

PIGEON WING

Summer 2026

The New Dock
Welcome Macie and Kelly!
Programming and Alumni Updates

Carlyn

ORCAS ISLAND, WA



Land Acknowledgment

Four Winds * Westward Ho acknowledges that the place where we have camp every summer is on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish people, who have lived in the Salish Sea basin and in the San Juan Islands from time immemorial. We want to express gratitude for the peoples who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. The Central Coast Salish nations include the Sooke, Saanich, Songhee, Swinomish, Lummi, Samish, and Semiahmoo. These Indigenous people moved seasonally between the islands. We recognize that we are here because of the sacrifice forced upon them. In recognizing these tribal communities, we honor and seek to raise up and center their legacy, their lives, their descendants, and their living culture.



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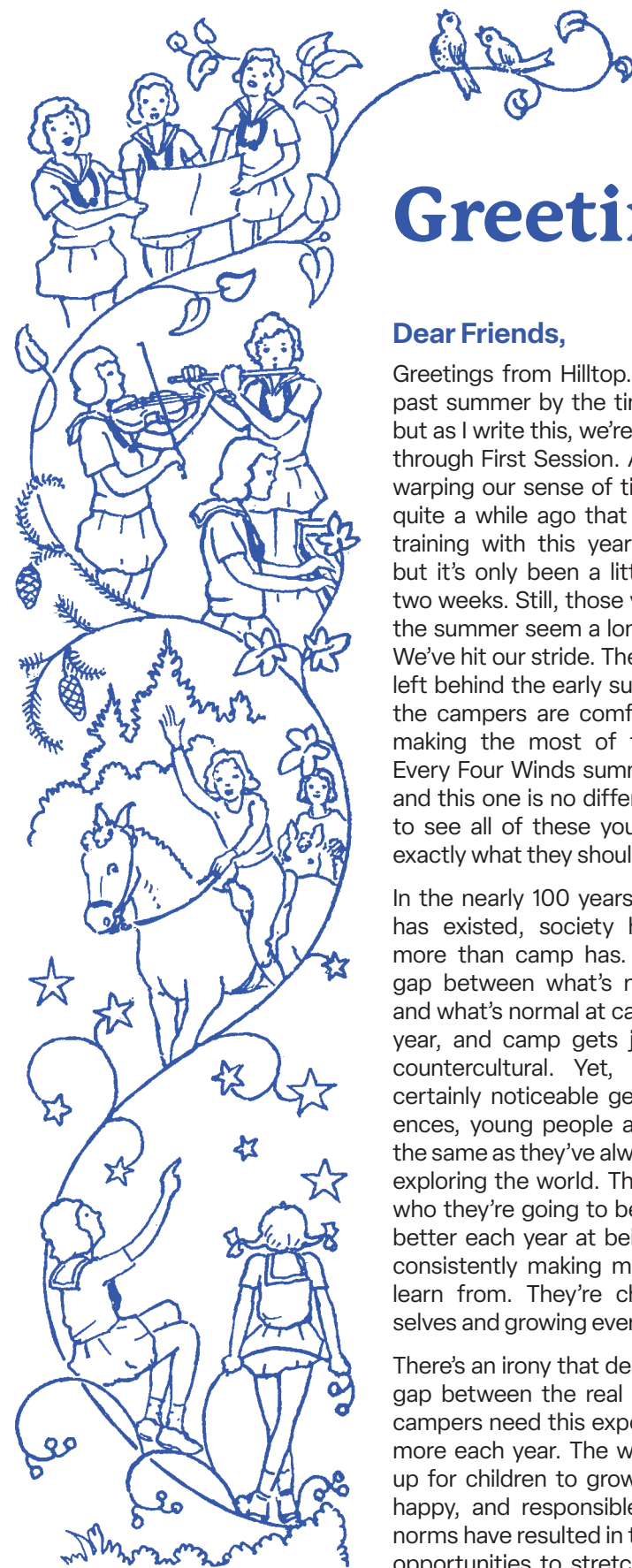
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Greetings From Hilltop

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Hilltop. I'm sure we'll be past summer by the time you read this, but as I write this, we're just over halfway through First Session. As usual, camp is warping our sense of time. It seems like quite a while ago that we were in staff training with this year's summer staff, but it's only been a little bit more than two weeks. Still, those very early days of the summer seem a long way behind us. We've hit our stride. The counselors have left behind the early summer jitters, and the campers are comfortable here and making the most of their experience. Every Four Winds summer is a privilege, and this one is no different. It's fantastic to see all of these young people doing exactly what they should be doing.

In the nearly 100 years that Four Winds has existed, society has changed far more than camp has. That means the gap between what's normal in society and what's normal at camp widens every year, and camp gets just a little more countercultural. Yet, while there are certainly noticeable generational differences, young people are fundamentally the same as they've always been. They're exploring the world. They're figuring out who they're going to be. They're getting better each year at being a friend while consistently making mistakes that they learn from. They're challenging themselves and growing every day.

There's an irony that despite the growing gap between the real world and camp, campers need this experience more and more each year. The world isn't well set up for children to grow into successful, happy, and responsible adults. Cultural norms have resulted in their having fewer opportunities to stretch their legs, take risks, and challenge themselves. Our

digital tools, while useful, have become more of a barrier than an aid to forming genuine relationships, and this hurts young people more than it hurts adults. Camp is the antidote. Everywhere you turn here this summer, campers are doing the work of childhood exactly as they should. They're challenging themselves. They're forming real relationships. When they have a conflict with a peer, they resolve it face-to-face. When they want to be entertained, they pick up a guitar, sail a boat, or ride a horse. Those things aren't mere recreation. It's a rare thing in today's world. I'm so glad that kids are getting this chance this summer and that they will forever at Four Winds.

Thank you all for your support of this rare and beautiful place. I hope you enjoy the news we have to share on these pages, and that it keeps you connected to the place we all love. If you're on Orcas, be sure to stop by, and please do be on the lookout for events we'll be having both on Orcas and out in the world to celebrate our hundred-year anniversary next year.

Paul





Dispatches from Camp

Hello from Upper Mountain Thyme

Looking back on Summer 2026, I can't help but feel grateful for all that it held. During my second summer at Four Winds, I felt more grounded in this incredible community and even more inspired by the people who make it so special. From the very beginning of staff training, this year's staff brought a spirit of curiosity, collaboration, and genuine excitement that stayed with us throughout the summer.

One of the biggest themes that has stood out to me is simply asking, "What if?" During staff training, one of my favorite sessions was simply called "What If?" We spent time asking questions like, "What if we tried this?" or "What if we looked at this differently?" It wasn't about having the perfect answer. It was about creating space for creativity, building on one another's ideas, and recognizing that some of the best improvements start with a simple conversation.

One of the things I love most about summer camp is that we're never finished growing. Growth doesn't always mean creating something brand new. Sometimes it's making small adjustments to something we've always done. Sometimes it's bringing together two great ideas that have never been connected before. And sometimes it's simply slowing down enough to ask, "How can we do this even better?"

That mindset shaped a lot of our staff training this summer. We gave our team more time to work together before campers arrived—not just to prepare lesson plans and organize supplies, but to build relationships, practice teaching, and feel confident in the experience they were about to create. Those extra moments together paid off in countless ways throughout the summer.

I continue to learn something new every single day. One of the greatest gifts of this community is that everyone has something to contribute. Some of the best ideas come from long-time staff who know every tradition by heart. Others come from new staff who bring a whole new perspective. When we're willing to listen to one another, stay curious, and keep asking "What if?", that's when Camp continues to grow while still holding onto everything that makes it so special. I am grateful for Summer 2026.



Thank you!
Diana

Salutations from Baghdad!

It was so good to be back! Returning to Camp for Summer 2026 gave me a lot of opportunities to think about what makes this place so special. We often talk about the community and growth that Four Winds provides for campers and staff, but I kept thinking about how we actually cultivate those experiences. So much of that work happens in our program areas.

Campers have the ability to choose what interests them, and staff have the autonomy to share what they genuinely enjoy and know how to teach. When those two things meet, that is where the magic happens.

One rainy sailing day brought this idea home for me. Going out on the water was not the right plan, so the lesson moved indoors. The instructor drew a boat and the points of sail on a board, and the campers leaned into it. They asked questions, worked through how the wind would move the boat, and learned the thinking that comes before the tiller is ever in their hands. The weather changed the class, but the campers were still learning how to sail.

That same energy showed up in new offerings such as Upcycling and DIY Fashion, along with Farm-to-Table Cooking. These classes grew from things people at Camp wanted to make, learn, and teach. They gave campers something to carry with them, whether it was a skill to practice or a piece of work they were proud to have made.

