working at Chimney Corners. Danny likes swimming and playing basketball. He attends the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla and plans to become an accountant. He is very excited to start this new experience in his life.

# Tomasz Chojnowski, "Tomek"

Tomek is from Poland. He plays the piano, guitar, and loves playing basketball and squash. This will be his fifth summer at camp.

# Luis González Muñoz

Luis is from Puebla. This will be his first year at Chimney Corners. Luis enjoys watching movies. He studies at the Meritorious Autonomous University of Puebla.

# Yatzil Hernández Cruz

Yatzil Hernández is from Mexico. She is a student at the Popular Autonomous University of the State of Puebla and will begin her third year studying medicine this fall. She is excited for her first year at Chimney Corners.

# Ana López

Ana López was born on July 3, 2004 in the small city of Tlaxcala. She is very creative, loves nature, walks in the park, photography, and Taylor Swift. She also loves cooking with her mother, and she helps her older sister in her pastry shop. She studies textile design at the Autonomous University of Tlaxcala. It is her first summer working at the Chimney Corners camp and she is very excited.

#### Luis Alberto Polania Delvalle

Luis Polania is from Neiva-Huila, Colombia. This will be his second year at Camp Chimney Corners, and he will be on the food service staff again. Luis likes to be active at camp, to be with his friends, and do a good job. He is studying financial administration, has completed his sophomore year at the University Uniminuto. He is so excited to come back and can't wait to live the camp life again.

# Alejandra Pulido Franco

Alejandra grew up in Veracruz, Mexico but currently lives in Playa del Carmen near Cancun. She got her BA in Psychology from Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa.

Alejandra came to Camp Chimney Corners for the first time in 2018, and she loved it so much that she came back next year in 2019. She wanted to come back in 2020, but the pandemic got in the way. Since then, she's focused on her career as a psychoanalyst, but she missed Chimney so much that she came back last summer in 2023. Guess who's here again! She worked on the food service staff for four summers because Mik, who was the food service director at the time, made Alejandra love working in the kitchen (but only at Chimney because she actually doesn't like to cook that much anywhere else). He also made her fall in love with camp.

When she is at home, Alejandra loves going to the beach almost every weekend, listening to jazz, hanging out with family and friends, watching reality TV shows, reading psychoanalysis books, and drinking coffee & tea.

# Jesús Manuel Torres López

Manuel Torres comes from Tabasco, Mexico, and this will be his third year at Chimney Corners Camp. Manuel likes to listen to music and get to know new cities. He also enjoys meeting new people. Manuel studies at the Instituto Universitario de Yucatán, and his goal is to be a good architect. This fall, he'll begin his final year in architecture school. He is happy to return to the camp to enjoy being with his friends and meet the new members of the food service team.

# MAINTENANCE

# Jennifer Aguirre Martinez

This is Jennifer's fourth summer at camp. She's excited to be part of the maintenance staff again.

# Laura Beltran

Laura comes from Colombia, and this will be her second summer at camp. Last year she was a counselor and won the AGAPE award. It was such an amazing experience for her due to the fact that she grew, improved, and learned so many things she keeps using on a daily basis. This year she will be working as part of the maintenance staff. She wants to have a new and different experience this summer.

# Laila Cruz

This will be Laila's fourth summer on the maintenance team at Chimney Corners.

# Alan Valentino Cruz Serrano

Alan is from Puebla, Mexico. He studies physiotherapy at IPETH University. He is 23 years old and is one of three brothers. He loves extreme sports!

# Vania Hernandez, "Vani"

This will be Vani Berenice's first year at camp. She is thrilled to get to have this incredible experience. She is eager to try new things and have a great summer. She loves nature and is so happy to be in an environment like Chimney.

# Yesenia Lopez De Dios, "Yesi"

Yesi comes from Tabasco, Mexico. This will be her 5th summer at Chimney Corners Camp. She is currently studying Teaching but also has a degree in Languages. She speaks Spanish, English and Italian. She's loved every one of her summers at Chimney Corners. She's made lifelong friends here, and she loves being part of the team. Her favorite hobbies are listening to Taylor Swift and Lana del Rey. Her favorite camp meal is mac & cheese.

# Yazmin Moreno Hernandez, "Yaz"

Yazmin Moreno is from Tabasco, Mexico. This will be her 4th summer at Chimney Corners. She speaks Italian, Spanish and English, she enjoys literature and painting, and she is studying for a master's degree in teaching English as a foreign language.

#### **Axel Ortiz Dominguez**

Axel is from Mexico. He studies Computer Systems at the University of the Technological Institute of Mexico. He loves sports and is happy to be spending the summer at Chimney.

#### **Juan Ortiz Torres**

Juan is from Mexico. This is his fifth summer at Chimney Corners. At home, he is an engineer, but he's happy to be having another happy camp summer away.

#### Marco Antonio Ortiz Torres

Marco Antonio Ortiz Torres comes from Minatitlán, Mexico. This will be his second year at Chimney. Marco graduated with a degree in chemical engineering. He loves learning new things and having new experiences, and he also loves going to the gym. He can't wait to see all his camp friends again.

#### Samantha Michelle Solano Velazquez

Samantha Solano is from Córdoba in Veracruz, Mexico. This is her first summer at camp. She is studying for a degree in education. Her favorite hobby is volleyball. She is excited to contribute to camp life this summer on the maintenance staff and she wants to make lots of new camp friends.

# Adrian Uscanga

Adrian Uscanga is from Mexico. This will be his third CCC summer and third year on staff. He studies industrial engineering at the university in Minatitlán, Veracruz. His favorite sport is baseball, which he's been playing since he was a child. He plays competitively in Mexico, won diplomas and medals, and he's been selected for All-Star Games in various leagues around Mexico. His favorite foods are pasta, tlayudas, and empanadas. He wants to play lots of volleyball with his friends at camp this summer.

# Luis Uscanga

Luis Uscanga is from Mexico and this is his fourth year at camp. Camp is his favorite time of the year. Every summer is wonderful, and he loves to see how camp changes so many lives. He has always left with lifelong memories after every summer.