

A scenic photograph of a two-story wooden cabin on a grassy hill overlooking a lake at sunset. A large tree stands to the right of the cabin, and a few people are walking on the path. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow and orange geometric pattern. The text 'CAMP DEWOLFE' and 'Celebrating 75 years' is in white. The bottom right corner features a large '75' with a sunburst pattern, and the 'CDW' logo with 'CAMP DEWOLFE' and '75 YEARS' below it.

# CAMP DEWOLFE

Celebrating 75 years



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Dear Friends,

In 1947, the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island purchased 72 acres of land in Wading River, creating what we now know as Camp DeWolfe. Mary Benson, a parishioner of Grace Brooklyn Heights, had bequeathed \$50,000 to the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, which was used to secure a permanent location for the growing demand for diocesan youth retreats and camp programs. We owe people like Mary Benson, Bishop DeWolfe and Fr. John and Betty Davis a debt of gratitude for their foresight and vision of what Camp DeWolfe could be, long before it ever came to pass.

With this perspective in mind, it is amazing to reflect upon the last 75 years and consider how Camp DeWolfe has inspired generations of people, as a part of their life-long faith formation and spiritual development. Thousands of children and people of all ages have walked down the beach trail in the mornings for water activities or watched the sunset over the Long Island Sound. Camp DeWolfe is a sacred space, one of the few in which our relationship to God, and all those around us, is strengthened and reaffirmed.

In 2021, Camp DeWolfe welcomed over 600 guests to summer programs! It is fitting that we now celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Camp DeWolfe, by reflecting on how God has sustained this ministry by utilizing so many different programs, as well as the skills, talents and efforts of so many dedicated and faithful people.

As you reflect upon your experience at Camp DeWolfe, consider giving thanks for the people that provided you that opportunity. Who was it that made your experience so memorable? Was it a parent or grandparent who encouraged you to attend? The legacy of Camp DeWolfe is found in how it has connected so many people to each other over the past 75 years and Camp DeWolfe will continue to boldly live out its mission of "Changing Lives, Sharing Christ". We look forward to celebrating this important moment in the history of the Camp with you!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Tees". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

The Rev. Matthew Tees  
Executive Director

# OUR VISION, VALUES AND GOALS



The Vision of Camp DeWolfe is to “enable Christian Formation in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island; by providing a natural setting for people to engage in community and empower them to live out an outward and visible expression of the love and grace of Christ.”

With four core values focusing on our natural setting, spiritual formation, purposeful community and developing leaders, the goal at Camp DeWolfe is for every person who participates in one of the programs to be able to explore nature, engage and enjoy time with others, embrace challenges, reflect on experiences and practice service for others—all in God’s love and grace that is a gift through Christ for everyone.





Experience the  
love of God  
through the power  
of creation and  
spiritual reflection  
as well as being  
with others.



# A HISTORY OF GROWTH

In 1912, a three-story red shingled house is built at 408 North Side Road in Wading River, New York. It sits on the edge of a bluff over the Long Island Sound...

Mary Benson's generous gift of \$50,000 to the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island, upon her death in 1918, sets in motion the possibility for The Rt. Rev. James P. DeWolfe to pursue his plans for annual youth retreats to foster youth development in the 1940s. In 1945, the future 'Benson House' and 72 acres of land are transferred to the Diocese to be used as a youth camp, setting the stage for what will become Camp DeWolfe.



**1947**

First summer camp! Benson House serves as lodging for camp administration, clergy and non-counselor staff. Platform tent areas house male campers. Webster Hall built for dining and recreation. Outdoor chapel built with logs for pews and stumps for kneelers.

**1964:** Civil Rights Act signed into law, outlawing discrimination in the U.S. Camp DeWolfe had been integrated since its beginning in 1947.

**1962**

A new arts and crafts building is constructed.



**1968:** Environmental Protection Agency is created, helping preserve and celebrate places like Camp DeWolfe and the bluff on which it stands.



**1964**

Elizabeth DeWolfe Recreation Hall consecrated and blessed.



**1978**

Camp traditions, such as the honor cabin, become part Camp DeWolfe life. To receive the title of "Honor Cabin" the cabin must win first place in the cabin cleanup competition.