Programs like these give campers more than something to do for an hour. They are opportunities to build skills, gain confidence, discover new interests, and grow into who they want to be. Our job is to create the space for that growth to happen, and then give campers the freedom to make it their own.



Macie

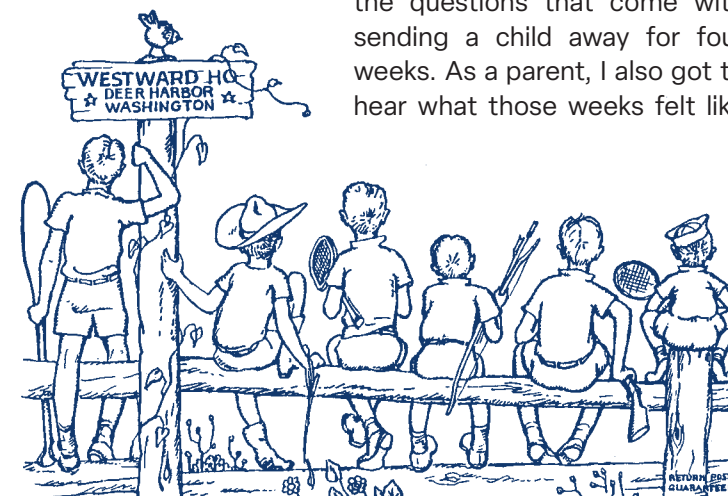
Welcome from the Gatehouse

Looking back on Summer 2026, I had a particularly close view of Camp: my two eldest sons were both campers during First Session. We were sorry to say goodbye when the session ended, and when they came home, they did not stop talking about the adventures they had and the things they got to try.

As Director of Family Experience, I spend much of the year helping families prepare for Camp and answering the questions that come with sending a child away for four weeks. As a parent, I also got to hear what those weeks felt like

from the other side. The stories my sons brought home reminded me how much can happen in one session. Campers learn skills at activity areas, find their footing in a cabin, and discover that they can do things that felt unfamiliar at the beginning of the month.

Next year marks Four Winds' 100th anniversary. Much has changed since Camp began, but I still see the same purpose in a session: a camper arrives, spends four weeks learning and practicing, and leaves with more confidence in what they can do. I am grateful for Summer 2026 and for the chance to see that purpose from both sides.



Zephyr love,
Daphne

Meet the 2026 Camp Leaders



Photo: Left to right, back: Liam Baker, Steven Lind, Sheelyn Pharr, Ava Bede, a stand-in for Zach Maurus, and Paul Sheridan. Middle: Abi Baggott, Shannon Murray, Finn Toporowski, Tenne Johnson, Jack Ross, Annie Nguyen, and Macie Swanson. Front: Will Humphreys, Calder Burkhart, Evie Moore, Leo Conrad-Shah, Amelia Fogarty, Olivia Kelley, and Diana Huff.

Before the first bell and after Evening Fire, Four Winds’ summer leaders answer questions, coach counselors, and help the day hold together. Many first arrived here as campers and now return to guide the next group through a summer. Here is the 2026 team.

Four Winds and Westward Ho

Calder Burkhart
Head of Four Winds

Calder began her 11th summer at Camp excited to step into her role as Head of Four Winds. She studies biology and philosophy at William & Mary and hopes to work in the bio-medical field. She has played steel drums since kindergarten. She loves just about everything about her current role but admits how much she misses teaching Sail 3.

Liam Baker
Head of Westward Ho

This is Liam’s 14th summer at Four Winds and his third as Head of Westward Ho. For the past couple of winters, he taught skiing in Sun Valley; he is now pursuing a career in environmental education. At Camp,

he is a regular contender in ultimate games on the Sports Field and pickleball on the GABLAP courts.

Ava Bede
Assistant Head of Four Winds

Ava returned as Assistant Head of Four Winds for her 11th summer. She studies psychology at Western Washington University and hopes to become a mental health counselor. Her favorite place at Camp is the GABLAP, where she spent plenty of time catching up with campers and playing pickleball.

Finn Toporowski
Assistant Head of Westward Ho

Across 10 summers, Finn has been a camper, Counselor Trainee, counselor, nanny, and Assistant Head of Westward Ho. He studies management and legal studies in London, Ontario, and serves as the news

editor of his campus newspaper. Finn is the current league champion at the bowling alley underneath the Helm.

Activity Areas

Annie Nguyen
Head of Craft Courts

In her third year at Four Winds, Annie moved from Assistant Head to Head of Craft Courts. She studies Economics of Global Supply at the University of British Columbia and photographs concerts as well as NHL and MLB events. At Camp, she is an expert in all things arts and crafts, but she is happiest covered in clay at Julie’s Porch.

Jack Ross
Head of Trips

Jack returned for his third summer as Head of Trips and continued to be one of our oldest and wisest

guides to adventure beyond Camp. He spent the summer helping Trip Leaders navigate the San Juans and the Olympic Peninsula. Next year, he is returning to school to study wildlife conservation. He finds peace at the bench overlooking the Sound.

Sheelyn Pharr
Head of Barn

Sheelyn studies mechanical engineering and math at Tufts, where she rows and leads a team that designs and launches rockets. Somehow, she also finds time to read, knit, hike, tutor, and watch birds. At Four Winds, though, her attention belonged to the Barn. She spent the summer enthusiastically sharing her love of horses with staff and campers.

Abi Baggott
Assistant Head of Barn

Abi came to Four Winds from Staffordshire, England, after several years of working and traveling in Italy and New Zealand. She has ridden horses throughout her life and seemed ready for Barn life from the moment she arrived. Elsie remains her favorite horse back home, but Charger may be coming for her spot!

Steven Lind
Head of Garden

Steven stepped into the Head of Garden role in his 11th summer at Camp and his fourth working in the Garden. A Washington native, he studies culinary arts at Seattle Culinary Academy. He brought those skills to Camp, making the Garden House a whole new kind of classroom. He also plays guitar, boxes, and plays pool and pickleball.

Will Humphreys
Head of Land Sports

Will studies aeronautics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona, and recently earned his instrument rating as a

pilot. He spends his free time hiking, driving through the mountains, and sitting around campfires. His favorite place at Camp is the Lodge during Evening Fire, though he can also be found dominating whatever class is happening at LSP.

Zach Maurus
Head of Dock

Zach brought his lifelong love of sailing to his first summer as Head of Dock after two summers as both a counselor and Dock staff member. Race Sail was his favorite class as a camper, so taking the helm of the Dock was a particularly fitting next step. Away from Camp, he studies math at the University of Southern California and skis with the university team.

Shannon Murray
Assistant Head of Dock

Shannon is an expert in all things Dock and sailing, having started her Four Winds career as Carlyn’s official life jacket model. This summer, she returned as Assistant Head of Dock and also took on one of the most rewarding jobs at Camp: being a counselor. She did an excellent job at both. Shannon studies global studies at Colby College, with minors in environmental policy and education, and rows for Colby’s Division III team.

Specialists

Olivia Kelley
Head of Specialists

Olivia leads our Specialists and is truly a master of all Four Winds trades, making her a perfect fit for the job. Her Camp career began with a 2012 Moonraker reading of Everybody Poops, and she has been doing a little bit of everything ever since. She loves leading the Specialists and all things Four Winds. Away from Camp, she recently graduated with a degree in digital marketing and is now pursuing a career in the field.

Counselor Trainees and Helping Hands

Evie Moore
Counselor Trainee (CT) Mom

Evie returned for her second summer as CT Mom, her fourth summer on staff, and her 11th summer at Camp. She studies history at Georgetown with a minor in education and brought plenty of patience, organization, and encouragement to the CT program. Her hidden talent is spelling, and her favorite place at Camp was the bench.

Tenne Johnson
CT Dad

Tenne returned for his eighth summer at Four Winds. During a gap year, he volunteered on farms in Chile and France, adding a few more stories to an already impressive collection. He brought his science knowledge and saxophone skills to the CT program and could often be found enjoying the bunker beneath Hilltop.

Amelia Fogarty
Helping Hand Mom and Lodgekeeper

Amelia came to Four Winds from Missoula, Montana, after graduating from the University of San Diego with a degree in political science and a minor in visual arts. When she wasn’t helping the Helping Hands or keeping the Lodge running smoothly, she could often be found at Craft Courts or in the Garden. She also made excellent cinnamon rolls, which may have been her most important qualification of all.

Leo Conrad-Shah
Helping Hand Dad and Lodgekeeper

Leo is pursuing a doctorate in computer science at UC Santa Cruz, but Four Winds folks may know him better as the master of skits. He brings silliness, creativity, and just the right amount of structure to the Lodge while helping the Helping Hands navigate their summer. His favorite place at Camp is on top of Glug.

