

The Climb

Jacob's Ladder, Inc.®

Summer 2021

One rung at a time

JACOB'S LADDER

Summer Enrichment Camp
Christchurch School
July, 2021

Shawn Saunders

Academic & Performing Arts Director

Although we had to remain in a "bubble" due to COVID-19, it was an incredible summer of learning and exploration. Academic classes this year included: Meteorology/Climatology/Maps, Math that Slays, Spanish Storytelling, Science Explorations, Science Investigations, Visual Arts, Gaming, Magnificent Monoprints, Percussion, and Nutrition & Wellness/Evolution of Animation. Many of our Climbers performed in our musical, "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas", the story of how love and support of friends can overcome all adversity.

Senior Week

Micaiah Presley

Activities Director/RA Liaison

Sixteen Seniors spent a week at Dundo Campgrounds located on the Appalachian Trail, along the Skyline Drive. Seniors were a little nervous on the first day because this adventure training week included the whole wilderness experience: purifying their drinking water, fishing for food, and many other unknown experiences. Hiking was a daily activity; the last hike of the trip was the longest – 5 miles in 2 hours. That's bonding with adventure!



Jacenta Wallingford Media

Summer 2021 saw JL with 12 RAs, of which 7 were former Climbers. Only Diego Rayas was returning after previous experience as a RA, while everyone else needed to learn the job quickly. Marcella Leonard-Jackson, a 19 year-old who hails from Richmond, VA and has now completed one year at Point Park University, describes the experience. She says, "I loved my time at Jacob's Ladder as a Climber. As an upper classman, I took it a lot more seriously and even gained one of my best friends ever from here. It's funny being back as an RA because I think of all of the things that I did for the first time, and I realize, 'Oh, I did that at Jacob's Ladder. How weird!' So, yeah, it was a great time in my life, and JL was a safe haven for me. As an RA, you know a lot more. Some of you wants to still be a Climber, but you've moved past that and it's actually more fun to be an RA since you're more in control of yourself and what you do. It's also really interesting to see how all the puzzle pieces come together to create these events and, as a Climber, I guess I never realized just how much the RAs did. I'm very passionate about adopting older kids in the foster system since they just age out, and I think that JL really nurtured that in me because you're around kids that are at risk.

"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord; plans for good and not for evil, to give you a hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11



DID YOU KNOW ?

Jacob's Ladder has employed 325 RAs and graduated 254 Climbers from 1995-2021. Many still keep in touch!

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni Climber, Dr. Christopher Lane, Class of 2004, began his dentistry practice this week in New Bern, NC. He and his wife, Sara, are proud parents of three children.

Three alumni Climbers, Class of 2006, attended a reunion at Woodberry Forest School in July. Dr. Ian Calloway received his PhD from the University of Michigan and graduated from the University of Chicago. Shawn Saunders received his undergraduate from Brown University and has his Masters from Columbia University. Torian Holt received his undergraduate from UNC – Chapel Hill and is experiencing success in the business world.



Jacob's Ladder alumni attended the wedding of Jamaica Parker, Class of 2006. Alumni Climbers above include: Adam Lorjuste and Raymond Gooze, Class of 2005; Ian Calloway, Shawn Saunders, and Torian Holt, Class of 2006; and Shelby Nedrick, Class of 2007.

Jacob's Ladder, established in 1991, is a proactive enrichment program serving children who are gifted and at risk.

JACOB'S LADDER

28th Annual Golf Classic
COLOSSAL SUCCESS!



Jacob's Ladder held its 28th

Annual Golf Classic at the Golden Eagle Golf Course on Monday, May 17, 2021. The Golden Eagle course was full to capacity with eager golfers. An outdoors awards celebration was held at the end of the day. Music was provided by Jumbo Lump Daddy. In addition to our many generous and loyal sponsors, the Golden Eagle Cottages Association members helped support the event, enabling us to net \$20,400. All net proceeds help provide room and board for the intellectually gifted, at-risk children at the summer residential enrichment camp. Thank you, Golfers, Sponsors, Prize Donors, and Volunteers for your loyal support of a worthy cause!

FIRST FLIGHT WINNERS (MEN)

O'Brien Team

Mike O'Brien, Kevin Crawford, Bruce Harvey, John Wood

FIRST FLIGHT WINNERS (WOMEN)

Clay Team

Ellie Davis, Molly Gatchell, Seale George, Joyce Mullins

SECOND FLIGHT WINNERS

Schaschek Team

Klaus Schaschek, Tom Chapman, Arvid Frankenhoff, Jim Timm

THIRD FLIGHT WINNERS

Ramsey Team

Jay Ramsey, Bill Hicks, Cole Hicks, William Hicks

CONTEST WINNERS

CHIPPING – Rick Neurohr

PUTTING (MEN)– Matt Moffit, Jr.

PUTTING (WOMEN)– Sue Saunders

CLOSEST TO THE PIN – Charlie Vaughters

LONGEST DRIVE – Michael O'Heir

UPCOMING EVENT

10th ANNUAL OYSTER TASTING

November 7, 2021

Watermen's Museum, Yorktown



NAP Tax Credits

Jacob's Ladder has been approved by Virginia's Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) participant for FY 2021-2022. In order for a donation to qualify for NAP tax credits, a minimum donation of \$500 for an individual or \$616 for a business must be received by Jacob's Ladder. A tax credit of 55% will be applied. Make your check payable to Jacob's Ladder, Inc., P. O. Box 555, Urbanna, VA 23175. Your NAP forms will be mailed to you to complete. Thank you for your generous donations in the past.

Dr. David Niebuhr Executive Director

Like the new Climbers, my first year of Jacob's Ladder is quickly drawing to a close. I'd like to reflect on the past month. We started summer camp behind in every aspect of camp planning. We were short-staffed, overwhelmed with ever changing COVID

restrictions, and burdened with the prospect that we would not be permitted to leave our on-campus "bubble". Micaiah assured me that the camp would go smoothly. He even predicted the duration of the homesickness, the growing comfort of week two, the inevitable shenanigans of week three, and the tears of week four. What he did not prepare me for was the overwhelming energy of the Jacob's Ladder community. It is a palpable sense of support, encouragement, and caring by the Climbers and staff. The older Climbers support and guide the younger Climbers. The RAs and staff, many of whom are alumni Climbers themselves, model the support and encouragement. Friendships are formed, but this positive energy transcends individual relationships; it is pervasive in the JL community. Climbers are not without their spats and disagreements, for sure, but the entire community embraces all things positive. This is not just my perspective. We had a new science teacher, Ms. Nikki, who was so moved by her first week of camp that she canceled her plans for the next week and taught an extra week at Jacob's Ladder. I am touched by the commitment of our teachers, staff, and leaders to add to this incredible community of love. By name, our camp was incredibly successful because of the dedication and devotion of Micaiah Presley and Shawn Saunders, whose intimate knowledge of everything Jacob's Ladder Summer Camp drove our success, and Jessica Miller, our Operations Director, who was instrumental in organizing our time at Christchurch School to the greatest efficiency, comfort, and safety. Thank you for permitting me the honor of participating in this wonderful experience.

JACOB'S LADDER

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