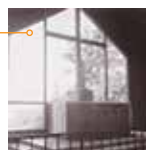
**1998**

New basketball court and driveway are paved.



**1957**

New dining hall built which holds 250 people. St. Luke's Chapel completed.



**1955**

Construction completed on 17 new cabins, welcoming girls to sleep inside and giving boys the choice between cabins and the platform tent area.



**1959:** Daily schedule runs much like today: breakfast, morning workshop, morning activities, lunch, rest, afternoon activities, dinner, evening workshop, special program and bedtime.

**1990**

A temporary obstacle course is created in the sports field.

**1989**

Eight new cabins built along with two large showerhouses. First concerted effort to make the camp increasingly available for year-round retreats and conferences.





## 2012

Extensive renovations revitalize the camp for future ministry: Davis Dining Hall, DeWolfe Hall and St. Luke's Chapel get new flooring, windows, bathrooms, doors, electric, insulation, heating, A/C and lighting. Swimming pool and grounds are re-landscaped. Upgrades also occur for admin systems, staffing, website, technology, social media and a new logo.



## 2011

Several structures are repainted and refurbished and the camp receives a donation of 120+ Tempur-Pedic mattresses for all camper and retreat lodgings.

### 2013:

Superstorm Sandy brought damage to Benson House, Director's Lodge and cabin roofs. Electricity was lost for eleven days and trees were uprooted throughout the property. The bluff was eroded by 20 feet and a restoration project began.

## 2013

Leaders in Training (LIT) teen program added to summer programming.



## 2014

On the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI dedicates Benson House for the role it played in the counter-espionage programs during WWII.



## 2015

St. Francis Outdoor Chapel is completed. Fall camp programs begin. Fishing, drama and wilderness activities added to summer programming.



## 2016

Biking activities are added to summer programming. Campfire areas, tent sites, nature trails, and a biking area are added across the facility.

**2020:** Following the initial wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, Camp DeWolfe reopens in July to families and individual retreats.



## 2021

Camp DeWolfe receives a grant to renovate the cabins, upgrading electrical and A/C systems. New furniture and appliances, as well as new decorations, lighting features and interior painting occurs in cabins and buildings across the facility. Family Camp program serves over 640 guests during the summer months.

## 2012

Waterfront programming expands to include kayaking, canoeing, sailing, swimming and beachfront activities. The Adventure Challenge Course is upgraded.



## 2014

The "Listening to God" retreat begins as an annual opportunity for adults to go on a retreat and listen for God's voice in their lives. Winter camp resumes and baking and paddle boarding programs added.



## 2018

Bluff restoration uses environmentally sustainable measures. New stairs installed at the base of the beach trail. Davis Hall gets new HVAC system, roof supports and walk-in refrigeration. Benson House added to the National and New York Registers of Historic Places.



## 2022

Camp DeWolfe celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary!





## A TIME TO REFLECT

We will gladly talk about our values and vision, the beautiful setting on the Long Island Sound, the history and plans for the future. But it is the experiences of our summer campers and families that we value the most.

Simply put, we are honored to have played a part in so many lives. Whether it's the first time experiencing the beauty of the bluff or a return trip for the next generation, we will continue to do our best to enhance the lives of those who continue to call Camp DeWolfe a special place.

*\*We are grateful to the many people who have allowed us to share their kind words. To read their complete reflections, along with others, please visit our website at [www.campdewolfe.org](http://www.campdewolfe.org).*

You could see in their faces and hear in their voices—every time—that being [at Camp DeWolfe] together was a moment revealing something more about faith, about church, about life that they had never known in just that way before.

*-The Rev. Dr. John M.*

faith

Camp DeWolfe is a gem and provides campers, families and staff an incredible opportunity to live out their faith in a setting that is, for many of us, out of the ordinary.

*-Fr. Jesse L.*

The one thing that sticks out is that it didn't matter if you were black or white, from "the city" or "the island", we were all one family. CDW is a special place and will always be special in my heart.

*-Alison S.*

Camp has been part of my life since childhood.

*-Michelle W.*

connection



# strength

Camp DeWolfe was a truly amazing experience. It was a big happy family. My cabinmates, counselors, and friends outside my cabin truly made the experience special.