New Faces

Please Welcome Macie and Kelly!



Macie Swanson, Program Director

Macie Swanson was 10 during her first summer at Four Winds, and she was homesick. She remembers that part plainly. It was hard, but she still came back.



In later summers, Macie found the people who made Camp feel like hers. That took time, which is one reason she tells that story now. Not every camper feels settled on the first day, or even during a first summer. Sometimes returning is an important threshold.

Her grandfather spent time at Four Winds in the 60s, and Macie has continued that tradition by becoming a Counselor Trainee, a Helping Hand, a Counselor, and eventually Head of Four Winds, with time away for school and other work along the way.

Macie earned a degree in environmental science from the University of Portland, but during and after school, she found she was drawn to work at other camps, eventually leading education programs at a science center in Casper, Wyoming. Ultimately, she felt drawn to be with people, pay attention to what they needed, and help make their days better.

That realization changed the work she imagined for herself. A technical career in environmental science no longer felt like the whole answer. She wanted daily human contact at the center of her work.

As Program Director, Macie now has a view across Camp. She supports activity areas and staff and becomes one of the people others seek out with a question or concern. She values the trust behind those conversations. To her, they are not interruptions to the job; they are a large part of the job she chose.

Her own first summer stays in mind. A camper can be homesick, uncertain, and having a genuinely hard time without that summer becoming the end of the story. The 10-year-old who was not yet sure about Four Winds did not need a grand lesson. She needed time, good people, and another summer.

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Kelly Percy, Captain, Carlyn

Kelly's first week at Four Winds was spent aboard *Carlyn*. She had come to fill in for a week of day sails and overnights, but her clearest first impression was not about the boat. It was how readily the campers could be silly without first checking how they looked.



Kelly had already spent years working on boats and teaching young people. Aboard *Carlyn*, she saw campers bring that same openness to the work. They learned in front of one another, tried unfamiliar jobs, and became part of a crew that depends on shared effort.

Kelly organizes life aboard in a simple order: vessel, shipmates, self. *Carlyn* is home while a group is aboard. Caring for her means noticing what needs doing, communicating clearly, and understanding that one person's job affects everyone else.

The same principle shapes Kelly's teaching. She does not expect one explanation to work for every camper. If

the first version does not make sense, she tries another. Someone may need to hear an idea, see it demonstrated, or put a hand on the line and feel what changes. On a boat, patience is part of seamanship.

An older sailor taught Kelly that nobody is ever finished learning to sail. She has carried that with her. Confidence matters aboard; and ego tends to get in the way. Even an experienced sailor has to keep watching, asking questions, and adjusting.

As *Carlyn* Captain, Kelly wants campers to leave with useful maritime skills, but not a vocabulary list learned for its own sake. She wants them to know the feeling of belonging aboard; owning a task, knowing why it matters, and seeing how their work fits with everyone else's.

For one camper, that may lead to another trip on *Carlyn*. For another, it may open a kind of travel, study, or work they had not pictured before. Either way, a camper can step aboard without a job and step ashore knowing one, along with who counted on them to do it.

We look forward to these these staff members enriching and enlivening our community! Please join us in welcoming them to the team.

Welcome Back, Sibü



Sibü Xaba joined Four Winds this spring as Camp's groundskeeper. A longtime summer staff member from South Africa, he returns in a new 18-month role that will keep him on Orcas through November 2027. His work spans the seasons: tending Camp's grounds, preparing the property for summer, and sharing the steady, often unnoticed work required to keep a large, active place ready for campers and staff. Sibü's arrival also supports a new facilities model that combines year-round grounds care with local contractors and seasonal maintenance help. We are glad to welcome him back to Camp and to have him here through the centennial year!



Investing in Our Activities



During Mock Day, counselors teach one another. Activity heads set the plan, staff step into the roles of campers, and the group works through a sample class before any children arrive. The central question seems simple on paper. What are we teaching today? In practice, it quickly becomes specific. Where will everyone begin? What should they be able to do by the end? What happens if the weather changes, or one camper is ready to move ahead while another needs more time?

Mock Day is one part of a larger effort to make teaching more deliberate across camp. The aim is not to make every class look alike. It is to give each counselor a useful place to begin and each camper a clearer chance to learn something that lasts.

Something to carry away

Four Winds' classes have always taken many forms, and sometimes the word "class" has been interpreted loosely, e.g., how Survival Skills became Outdoor Adventure. A morning might center on learning a particular skill, making something, caring for an animal, practicing with a team, or simply becoming comfortable in a new activity area.

Macie Swanson returned to Four Winds as Program Director this year and began working on this focus as she hit the ground running. Her starting question was not how to make the program more uniform, but what a camper might take from the time: a skill they can practice, a craft they want to continue, or enough understanding to return the next day ready for the next step.

An activity area team must decide which parts are most practical for a beginner, where a returning camper might go next, and how one meeting can prepare for another. The answer can remain flexible. What matters is that the instructor has thought beyond filling the hour and is reaching toward the level of quality instruction in which Four Winds prides itself.

That approach asks a little more of a class without asking it to become school. Campers still choose activities because they sound fun, because a friend is going, because they already love the area, or because they are curious enough to try. The job of the program is to meet that choice with substance. A good class can be playful and still have a point. It can leave room for invention while helping a camper notice that they know or can do something they could not do before.



Time to return

Each summer, campers choose six classes, with three meeting on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and the others on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Instead of beginning from scratch each time, counselors and campers can return to the same work, allowing classes like Ceramics or Woodcarving to build real skill progression for beginning students.

That follow-through matters to Diana Huff, now in her second year as Associate Director. In conversations about the program, she has encouraged staff to look carefully at familiar structures: keep the parts that serve campers, rethink the parts that do not, and connect the pieces with greater intention. Repetition is one of those useful pieces. It gives a counselor the opportunity to plan a sequence instead of treating each meeting as a separate hour, and it gives a camper time to move beyond a first attempt.

Progress will not look the same everywhere. Some skills have clear stages. Other activities depend on weather, materials, a group's energy, or the direction a camper's idea takes. The point is not to force every area into one model. It is to recognize that our longer-than-normal sessions, by West Coast standards, give campers a unique opportunity to develop a new passion. A class can become a small practice within the summer, and sometimes the beginning of a practice or craft that stays with a camper after camp. Look no further than the many camp alumni who are professional recording artists or the many, many more who maintain an artistic practice of some kind despite the demands of professional and personal life.

A place to begin

For counselors to make that possible, they need time and support before the first class. This year, activity heads and counselors had more room during staff training to talk through what they wanted campers to learn. Counselors created and workshopped lesson plans, tried sample classes during Mock Day, and considered the adjustments they might need to make for different ages, experience levels, weather, and group dynamics.

A counselor still needs to pay attention to the campers in front of them and respond to what the day brings. But a starting point makes it easier to change course thoughtfully when the instructor knows where the class was meant to go.

Four Winds is also putting more resources toward training and looking for opportunities to learn from local trainers and practitioners. Camps all around the country ask young staff members to do demanding work with increasing standards: teach safely, welcome beginners, challenge returning campers, and make an activity area feel like a place where each person belongs. Practical instruction and time to rehearse that work help staff meet the responsibility with more confidence.

It also gives activity heads a shared language for supporting their teams. When a class goes well, they can name why. When it misses the mark, they can look at the plan with the counselor, make a specific adjustment, and try again at the next meeting.

The bell rings, and one child heads toward the Dock while another walks to the Barn, Land Sports, the Craft Courts, or the Garden. At the next meeting, they return. The class can begin one step farther along.

Building Tuition Assistance Partnerships

Finding room in a family's budget is only one part of making Camp accessible. Families also need a clear way to learn what four weeks at residential Camp involves, decide whether the experience is right for their child, and prepare for a summer away from home.

Four Winds is exploring how trusted youth-serving organizations might help us reach more kids who would be a great fit for Camp. These organizations already know young people and families in their communities. They may be able to introduce Camp to a family who would not otherwise encounter it, explain what residential Camp is like, and help a young person think through the experience before the summer begins.

The goal is not to create a separate route into Camp or to promise a place or a Tuition Assistance award. Families would continue to use Four Winds' regular inquiry and application process, including financial review, and Four Winds would continue to make admissions and need-based assistance decisions. A community organization's role could be to serve as a trusted bridge: helping

families understand the opportunity, ask informed questions, and feel supported as they consider it.

Over time, a recurring relationship could also help Four Winds learn. A partner that stays close to families before and after Camp may see where communication is unclear, what preparation would be useful, or what support helps a camper arrive ready to take part. That knowledge could help Four Winds improve how it explains Camp and prepares families from one summer to the next, and ensure we receive timely feedback to improve our program.

