

# Summer Internship at Camp Walden

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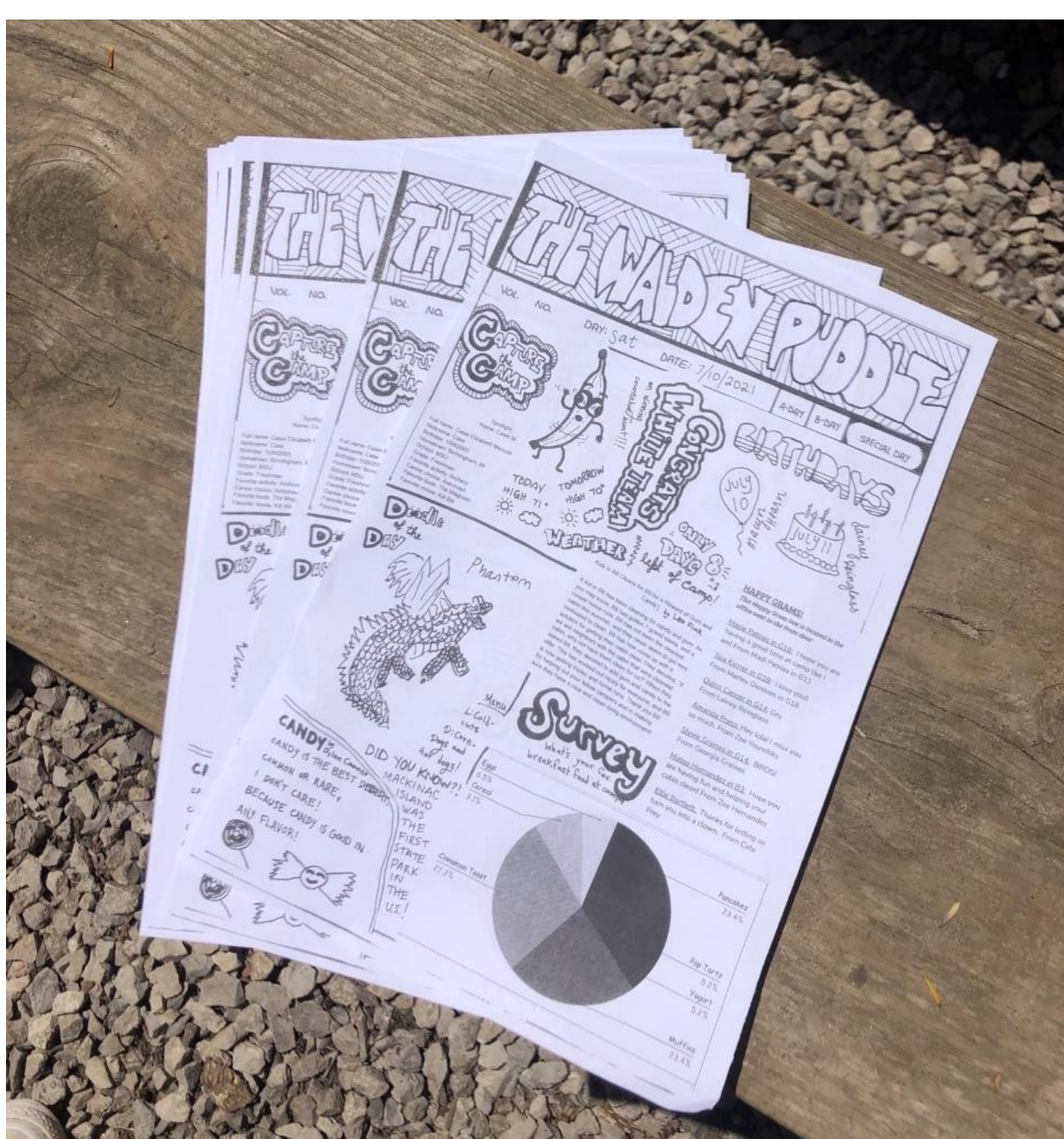
This summer I worked at a traditional sleep-away camp called Camp Walden. The camp is located in Cheboygan, Michigan and sits on Long Lake. I worked as a camp counselor as well as an office worker. As a camp counselor I was assigned to 12 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls. I was also given two co-counselors.

*As a camp counselor I:*

- Worked with other counselors to create a gameplan for our cabin including rules, activities, and a daily routine
- Created a trusting, inclusive environment
- Led classes that the campers would choose for themselves
- Kept the campers comfortable, content, and safe

*As an office worker I:*

- Distributed mail
- Arranged birthday calls
- Wrote the camp newspaper
- Made store orders
- Answered the phone, speaking mainly to parents



The Walden Puddle – The camp newspaper I co-created

## OPPORTUNITIES

Being a camp counselor isn't just watching over a group of children all day, at Camp Walden opportunities include;

- Teaching a class of your choice
- Creating a new class if you have a specific interest or hobby
- Being a lifeguard and participating in water activities
- Learning a new skill
- Being a Unit Programmer
- Challenging yourself
- Meeting new people
- **Having fun!**

Two campers from my B&W film class shooting on a sunny day



Rolling film for campers to shoot – A new skill I learned

## NECESSARY SKILLS

Although you do not have to have previous experience with children, there are a few skills you will need to have, these include

- Ability to lead
- Ability to detach from outside world and personal issues
- Problem solving skills
- Ability to stick to a schedule
- **Responsibility**
- Positive and calm composure
- Compassion
- Ability to work with others (teamwork)
- Communication skills

*“Summer camp should be a place where kids feel safe and supported; where they develop independence and gain skills that feed their resilience and self confidence; and where they form lasting friendships and craft lifelong memories.” – Camp Walden Philosophy*

Counselors getting sailboats ready to take campers out on Long Lake



## CONCLUSIONS

Working at a summer camp is a wholesome way to spend a summer as well as gain experience in the Parks and Recreation field. I really enjoyed assisting these campers to build a relationship between themselves and the natural environment. This summer I also learned a lot about myself and what I am capable of in respect to responsibility and overcoming challenges. I learned new responsibilities that I don't think any other job could provide. I may return to Camp Walden next summer.