*-Virginia S.*

“

The love for God and the love for one another, which is the foundation of our faith, is the same foundation that continues to make Camp DeWolfe a special and blessed place.

*-Jason G.*

## support

## soul

“

Our experience at camp was all about love and inclusion. In these times, being able to fall back on that experience and have the camp community for support has been amazing

*-Troy L.*

## love

“

As children and young adults, camp helped us strengthen our faith and our love and respect for others. Being on staff helped us learn responsibility and stewardship. I will forever love the amazing friendships I still have today.

*-Anita G.*

“

I was unaware of my soul and how powerful my connection to a higher power could be until experiencing life in the deep woods on a cliff of the north shore with a group of campers and staff as kind and diverse as they are faithful.

*-Karen L.*

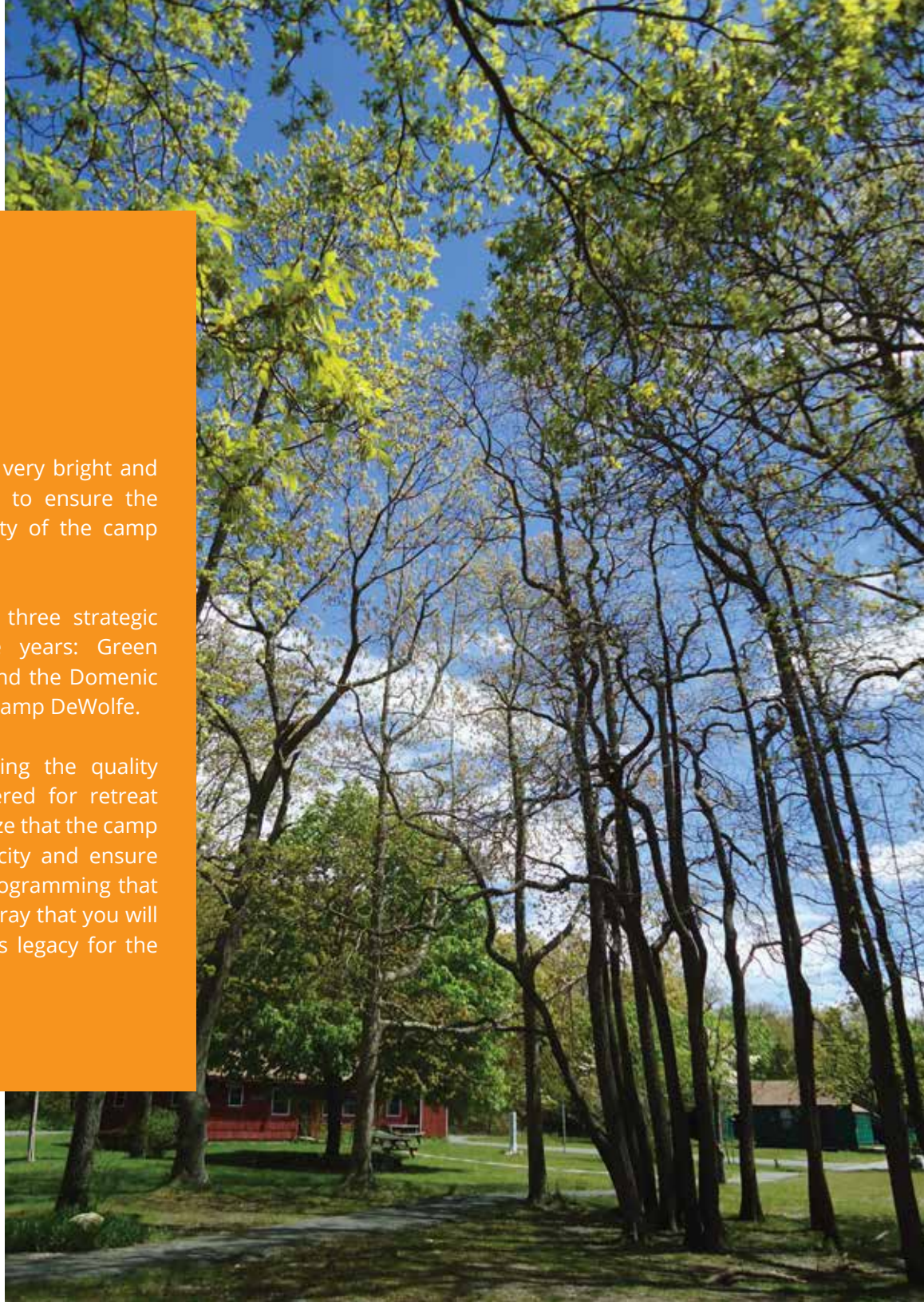
## together

## THE NEXT **75 YEARS**

The future of Camp DeWolfe is very bright and the Board of Managers hopes to ensure the future viability and sustainability of the camp over the long term.