This work is still in an early stage. It follows the lead of examples set by Abby Rueb and Mike Douglas. Our Tuition Assistance committee members are reaching out to youth development nonprofits and schools in the Pacific Northwest whose missions and relationships align with the purpose of Four Winds' Tuition Assistance program. We look forward to updating our community on this in the coming months!

What the May Match Made Possible

By Ciarán Willis, Development Director

The final total from this year's May Match was more than \$132,000, a new record for Tuition Assistance at Four Winds. Before I say anything else, I want to say thank you.

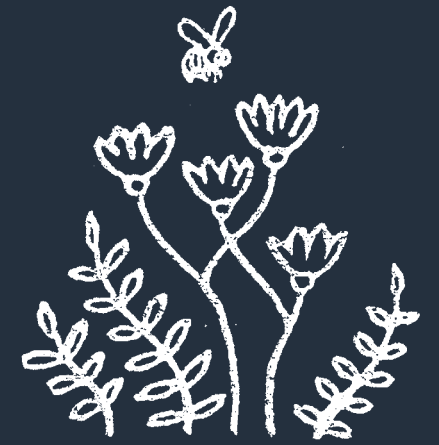
Thank you to everyone who made a gift this spring. Thank you to the Four Winds Board of Trustees, the Hutton Family Foundation, and the anonymous donors whose matching commitments gave the end of May its momentum.

The May Match supports Tuition Assistance, which helps make a Four Winds summer possible for families who could not otherwise meet the full cost. This result means: another place at a cabin table, another camper learning the names of their cabinmates, another child getting four weeks to choose classes, try again after a hard day, and become part of the life of camp.

The cost of a month at camp is substantial, and families decide whether they can attend based on many different circumstances. Our Tuition Assistance program makes it easier to fill the gap between what a family can contribute and the overall tuition cost. It does not change what a camper is invited to do once they arrive. They join a cabin, choose classes, take their turn with chores, wear the uniform, and share the same summer as everyone else.

I am grateful that so many people understand the value of that experience. I am also grateful for the trust behind every gift. Supporters are asking Four Winds to use their generosity carefully, to welcome families with dignity, and to protect what makes a summer here distinctive. That is a responsibility we take seriously.

Tuition Assistance is one important part of a larger truth about Four Winds. We are a nonprofit organization, and camp cannot remain the place it is on tuition alone. Tuition covers much of the cost of a summer, but the Four Winds community helps sustain the people, places, and program around it. Annual giving helps us care for Carlyn and the other boats, keep buildings and grounds ready for campers, replace life jackets, buy glaze for the Craft Courts, and give staff the training they need before the first cabin arrives.



The May Match is specifically about access. Giving throughout the rest of the year helps us hold that commitment alongside all the other work required to run camp well. Some needs are easy to photograph. Others are not. A new piece of equipment is visible. Time for staff to plan together, a repair completed before it becomes urgent, or the ability to say yes when a family needs help may be less noticeable, but each one shapes the summer.

These are the practical conditions that let camp work as it should, not merely extras around the edge of the experience. Philanthropy gives Four Winds room to care for those details while keeping access at the center of our decisions.

That is why I think of fundraising as part of our responsibility to camp, not as a separate activity that happens when summer is over. Four Winds belongs to a wide community of people who know what this place can offer children. Their support gives the organization stability, helps us respond thoughtfully when a need arises, and lets us make decisions for the good of the whole camp rather than only for what can be covered by tuition in a single season. Simply put, fundraising at Camp helps us focus on long-term needs and planning above the fray of day-to-day needs.

That work continues after May. If you would like to help Four Winds welcome campers and care for the Camp they share, I invite you to make a gift at fourwindscamp.org/giving/donate-now, or use the QR code below. Gifts of every size become part of the same work, and we are grateful for each one.

I often think about how many hands hold up an ordinary day at camp. Someone taught the counselor who is leading a class. Someone repaired the paddles stacked by the water. Someone helped a family say yes to a summer they were not sure they could afford. Most campers will never see all of that care. They will simply sit down with their cabin, head to the next activity, and get to be campers. That is exactly the point.



The Gateway to Camp, Restored

On June 21, the water taxis from Anacortes rounded Victim Island and entered Four Winds Bay bristling with campers ready for shore. Island Express and Koinonia carried the first campers toward the new Dock. Supervising staff and counselors waited with signs and cheers.

Around Camp, the usual arrival work had been underway for two weeks of “Staff Week:” cabins opened, activity areas prepared, and the last details put in place. At the waterfront, one important thing had changed. The Dock was new, and as the boats came alongside, it stopped being a years-long project and simply became where Camp began.

That return to use was the end result of several off-seasons of dreaming, fundraising, planning, inspections, repairs, permitting, and construction. The structure beneath nearly every part of Camp’s waterfront program had been rebuilt. It needed to be safer, last longer, and sit more lightly on the bay. It also needed to feel familiar enough that campers could get on with the summer.

A working waterfront

The Dock has never had just one job. It is an activity area and a classroom. It is also the place where Camp meets the water.

New sailors learn how a boat moves through the wind while experienced campers practice racing. Dock Adventure might involve paddling, swimming, or building a raft. Gunkholing sends rowboats and canoes along the shoreline. Kayaks, paddleboards, and small sailboats all need room to launch and come alongside. Any stretch of the dock can fill quickly with life jackets, wet gear, rigging, and campers waiting for the next row boat.

Trips begin there, too. Campers bring down their packs. Leaders make final checks. Boats leave Four Winds Bay for nearby islands and the wider San Juans. Carlyn takes groups on day sails and overnights as campers learn to stand watches, handle lines, navigate, and care for the vessel carrying them. When a trip comes home, the Dock receives the same people, boats, and packs, usually in a different mood.

Joe Goldsmith, our boatwright, spends the off-season repairing boats and a busy few weeks at the beginning of each summer getting the fleet into the water. The first and

second sessions bring him regular visits to the dock, maintaining the fleet around classes, trips, and the daily wear of a summer on the water.

The Dock also lets different parts of Camp meet. A camper might first come down for a swim test, return for a sailing class, and later carry a pack along the same path for an overnight. Someone still learning the names of a boat’s parts can work beside someone preparing to race.

One more summer

The replacement story began after the 2024 season. Once the campers were gone, Boatwright Joe Goldsmith pulled the boats from the water, derigged them, and assessed the wear on each one. He also worked with Jen-Jay, Camp’s dock builder, to examine the existing Dock. Together, they identified and completed the repairs needed to carry the waterfront safely through summer 2025. Those repairs gave Camp one last summer on the old structure while the permitting and replacement work



went through the pipeline. Through that final summer, the old Dock remained a classroom, a launch point, and a place to come home.

The timing was important to get right; like the Lodge, we had to ensure project completion within 9 months of construction. A Dock cannot be replaced while campers are using it, and a project in the sound requires a careful permitting process.

By late 2025, the boats were out of the water and the replacement was ready to begin. The old Dock had completed its last summer.

The winter replacement

Construction took place in late December 2025 and early January 2026. Crews dismantled the old sections and removed the creosote-treated pilings. New galvanized steel pilings and aluminum Dock sections went in their place. Jen-Jay built the Dock, and Northwest Marine Construction operated the crane used to set its larger components in Four Winds Bay.

The sequence sounds simple: take the old structure out, put the new one in, and connect what the waterfront needs. But on undeveloped rocky coastline, much uncertainty remained after the old pilings were out as we waited to learn how much drilling would be required for installation.

Different people carried different parts of the project. Board member Belinda Hanson guided the permit-



ting process, and Jeff Stewart helped lead the Board’s oversight as the Facilities chair. Joe Goldsmith and Caleb Weichert coordinated facilities and logistics from the Camp side. After Jen-Jay completed its work, Joe Goldsmith and Jeff Stewart’s team helped finish the power and water connections.

Some of the project’s most consequential changes are now the least visible. The new Dock uses fewer than half as many pilings as the old one. Its floats are made from fusion-welded high-density polyethylene pipe. Fiber-glass-reinforced grating allows light to reach the native eelgrass below. Together, those choices reduce the structure’s footprint in the bay while preserving the working surface that classes and trip groups need above it.



The Dock was the second phase of the Sky & Sea Campaign, following the Lodge. Donor support made both projects possible, and we could not be more grateful, seeing campers sprawled across it during First Session Regatta Day. Neither project was meant to stand apart with new designs or special designations. The Lodge needed to return to meals, announcements, poetry, trip preparation, and Evening Fire. The Dock needed to return to swim tests, lessons, boats, and departures into the San Juans.

That is how the environmental and structural improvements appear in summer: beneath people doing something else. Water and light pass below a class waiting to launch. Wet gear crosses the grating. Boats tie up to sections made for decades of daily use. Fewer pilings meet the bay, and the old creosote-treated wood is gone.

The final preparations continued into staff training. While counselors prepared cabins and activity areas, the last electrical hookup and finishing details were completed at the waterfront. There was little slack in the calendar. When First Session arrived, the Dock needed to become a Dock again.

Back to summer

The next morning's Rotation Day schedule included the first round of swim tests. By the first Sunday, all of Camp was headed down for Regatta Day.



From there, the Dock settled into the rhythm it had been built to support. Classes gathered, launched, and came home; trip gear moved down the path, and Carlyn came alongside. Joe returned to keeping the fleet ready from a waterfront built to last.

From that point, the new Dock will earn its place by holding up under all the small demands that make a summer. Those are ordinary moments by Camp standards. But after a winter of cranes, pilings, utilities, and finishing work, ordinary was exactly what we're thankful for. So far, so good.

Off-Season Facilities Update

By Caleb Weichert, Head of Maintenance

Hello from the Maintenance Shop!

As the final days of summer 2026 draw nearer, I think about all the hard work and effort that went into the setup and continual maintenance of camp before and during the summer season.

By the time campers arrived, the maintenance team had completed a long list of offseason projects. The Craft cabin roofs were replaced after finding they had reached the end of their lives, Holiday House roof got repaired after a madrona tree fell on it, and a large water leak was fixed near the road by the Garden. A1 Septic also repaired the line serving the Westward Ho intermediate shower house.

Baghdad and Printshop were cleaned and repaired after rodent damage. ServPro removed old insulation and drywall, sanitized and sealed both spaces, and Baghdad received a new tub and shower. We also installed a gas

heater in the lower Lodge so that we can warm the entire downstairs during winter without running the main furnace for the whole Lodge.

This work involved a lot of people, but on the year round staff, it was just Joe and me most of the time this year. Joe repaired one of the war canoes, did his regular management of our fleet, helped make sure the dock finished on time. Cruz Property Projects handled roofing, flooring, plumbing, drywall, and fruit-tree pruning. Island contractors supported excavation, septic work, gas, chimneys, tree assessment, and fire-safety systems. Sibú's arrival as groundskeeper gives us another steady pair of hands. Camp is nearly 100 years old, and the work never really stops. Our job is to keep the buildings, grounds, and systems ready so the summer can begin.



Keeping Camp Rooted

For years, flagstone left from an earlier Camp project waited behind the maintenance shop. Pieces from the same supply had already found homes at the office, Hilltop, and the Garden House. During the 2025–26 off-season, another portion came back into use beside the Lodge handwashing station, where steady foot traffic had turned the ground into a wet patch.

Monty Coffee knew those paths before he arrived with a hardscape crew. He once worked at Four Winds as a dishwasher in the 90s. This time, Monty and the Salish Hardscape crew completed four landscape installations in lower Camp, with Caleb Weichert coordinating the project for Four Winds.

The project followed our last few years of construction. Since 2021, the Lodge and shower-house projects have brought new and renovated spaces, along with excavation and repeated disturbance to the soil around them. When the builders finished, the buildings were ready. The routes, slopes, and planting beds beside them still needed attention. While we took care of the most immediate needs last year, like reseeding the GABLAP (the grassy area between the Lodge and Pickleball Courts, for those whose camp tenure predates the 2000s), we also noted more good places to focus on during the summer of 2025.

Each of the four sites sits along a path campers and staff use every day. Near the Lodge, the crew worked beside the kitchen stairs and at the stairs leading toward the Westward Ho trail. The saved flagstone became a patio in front of the handwashing station. Farther along, Salish Hardscape renewed the ground between the Craft Courts and Holiday House, beside the expanded shower house.

The places called for different fixes. At the handwashing station, the stone gave a busy, wet area a durable surface. Around the stairs, we restored the ground beside familiar routes to meals and the Westward Ho side. Between the Craft Courts and Holiday House, new stone and planting settled the edges of a space that hosts daytime projects and evening folk dances.

The crew reused material from Camp wherever it could. Boulders came from elsewhere on the property. New



topsoil gave the beds a start, and cedar, salal, and other native plants went in around the stone. Rock gives the four sites their shape now; the plantings will soften their edges as they grow into the surrounding woods.

It is unglamorous work, and that is part of its value. The stone needs to stay firm under wet feet. Soil needs to hold on a slope. New planting needs time and care before it looks as though it has always been there.

None of the four installations creates a new destination. Campers will still be on their way to meals, the Westward Ho trail, the Craft Courts, Holiday House, or the shower house. The improvements simply make those familiar routes sturdier and help the new construction settle back into Camp.

The cedar and salal will take time to fill in. The flagstone has settled in more quickly. After years behind the maintenance shop, it is underfoot again.

BOARD CORNER

Time Flies

By John DesCamp



Time flies. It really does. Fifty years ago, my mom, who had been a camper herself in the 1940s, sent me to Camp. It would be an understatement to say it changed my life.

After several years as a camper, dishwasher, and counselor, and 18 years serving on the Board, I am so grateful for what this place has given me. As I step away from Board service, I cannot help but reflect on the timeless nature of Camp: the beauty, the traditions, and the lifelong friendships. That carried into Board service, too. Our twice-yearly meetings felt a little like going to Camp all over again. I cherished them.

A few things changed over those 18 years. We built things, organized things, raised money, and modernized our bylaws and governance. I hope much of that work was invisible to the Camp community. What stayed constant was Camp's commitment to nature, music, art, and friendship. Those things are timeless, and they are why Camp has resonated across generations.

If I have one piece of advice for a new trustee, it is to listen and resist the temptation to "optimize." Each person brings a different background and set of experiences, and all of them have value. Camp is a little messy at times. I love that. I have heard that many of Camp's special days began because the water was off, the food had not been delivered, or something else went sideways. Miss Ruth turned the hiccup into a new adventure. I think that same instinct still defines Camp, and the Board should lean into it.

I am especially proud of the recent Lodge project. The Lodge, the heartbeat of Camp, has been restored and improved. Now we have a new Dock, too. I might have avoided a few splinters had I gone to Camp now.

I can still picture my summer days on the Dock. It was my anchor at Camp and my happy place, for sure. Those small sailboats gave me a lifelong love of water and boating. So, as I sail off from Board service, I am really not going anywhere. Camp will always be with me, and I will always be at Camp. What a boon.

I hope to see you all at the Centennial Reunion next summer. For now, you can find me in Bend, Oregon, happily retired and enjoying the outdoors. My wife, Chris, and I have five amazing kids between us, two grandchildren, and one more on the way. We like to travel, ski, bike, and hike, and generally enjoy anything that gets us outside. I have a small farm, and my first good batch of hay is being cut this summer, so there is plenty to do.

Nobody told me retirement would be so much work.



Alumna Update: Bryn Bliska

A former Four Winds camper and Assistant Counselor finds a life in music.

Bryn Bliska is a Los Angeles-based musician, composer, producer, and musical director. These days, she is busy as the co-Music Director and keyboardist for Maggie Rogers, but rewind back to 2010, and she was a humble Assistant Counselor. Though even at that time you might have predicted how things would turn out for her as you would hear her whistling along the Four Winds trails before you saw her.

Now, she has carved out a music career, spanning many parts of the industry including studio production, original composition for media, and sound design. During the final season of *The Late Show* with Stephen Colbert this spring, Bryn accompanied Rogers at the piano; she has also toured with artists like Chappell Roan, Karol G, and Jacob Collier.

Bryn came to Four Winds as a camper from 2004 through 2007 and returned in 2010 as an Assistant Counselor, following in the footsteps of her mother Gray Boyce and her aunt and uncle Sally and Ty Boyce.

Despite an early love of music, her path into a career in music was not straightforward or traditional by any means. Bryn studied neuroscience at Brown University and later spent a year with the Opera of

the Future group at the MIT Media Lab. She then left school and moved to New York City to pursue her creative dreams, slowly and steadily building a career across recording sessions, composition, production, live performance, and musical direction.

"When I was living in New York, I was doing a lot more studio work and composing," she said. After the pandemic, touring became a larger part of her life. "I've spent a good amount of time on the road, really the last five years. The past year and a half, I've slowed down a little bit—in a good way—where I'm just like, okay, let me reorient."

That change has given Bryn more time at home while she continues to take on live and studio projects.

Bryn will also take part in the Four Winds centennial year. She hopes to support the music at our centennial gatherings alongside other community members and contribute to a new Four Winds record. Her website (brynbliska.com) has more detail.

We are excited to share more details about music and the centennial as plans take shape. Please reach out to ciaran@fourwindscamp.org if you are excited about Camp music opportunities during our centennial year.

Found Again

By Katie Forsythe (pictured left) and
Claire Padilla (right)



Katie Forsythe

There was a note tucked between my windshield and wiper blade as I pulled away from a parking spot on NE B Street in Pullman, Washington. My first thought was that I received a parking ticket. Instead, the note led to an unexpected Zephyr sister connection.

It wasn't until that special day in March 2025 that I learned I lived in the same town as a fellow Four Winds Westward Ho camper and counselor. "What a treat to receive your note," I wrote to Claire in my first text message. (She had included her phone number in the note.) A month later, we met for coffee and conversation that spanned joyful stories and silly memories. I learned how profoundly camp had shaped Claire's life, and it felt affirming to share what camp has meant to me as well.

At 34 years old, having last set foot on Orcas Island in 2012, I hadn't expected a chance encounter to reconnect me so deeply with that part of myself. Meeting Claire unlocked a quiet voice inside me, one that doesn't often surface amid the routines of work and everyday responsibilities. Through Claire, I experienced the camp I love from a younger, more recent perspective and felt meaningful memories wash over me like the rush of a polar bear plunge.

Camp gave me so much: confidence to be quirky, courage to let my voice be heard, exposure to new people and ideas, and traditions that continue to this day. And in the spring of 2025, camp gave me something else: a Zephyr sister on the Palouse.

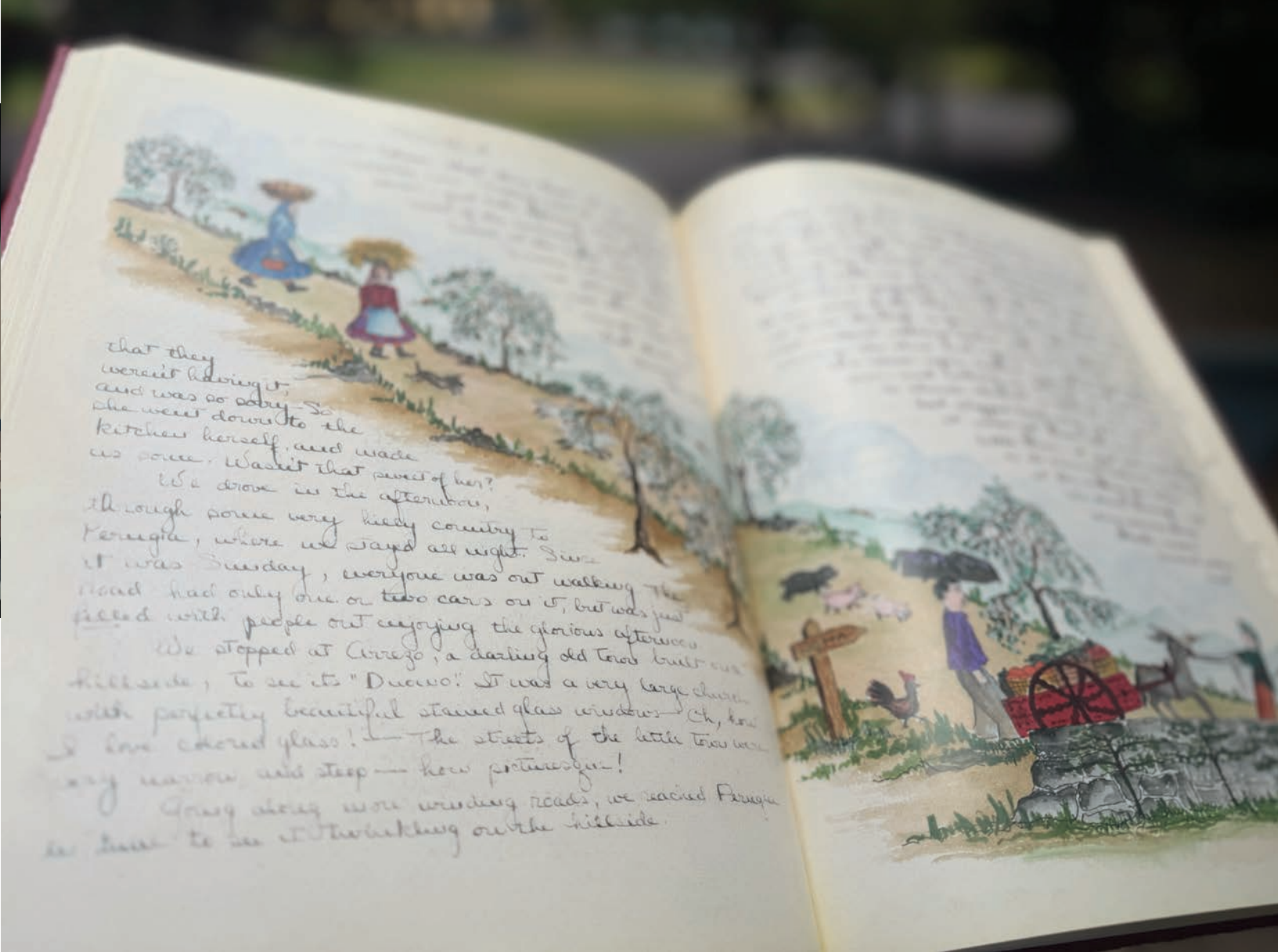
Claire Padilla

In rural Washington, in a sea of hills, there's a college town called Pullman. During the summer, with the students gone, I'll often find myself missing home – the mountains, the rain, and the songs of Four Winds Westward Ho. I'll slip my Zephyr Ring on for comfort and admire the details.

One morning, as I was walking to work, a small blue car caught my eye – on the back windshield was the same symbol I was wearing on my finger! I couldn't believe my eyes! A fellow Four Winds person! I scrambled in my bag to find something to write with, somehow finding a pen and paper. Raindrops began falling on the car's windshield, and I worried my note would wash away, so I placed the windshield wiper over my phone number, hoping it would make it.

...And it did! Later, I received a message from the owner of the car. As I read her name at the end of the text – Katie Forsythe – it felt familiar, but I didn't know why. It wasn't until we met for coffee and were swapping camp stories that I remembered why I recognized her name... years ago as a camper, I'd had Katie's sea chest!

It's such a special experience finding someone from camp, and it felt even more special in this isolated town. In this town I've had trouble calling 'home,' 'home' reached out and called to me. Four Winds love will find us again and again.



Into the Archive

Turn over some of the Four Winds photographs that Heather and Marion Mohler sent to Camp in the spring, and you might find some familiar names and dates on the backs. Heather marked what she could identify before sending them up to the Four Winds Office.

The photographs belonged to Heather's grandmother, Anne Homer, and date from the 1930s. Heather first wrote to Camp after finding the pictures while going through old family photographs. Her mother, Marion Mohler, mailed the package from Seattle in January.

A different kind of archival record came from Robert M. Sutton Jr., a cousin of Cherie Sutton Petit, a camper during

one of Four Winds' first summers. Robert sent a beautiful published copy of the logbook Cherie kept during her 1938 European adventure with Ruth Brown. Their arrival in Europe coincided with the Munich Crisis.

The logbook also carries a much earlier Camp story. In 1930, Miss Brown told Cherie that she should write a log of her summer. Cherie took the suggestion seriously. She went on to write and illustrate the Four Winds Log for several summers. Later in life, she published the log of her European Adventure, perhaps the final log she wrote during her time at Four Winds.

If you have Four Winds photographs, letters, logs, or other materials you would like to send to Camp, please email ciaran@fourwindscamp.org.

Alumni Updates

This spring, we asked what had changed since we last heard from you. Here is some of what came back.

Alec Baer and Maddy Peng



Alec Baer (camper 2006–12; counselor 2017) and Maddy Peng (camper and Counselor Trainee 2007–14; counselor 2016–17; CT Mom 2021–22) are engaged. When they wrote in May, they were preparing to move to Los Angeles, where Maddy planned to begin medical school at USC.

Tyndall Bounous and Sam Watson

Tyndall Bounous (camper 2004–10; counselor 2012–14) married Sam Watson in Alta, Utah, in October 2025. Her family is still celebrating.



Tyndall and Sam Watson at their October 2025 wedding in Alta, Utah.

Sydney, Nicole, and Charles Heath

Sydney Heath (camper 2011–16), having completed her MSW at Columbia University, moved to San Francisco to begin practicing as a therapist.

Nicole Blom Heath (camper in the 1960s) returned from walking the Portuguese Camino de Santiago.

Charles Heath (camper 2011–16) will receive his BA in psychology from the University of Colorado Boulder at the end of 2026 and plans to run his first marathon in September.

Joe Brown and Family

Joe Brown (camper 2000–06; staff 2008–09) continues to live in New York with his wife, Kelly, and their children, Gemma and Grant. He is looking forward to teaching them to sail in Maine this summer, and they love their Four Winds songbooks. He hopes North and West are in their future again soon.



Joe Brown with Gemma, 5, and Grant, 3.

Sidsel Gadeberg and Friends

“Camp friends don’t let time zones, continents, or years apart come between magical moments,” wrote Sidsel Gadeberg (Four Winds

2005–10; additional summers 2011–19, on and off). In January 2026, she traveled from Denmark to Australia to visit Danielle, JP, and Ruby Bone. During her stay, Tash and Graeme, visiting from Canada, surprised the group. They found themselves singing “P Is for Party” in the middle of a restaurant with the children and other friends. “I love the family Camp has provided, even years later.”mp has provided, even years later.”



A Four Winds reunion in Australia.

Greg Lyons

Greg Lyons sent one of the first block prints he made after taking up art classes in retirement. After 20 years of teaching writing and literature at Central Oregon Community College, he wrote that the classes have helped “stimulate my brain and find a creative outlet.”



One of Greg Lyons' first block prints.

Lisbeth Pisk and Dorothy Marston

For many years, a mid-May weekend brought a group of Four Winds alumni to Jack and Jan Helsell’s Orcas Island home “to reflect and celebrate memories, lives, experiences, friends,” wrote Lisbeth Pisk (camper 1941; staff assistant 1961). For Lisbeth and Dorothy Marston, another highlight was visiting the Four Winds office, where they were warmly welcomed, shared a cup of tea, rekindled Camp history stories, spoke of well-preserved treasures, and learned about plans for the coming season.

Dorothy’s son, Grant Marston, was also a camper in the 80s. Dorothy died in California about two years ago and is remembered in this issue’s In Memoriam section.

Have a note for the next Pigeon Wing?

A few sentences are enough. Send us your news by emailing ciaran@four-windscamp.org.



Paul and Diana at the Felton Home in Seattle.

Winter Slideshows

This winter, Paul and the gang made the familiar slideshow pilgrimage down the west coast. Five homes made room for Camp: the Felton family home in Seattle, Ciarán’s home in Portland, the Berman Family in Kentfield, the Dearie family in San Francisco, and the Newman family in Los Angeles.

About 50 people came together in Seattle to see photographs from summer 2025, ask Paul Sheridan questions, and hear a little about the summer ahead. Two nights later,

the slideshow came to Portland. In February, the route continued south through Kentfield and San Francisco, where another gathering of about 50 filled the room, before ending in Los Angeles.

The format was familiar and welcome: summer photographs, Camp updates, and time for people to catch up with one another. We are grateful to our host families and to everyone who came out to catch up on camp and meet new folks.



In Memoriam

Joan Fletcher Lane

Joan Fletcher Lane died in February 2026 at age 97. She came to Four Winds for four consecutive six-week summers in the early 1940s, making the long trip from California to Orcas by train, bus, and ferry. At Camp, she learned to sail, carried home songs and poems, and began a friendship with Sue Metcalf that lasted for decades.

Joan spent much of her adult life taking on difficult work. At Stanford, she served as a special assistant to three university presidents and became known for handling institutional problems that did not fit neatly anywhere else.

She remembered Miss Ruth offering her two extra weeks one summer, an invitation her parents declined, and she continued singing Camp songs later in life. When her family recently went through her papers, they found her diary from 1942. More than 80 years later, she had kept it.

Heidi Fray

Heidi Fray died peacefully at home in West Seattle on July 31, 2025. She was 68. Heidi spent many summers at Four Winds and later held a leadership role on the Four Winds side while Mike Douglas was Director.

Her family remembered how easily she welcomed people. Heidi spent her professional life helping infants, children, seniors, and people in crisis find growth and belonging. Her family wrote that the many summers she spent at Four Winds shaped the way she noticed beauty in people and in the world.

Heidi loved colors, music, songs, flowers, foods from around the world, and throw pillows. Her creativity, her family wrote, “embraced all the crayons in the box.”

Also Remembered

Joan Eppen died on May 30, 2026, at age 90. Four Winds was an important chapter in her youth, and she later sent some of her children and grandchildren to Camp.

Hester Nau Hinsdale died in the fall of 2025. She was among the Four Winds campers who traveled to Europe with Miss Ruth. Through the years, she kept sharing stories of Camp friends, poems, and adventures, along with her knowledge of the connections among generations of campers.

Dorothy Marston died in California about two years ago. For many years, a mid-May weekend brought her back to Orcas with Four Winds friends. She and Lisbeth Pisk also visited the Camp office to share tea and Camp stories.

We were sorry to learn of **Kiel Moton's** death. Kiel was a Second Session camper in the 1990s and later returned as a staff member in the 2000s. Lizzy Cocks remembered that she and Kiel were campers together and later worked at Camp during the same period.

Mary Morrill Spens died several years ago. Her family remembered how fondly she spoke of Four Winds and how long the experience stayed with her.

Jean White died in 2022. Her daughter wrote that Jean always held fond memories of her time at Four Winds in the 1940s.



Looking Toward 2027

In 2027, Four Winds will turn 100. The centennial gives us a reason to look back and something wonderfully practical to do: gather!

The largest gathering will be the Centennial Reunion at Camp, August 26–29, 2027. For four days, alumni and friends will return to Orcas Island to spend time in the places they remember, see what has changed, and be together at Four Winds again. Full registration details will come later. For now, the centennial interest form is the best way to tell us you would like to hear more as plans take shape.

We know that returning to Camp will be a simple decision for some people and a considerable trip for others. Sharing the date now is meant to give the community time to plan. It also gives former cabin-mates, colleagues, and Camp families a reason to begin finding one another well before August.

The reunion weekend will be the center of the celebration, but it will not be the only chance to join in. Three West Coast gatherings are planned for early 2027:

- **Seattle:** January 29 at Seattle Yacht Club, hosted by Maddie Hanson Larson
- **San Francisco:** February 5 at St. Francis Yacht Club, hosted by Molly Gardner Hector
- **Los Angeles:** March 6 at Del Rey Yacht Club, hosted by Caroline Wolf, Lucinda Morehead, and Jeff Winckler

These will be ticketed gatherings for adults. We are also planning smaller spring events in New York City and Washington, DC, with details to follow. Each gathering will have its own character, but the purpose is the same: to make room for people to reconnect before the wider community comes together at Camp.

We look forward to welcoming special guests Andrew Robin, Lily Wilson, Bryn Bliska, and more musical community members to help these events really sing. Please reach out to ciar@fourwindscamp.org if you are excited about music opportunities during our centennial celebrations.

You can find current event information at fourwindscamp.org/alumni/events-reunions and add your name to the centennial interest list at form.typeform.com/to/BinPRzvo. The interest form is not reunion registration. It simply helps us share updates and understand who may be considering the trip.

More information:



Interest form:



Four Strong Winds

As we enter the centennial year, we are also using four familiar areas to describe the work of caring for Four Winds. We call them the Four Strong Winds.

Ruth Brown Legacy Club honors Miss Brown's gift of Camp to the community and recognizes those who include Four Winds in their long-term plans.

Tuition Assistance helps make a summer at Four Winds possible for families who could not otherwise meet the full cost.

Program means investing in the people, training, and class time that allow campers to find joy in an activity and keep learning when they return.

Place means caring for the land, buildings, boats, and shared spaces that hold the daily life of Camp.

Each wind will have more of its own story elsewhere in this issue and in the months ahead. Together, they offer a simple way to name what the Four Winds community has carried forward and what still needs our attention.

The Four Strong Winds are a reminder that the things we will celebrate in 2027 will help us endure for another hundred years.

There will be time in 2027 for history, stories, and celebration. Most of all, there will be time to see one another. We hope you will join us in a city along the way or return to Camp in August 2027, when the centennial comes home to Orcas Island.

The Ruth Brown Legacy Club

Some gifts to Camp arrive now.
Others begin as a promise for later.

The Ruth A. Brown Legacy Club recognizes people who have included Four Winds in a will or named Camp as a beneficiary in an estate plan. Membership begins when someone lets Camp know about that intention. No current gift is required.

As Four Winds moves toward its 2027 centennial, Camp hopes to welcome 100 new members to the club. Each commitment is a way of carrying forward the summer experiences that mattered to us: time on the water, songs in the Lodge, work shared with friends, and the chance for a camper to discover what they can do.

We look forward to sharing more soon about how we will celebrate and thank our Ruth Brown Legacy Club members.

Some members choose to be named in *Pigeon Wing* and the Annual Report. Recognition is optional, and anonymous commitments are welcome.

