



camp lightbulb

2018-2019

foreword

Like many gay boys who came of age in the 20th century, my camp experience was fraught with terror and humiliation. The tyranny of sports, the close camaraderie of boys for whom I felt either too much affection or none at all and the communal showers set me apart and kept me to myself. I did everything I could to disappear; I even tried to break my leg one summer as a way of cutting short my stay at camp. It would be many years before I found a community of fellow queers and learned that being myself was in fact my superpower.

Camp Lightbulb has reinvented camp for the 21st century. They are providing queer youth with the opportunity to discover their superpower at an early age; an environment where they can be safe, seen and celebrated; and perhaps most importantly, a community where they can be accepted as themselves. This current generation is proving that young people know who they are from the get-go, and though they may not always have the freedom to express themselves, they will not be deterred from moving closer toward those principals we claim to hold most dear - Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. Camp Lightbulb is more than just a camp; it's a commitment to our future – one that encourages LGBTQ+ young people to express and explore themselves in the company of others.

James Lecesne

James Lecesne is an actor, author, screenwriter and co-founder of The Trevor Project. He has written several books as well as the screenplay for the Academy-award winning short film *Trevor*.

dear camp lightbulb family,

Our mission is to create magical summer camp experiences for LGBTQ+ youth and their families filled with fun, pride, community, friends, support, self-discovery and memories to last a lifetime. And I truly believe that is exactly what we do.

We were one of the first camps in the United States dedicated to LGBTQ youth and the first to be national. I am so proud of our trailblazing role.

At Winter Camp, our first Family Camp during Memorial Day Weekend and at our expanded two weeks of Summer Camp in Provincetown, we welcomed more than seventy-five campers in 2019, bringing our total to over three hundred campers served.

We learn and improve with year and try to make every camp as seamless and well-crafted as possible. Hopefully, we will one day perfect just the right mix.

We have big plans for 2020. We are adding a third week to our Summer Camp in Provincetown, adding Family Camp over Labor Day Weekend and running a number of pilot weekend camps in key areas across the United States.

We will celebrate our 10-year anniversary in 2021. What a milestone! I cannot help but to feel immense gratitude for the opportunity to live my purpose for the past nine years.

And just the same, I am grateful to those who make it all come together: campers, parents, counselors, board members, volunteers, donors, grantmakers, sponsors, event guests and our first-rate home team.

It fills me with joy and pride to be part of it all.

X Puck



winter camp
santa monica







I am
a girl.





family camp

santa monica



parent letters

“I want to tell you how much both C and A enjoyed Camp. I can honestly say that it was the best experience of their teenage years. They came home with so much more self-confidence, and friends that I hope they will stay in contact with for a long time. C remarked "Now I know that nothing's wrong with me - that I can make friends and have people accept me." - Parent

“I'm truly grateful to you and your staff for this wonderful camp experience. It was truly life changing and we're already talking about them going back next summer. I cannot thank you enough for the amazing time C had at camp. They came home with a smile I haven't seen in so long. The love you showed has truly helped C show their sweet, loving side with confidence. Thank you for helping them to feel really good about themselves. They can't wait for next year!” - Parent

“I just wanted to send a quick note of appreciation for the amazing job you all do for our kids. C has grown so much in confidence, self-awareness, trust and understanding in this past week. The change is even visible. Words cannot adequately express the feeling as a parent.” - Parent

“C came home from camp absolutely BEAMING this year - so glad to see how she has progressed and become more confident. Camps and friends really help her, of course having great counselors and familiarity with repeat staff is a huge comfort for her as well. Your team does wonderful things and it's nice to watch how CL is growing. Again, thank you for all you do and plan!” - Parent

“C absolutely loved camp! They said it was the best week of their life and cannot stop talking about the camp and how great it was. C has not been this excited or happy about anything ever before.” - Parent



summer camp

provincetown















JEN & JERRY'S
Ice cream comes in all flavors

THRASH
SKATEBOARD

THE RECORDS



support us

WHAT / Camp Lightbulb is a 501(c)3 nonprofit camp for LGBTQ youth established in 2011. We are one of the first camps in the US dedicated to LGBTQ youth, the first to be national and are very proud of our trailblazing role. **OUR MISSION** / We create magical summer camp experiences filled with fun, pride, community, friends, support, self-discovery and memories to last a lifetime.

WHY / LGBTQ youth are six to eight times more likely to be bullied, homeless, depressed or suicidal. At Camp Lightbulb our campers find a happy, loving and safe space. We create stepping stones on their journey of self-discovery that impact their happiness, self-confidence and resilience. They develop a strong sense of their own true identity, dignity and self-worth. When asked if our campers grew in self-confidence at camp, 89% agree.