Currently, we are focusing on three strategic initiatives over the next five years: Green Initiatives, Camp Stewardship and the Domenic Ciannella Scholarship Fund for Camp DeWolfe.

We are committed to increasing the quality of accommodations being offered for retreat guests year round. We also realize that the camp must plan to increase its capacity and ensure that we can provide relevant programming that is welcoming to all people. We pray that you will partner with us to continue this legacy for the next 75 years!







## GREEN FUTURE

Camp DeWolfe has been committed to the conservation of resources and reducing its carbon footprint over the past ten years. We believe it is part of our call to be good stewards of the environment, and the world that we all share. Our current goal is to significantly reduce energy consumption through the installation of energy efficient LED lighting across the camp. Additionally, we are exploring the possibility of installing solar panels across camp. Over the past ten years, the camp has also reduced dependence on oil-based heating systems and there is only one left to replace!

Camp DeWolfe is located on 19 acres of woodland property overlooking the Long Island Sound.





THE NEXT  
**75 YEARS**  
CON'T

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CAMP STEWARDSHIP

Many of the cabins and retreat lodgings are ready for upgrades, particularly to their bathrooms and kitchens. In the next few years we hope to renovate bathrooms in Benson house, the retreat lodge, apartments and the cabin areas. These renovations would significantly improve the camp’s ability to host more retreats and family camps year round, as well as improve the overall camp experience!

Guests love the view of the camp overlooking the Long Island Sound and meeting outside for meals and formal programs. One simple, yet important, need is to increase the amount of seating and tables provided across the grounds. We hope to install options that are easily accessible to all guests so that they can enjoy the best part of being at Camp DeWolfe—being outside!

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Camp DeWolfe offers camp options for spring, summer, fall and winter as well as year-round retreat options for meetings and other events—and now offers Family Retreats for small groups to experience God in community.





## CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2021, over \$55,000 in scholarship funds were provided to families in need so that they could attend a program at Camp DeWolfe! While we are committed to creating programs that are inclusive, inspiring, and fun, we also realize that we need to ensure that all families have the actual opportunity to attend one of our summer programs. It is our goal to raise support for the Domenic Ciannella Scholarship Fund for Camp DeWolfe so that there will be funds made available annually for the families and children who need it the most.



## BE PART OF OUR LEGACY



In 1947, encouraged by the enthusiastic support and vision of my predecessor, Bishop James DeWolfe, the Diocese of Long Island prospered the ministry of the Department of Youth, College Work and Camp DeWolfe. This was accomplished to combine in one place on a cliff overlooking the Long Island Sound, the ministries of Acolytes, Young Adults, Girls Friendly Society, Episcopal Athletic League, and Canterbury Clubs and College Chaplaincies. As is the ecclesial reality in our branch of the church, "place" mattered then and it does today.

Seventy-five years later, Camp DeWolfe remains a vibrant and holy gathering place for the formation and recreation of countless people seeking a deeper understand of faith, a relationship with Jesus Christ, the Sacramental and liturgical life of the Episcopal church and a meaningful connection to our common humanity and the beauty of God's creation that surrounds us. I am extremely proud of the ministry of Camp DeWolfe and transformative nature of its programs and welcome to all who seek a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence C. Provenzano,  
Bishop of Long Island





A group of people, mostly young adults, are sitting on a sandy beach at sunset. They are all looking towards the ocean where a man in a blue shirt and cap is standing and speaking. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange glow. The people are silhouetted against the bright sky and water.

Our heartfelt thanks  
to all who have  
contributed to the  
mission and vision of  
Camp DeWolfe over  
the years. We look  
forward to continuing  
to inspire the next  
generations.

*Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Camp DeWolfe!*

**YOU CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE  
TODAY!**



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