If Four Winds is already part of your plans, we would be glad to know. To ask a question, email Ciarán Willis at ciar@fourwindscamp.org. If you are ready to join, complete the Legacy Registration Form and send it to Ciarán.



Please consult a tax advisor for specific advice.

Recognition List

Anonymous (4)	Barbara W. Demere	Charles & Alberta Lamson	Thomas Russell
Catherine Adams	John DesCamp	Joan Fletcher Lane	Dr. Kris Saldine
Marilyn J. Anderson	Eleanor Dootson	David & Akemi Louchheim	Paul & Linda Sheridan
Joe & Barbara Baer	Mike & Sharon Douglas	David Lowy	Carlyn Kaiser Stark
Dave & Mary Beth Baker	Margaret E. Enderlein	Joanne "Charlie" MacPherson	Jeff & Samantha Stewart
Jackson Payne Ballard	Ann & John Felton	Megan McCaslin	W.P. Stewart
Nate Benjamin	Ann Haley Fromholz	Karin McKinnell	Thomas & Laney Techentin
Ella Brittingham	Ryan Glant, Alison Bettles & family	George & Marion Mohler	Pieter Van Zandt
Henri Broekmate	Emily Glass & Gerry Santillan	Sarah Baker Morgan	Katie & Jess Weinstein
Sue Clauson & Jim Koskinen	Belinda Hanson	Nicole & Matthew Murray	Rebecca & Bill Wellington
Bruce & Marty Coffey	Hester Nau Hinsdale	Alexandra Torrance Okner	Diana Wiegel
Sam & Cynthia Coleman	Arden & Brad Hofler	Melissa Palmer & Michael Marshall	Ciarán Willis
Valerie & Scott Corvin	Wendy Gilbaugh Kelley & Steve Kelley	Don Friday	Jeff Winckler
Eleanor "ElBell" Crebs		Sue Metcalf Robertson	John Wineman
Elizabeth Crispin			



Artwork by Emily Lewis.

STAY CONNECTED

There is no wrong way to come back into the Four Winds circle. Send a note, sing a song, plan a visit, or just let us know what you're thinking about. Use the QR codes below to access the many ways to keep in touch.



Send Us Your News

What has changed since we last heard from you? A few sentences are enough.



Update Your Information

Make sure *Pigeon Wing* and the occasional camp email know where to find you by updating your contact information.



Sing Along

Open the Four Winds songbook or listen to camp recordings at soundcloud.com/fourwindscamp.



Make Plans for 2027

The centennial reunion will be at camp August 26–29, 2027. Find current details and the interest form at fourwindscamp.org/alumni/events-reunions; the interest form is not a registration form – that will come later.



Learn About Tuition Assistance

Read about Tuition Assistance at Four Winds and the application process for families.



Give

Annual gifts fill the gap between tuition revenue and the actual cost of delivering the Four Winds experience. Make a gift or review ways to give.



Plan a Summer Visit

Seeing the Dock, the Lodge, and the paths your camper has been talking about can be a lovely part of the summer. Please call the camp office before making travel plans. Visits take place during the middle two weeks of each session, after campers have settled in and before the final week begins. Each camper may have one visit during the session. Staff can confirm that your camper will be in camp rather than away on a trip; current details are always available on the visitor page.

When you arrive, begin at the office to sign in. A parent, guardian, or grandparent may take their own camper off the property, but visitors may not take another family's camper. Camp cannot include visitors in meals or provide overnight accommodations.

Please leave phones in your car or at the office. A separate camera is welcome, though photographs and video are not permitted during Evening Fire.

Lower Camp is about half a mile from the top, over ground that can be rough and uneven, and visitor vehicles do not travel through camp. If that walk would be difficult, call ahead so staff can help plan an accessible meeting place. If you are not visiting an enrolled camper, please request a camp tour.



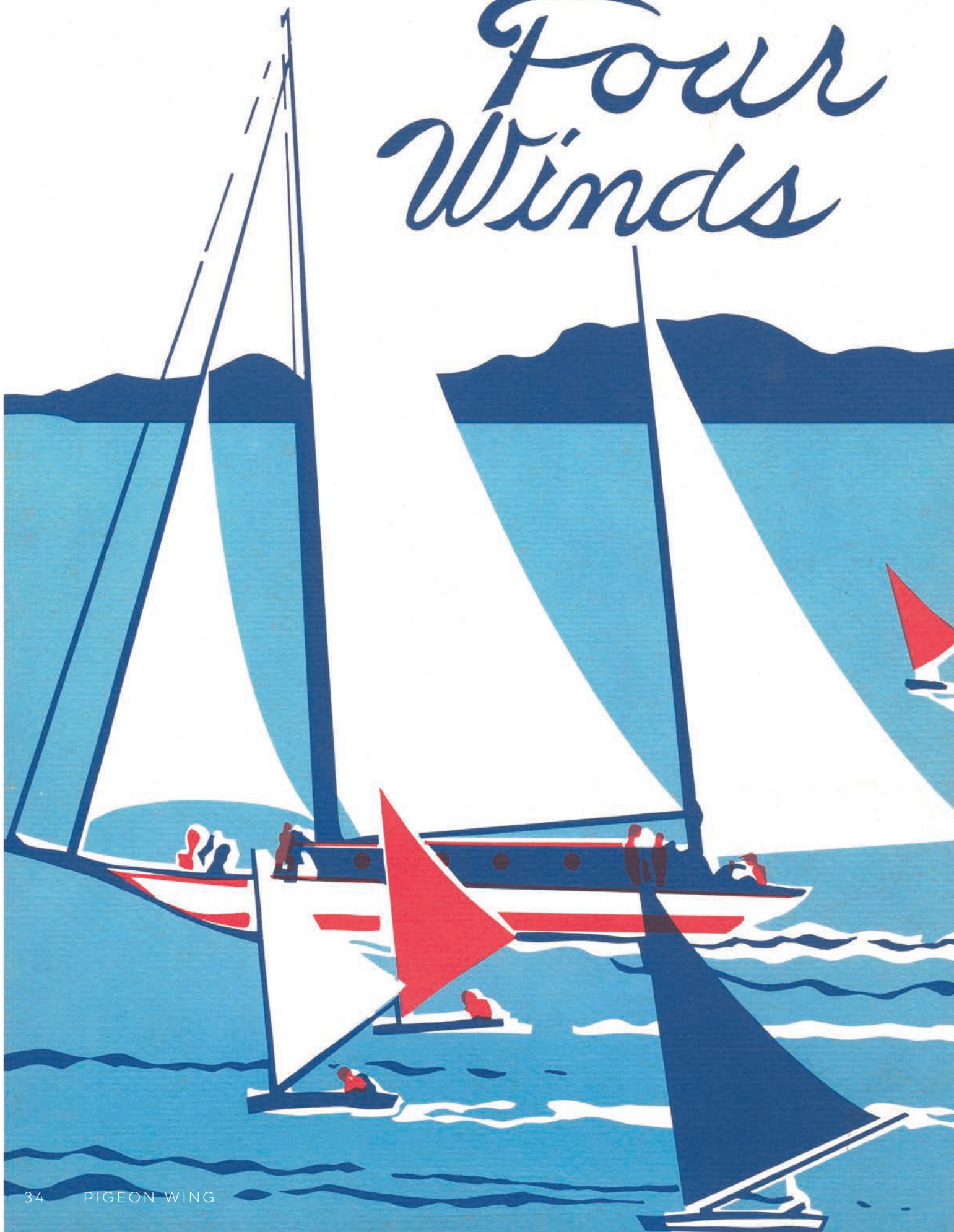
Visitor Page



Request a Tour

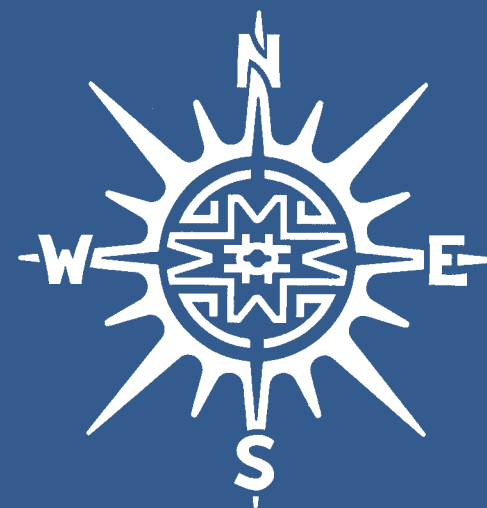


Four Winds



Mission Statement:

Four Winds * Westward Ho fosters a spirit of adventure and delight, cooperation and compassion, creativity and self-confidence within campers that will enrich and inspire them throughout their lives.



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