WHO / We started with nine campers in 2011 and have since welcomed more than 300 campers. Campers range in age from 14 to 18, identify across the LGBTQ spectrum and come from all over the US. Around 25% of campers come from minority communities, 30% are trans, 40% receive financial support and 50% are returning campers. This year we are expecting 150 campers. Our camp is needs-blind, so we say yes to every prospective camper regardless of financial circumstances.

WHERE / Our camps are unique as they take place in vibrant LGBTQ communities in Provincetown, Los Angeles and New York City. We stay at local hostels with activities scheduled around town and bring our campers together with the very best of the local LGBTQ+ community. When asked if campers felt more connected to the LGBTQ community at camp, 92% agree.

HOW / We focus on fun, not intervention, and incorporate six main elements: art, community, fun, the outdoors, service and well-being. Our camps are relatively small with a high counselor-to-camper ratio, allowing for lots of personal attention. Everyone gets to know one other, which helps create a close-knit, lasting community.

WHEN / Year 2020 marks our ninth year of producing camps and ninth consecutive year of growth. We are expanding to three weeks of summer camp in Provincetown, running day camps in Los Angeles and New York City and hosting family camps over Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

INVESTING IN CAMP LIGHTBULB

Your support helps make a direct impact on the development and growth of both our organization and its campers. It is a simple and effective way to directly engage and showcase your support to our youth, their parents and the wider LGBTQ community.

PRESENTING / \$50,000 Underwrites a whole summer season

SEASON / \$35,000 Underwrites one of our two overnight Provincetown camps

PLATINUM / \$10,000 Underwrites one of our weekend family camps or queer summer school day camps

GOLD / \$5,000 Underwrites accommodation and transportation cost

SILVER / \$2,500 Underwrites food and programming costs

BRONZE / \$1,000 Underwrites the equivalent of a full campership

FRIEND / \$250 - \$500 · COMMUNITY / UP TO \$250 · IN KIND

If you would like to get in touch, please contact Rob Williams at rob@camplightbulb.org. You may also visit us at www.camplightbulb.org/support-us.





supporters

season

Kevin Huvane

platinum

Linda Rohler & Jane Barber • AssetMark • Pfizer

gold

Rob Saltzman • Wiebe Tinga & Hans Eijmberts • Pathways for
Change

silver

Andy Cohen • Ruth-Ann Huvane • Brian Pendleton • Christy & Kevin
Uffelman • Black & White Party Baltimore • Boston Pride Community
Fund • California Gay Adventures • FMC Ice Sports

bronze

Jane Barber • Jason Cervantes • Steve Cook & Allan MacKinnon • Jon Paul Couture • Thomas Diehl
• Bill Docker & Tom Stearns • Nick & Gaye Julian • Anissa Pollard • William Sheehy • Daniel Spring &
Jean Marc De Silva • George Spies • Paul Steinke & Jordan Von Netzer • John Wells • William
Anderson Wittekind • FLAG Flag Football • Equality Fund • Riverside Community Care •
Provincetown United Methodist Church

friend

Scott Anderson • Joe Bolduc • Craig W. Combs & Charles G. Roberts • Maha Dakhil • Jamie Dellinger • Penny
Lane Emerson • Quinn Ezralow • Matt Galsor • William Gannon • Brian Gawronski • Rita Gertner • John &
Virginia Goncalo • Andrew Gunn • Matthew Hamill • Gail Hardenbergh • Adam Harrington • Colleen Hill • Dana
Hoey • Ronald Homer • Jack Hornor & Ronald Skinn • John Julian • Steven Kay • Robert Ketterer • Richard
Krupp • Jay Kubesch & Fermin Rojas • Donna Langley • Bryan Lourd • Joel Lubin • Donna Mahan • Brian
McNaught • Craig Milan • Carlos Pantoja & Charley Walters • Peter Perkowski • Lloyd Princeton • Aaron Rhyne
• Marty Sargeant • Maxine Shaffer • Mark Sikes • Bryan Stinson • Scott Taber • John Truzzolino • Michael Veale
• Vaughn Waters • Jeci Wood • Cyd Zeigler

community

Scott Allegretti • Jay Ayers • Randy Barbato • Cassandra Benson • Greg Berlin • Nathaniel Bradford • Jane
Bunker • Diane Burcz • William Burton • Bonnie Catena • Yawar Charlie • Mychelle Charters • Linda Daniels &
Lisa Paine • Shelby Dillinger • Douglas Drummond • Keith Dunhill • Michael Ekman • D. Standwood Everett •
Michelle Fisher • Robert Jason Fisher • Kathy Franklin • Deborah Fraser • Eric Fuller • Gaelan Gallagher •
Maureen Garber • Gene Guevara • Shannon Hill • Nan Hirst • Jeffrey Hobgood • Roberta Hurley • