



Camp Linden Winter Views

November 2021

Message from Dr. Dubb

It gives me great pleasure to report that Camp Linden held a successful camp season last summer, in spite of the lingering impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. We offered six weeks of environmental education, with a different theme or major activity each week, and four or five weeks of recreational swimming. Five different agencies located in low income neighborhoods in Philadelphia brought children to Camp Linden. Approximately one hundred and twenty children participated during the course of the summer.

Exposure to the natural world, which is the essence of the Camp Linden experience, is important to the emotional well being of children under normal circumstances. COVID 19 made it more essential, as pediatric experts have recognized that the loss of in-person classes and the inability to socialize with friends has taken a toll on children's mental health.

Thank you again for your past financial support. Your unrestricted contributions to Camp Linden sustained us through 2020, when the pandemic forced us to suspend our summer program, and funded our operating expenses when camp resumed last summer. Your gifts to the Kiniry Fund enabled us to make major repairs and improve the camp infrastructure, so that we reopened with a more attractive and effective facility.

November 30 has been designated "Giving Tuesday". Please include Camp Linden whenever you make your end of the year charitable contributions. Our mission is to bring out the best in urban children by exposing them to the wonders of nature, and inspiring them to appreciate and respect Planet Earth. Your donations to Camp Linden enable us to help children lead healthy lives and prepare to promote a healthy future for the Planet.

Jeffrey Dubb, M.D.
Chair, Friends of Camp Linden.



Camper carries globe in celebration of Planet Earth.

Our Program

We partner with organizations which operate summer day camps serving low income families. Our partners bring the same children to Camp Linden on the same weekday for five or six weeks for a program of environmental education and swimming. Our 2021 partners were:

- The Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia - a multi-service organization addressing the needs of the Cambodian community;
- Community Concern 13, a day-care and after-school program serving North Philadelphia;
- Netter Center, the community outreach program of the University of Pennsylvania;
- North10, a multi-service organization focused on the Hunting Park area of North Philadelphia;
- Diversified Community Services: a multi-service neighborhood organization serving South Philadelphia East of Broad.

Adapting to the Impact of COVID

As a result of COVID our partners brought fewer children to Camp Linden than in previous years. We served fifteen to forty-five children each day instead of thirty to sixty. We also operated with a smaller staff than usual because of difficulty in filling staff positions.

The entire economy was affected by COVID last summer, as employers were unable to fill jobs in a wide variety of occupations. We were most directly impacted by the decision of West Chester University to conduct only virtual classes for the 2020/2021 school year. Reconnecting with students who had accepted our offers in 2020 enabled us to fill one staff position. We also hired Danielle Justis. With our volunteer leaders, Sharon and Leonard, filling in as counselors, we assembled a staff of four, which was sufficient for the environmental education portion of the program.

Staffing the pool presented more of a challenge. The entire region suffered a shortage of lifeguards, which even prevented the Philadelphia Recreation Department from operating many of its pools. We thought we had two lifeguards lined up, but one made other plans and the other did not obtain the needed recertification. In spite of our best efforts to find replacements, when camp first opened we were unable to offer swimming because we did not have a lifeguard. As a temporary substitute for swimming we purchased a three lane Slip and Slide with sleds. At the end of the first week we found a lifeguard who was available after 11:30 AM, which permitted us to offer swimming in the afternoons.

In the past we divided the campers into two groups - one went to the pool in the morning while the other engaged in environmental education, and they switched at lunch. Last summer all the campers had environmental education in the morning and swimming in the afternoon, which worked since we had smaller numbers. Larger groups were split in the afternoon, with each half having lunch while the other half was swimming.

New in 2021

Camp Linden Resources

Camp Linden Resources is a list of materials available for free on the internet, covering the subject matter of our environmental curriculum and related information we do not have time to include in our program at camp. Each Resource covers a single topic and is three to eight minutes long, for a total of thirty to forty minutes per week. We found that when our partners included the Resources in the programs they provided at their home locations, it improved the quality of camper participation in the lessons we give at camp. The Resources also enabled us to expand our program to cover significant environmental issues such as pollution and global warming.

New topics: Earth and Energy

For Week 3 we purchased worms, set up a box with drainage, provided shredded leaves for "bedding" and chopped up food scraps to feed the worms. We showed the campers how to find earthworms to add to our worm farm. This activity was part of a lesson covering "decomposers and the cycle of life". Campers also examined fossils, and learned about fossil fuel and its impact on global warming. Then we discussed renewable energy, which was demonstrated by a solar powered flying pig. (continued on next page)



Camper holds solar-powered flying pig after lesson on renewable energy.



Newsletter layout and design by Ruth Dubb

Digital microscope

For years, in our lesson on photosynthesis, we have been teaching campers that plants take in air and expel oxygen through pores on the underside of their leaves, but we were unable to show them those pores because they are too small for our natural vision. Last summer campers were able to see the pores through a digital microscope. The digital microscope, which attaches to a portable computer, enlarges anything within its focus and displays the image on the computer screen. In addition to the lesson on photosynthesis during the first week of camp, we brought the digital microscope to the Brandywine and allowed campers to use it to examine specimens they collected in the creek or on its banks.

Our 2021 Environmental Curriculum

Week 1: Gardening and Nature Walk

While half of the group harvested and planted the garden the other half went on a nature walk and then they switched. Campers learned about the parts of a plant, photosynthesis, what plants need to grow, and why plants are important to us.

Week 2: Pollination and Bugs

Campers pollinated a model flower and learned about plant propagation and insect pollinators. They caught bugs and toads and examined their catch before releasing them back to nature.

Week 3: Earth and Energy

Campers collected earthworms for our worm farm. They learned about decomposers and the cycle of life. This lesson also covered fossils, fossil fuel, climate change and renewable energy.



Campers deposit their catch in the worm farm.

Week 4: Natural Water

Campers waded in the Brandywine Creek and collected specimens in its waters and along its banks to view in the digital microscope.

Week 5: Three Sisters

Campers followed our trail to a modern corn field and then compared what they observed with the bed in our garden where corn, beans and squash are grown together as “Three Sisters” in the Native American manner. They learned about corn and organic gardening.

Week 6: Closing Celebration

Campers harvested in the garden and watched popcorn pop. They celebrated Planet Earth with a parade and parachute exercises, sang the camp song and played games and enjoyed a feast featuring produce from the garden and other healthy treats, before saying farewell to Camp Linden for the last time this season.

2021 Picnic and Dedications

The Philadelphia Ethical Society held its annual picnic at Camp Linden on July 18. The picnic included two dedications which had been delayed because of COVID.

Members of the Waters family joined us to dedicate a rose garden in memory of Bertha and Lester Waters.

The main cabin at Camp Linden, which serves as the camp office and caretaker’s residence, was dedicated to PES Leader Emeritus Richard Kiniry in recognition of his role in rebuilding the camp and establishing the current Summer Children’s Program. The dedication ceremony was attended by members of the Kiniry family. PES Leader Hugh Taft Morales read a quotation from Richard’s writing about the place of nature in Ethical Culture.

The Kiniry family also purchased a dogwood tree, which was planted in Richard’s honor with a portion of his ashes.



Planting tree in honor of Richard Kiniry



Our 2021 camp staff: Leonard Weeks, Manager; Sharon Wallis; Program Director; Bryce Young, lifeguard; Alyssa Harvey, Counselor and Danielle Justis, counselor/Assistant Program Director.

The Richard Kiniry Fund

In June 2020 we established the Richard Kiniry Fund to finance renovations and improvements to the camp facilities. To date we have received \$20,510 in contributions and expended \$14,728 on major projects including renovation of the bath house, repainting the pool, replacing the water heater at the pool, replacing the garden fence, and removing dead trees which posed a danger to our buildings. Installation of a kitchen in the camp office is in progress.

We have an approved list of future projects which exceeds the current balance in the fund. In addition to completing the kitchen and insulating and installing dry wall in the office area of the Kiniry Cabin, our list of needed projects includes removal of another dangerous tree, installing a secure storage unit for our mower and other large equipment; and replacing the pump and chlorination system for the pool. We encourage your continued support of the Kiniry Fund.

Our Mission

To provide a camp experience for inner-city children that promotes appreciation of the natural world, acknowledges the intrinsic worth of all human beings, and encourages campers to develop self-reliance, integrity and ethical relationships.

Camp Linden Values

1. Value yourself - Keep yourself safe and open to experience and learning.
2. Value other people (especially your fellow campers) - Keep them safe and help them learn.
3. Value the Earth and all living things (especially those you encounter at Camp Linden). Learn from observing nature, and leave things as you found them.

Remembering Howard Reinard

We are grateful to the friends and family of Howard (Howie) Reinard for their generous contributions to Camp Linden in his honor.

Howard Reinard served as Camp Linden's summer camp director in the late 1960s and again from 1974 to 1981. At that time the property was owned by the Philadelphia Ethical Society and operated as an overnight children's camp by United Communities of Southeastern Philadelphia. Reinard was an inspirational leader of the camp. One donor wrote that "(his) contribution to Camp Linden impacted hundreds of lives, including mine."

A lifelong resident of Chester County, Howie Reinard is remembered in the local community as a beloved retired teacher and a dedicated PIAA football official. He was recently honored by an emotional tribute during a high school football game between teams from two Downingtown high schools.

Reinard and his wife Kelly were diagnosed with COVID-19 on October 8, although both were fully vaccinated. She recovered, but he was hospitalized and died on October 20, at the age of 78. Prior to this illness he was active and athletic.

In September Reinard visited Camp Linden with John Adams, who had worked with him as a counselor and sports director. The two had just reconnected after 50 years. Adams recalled that Reinard's energy and dedication set a standard that made Camp Linden a life changing experience for the staff as well as the campers.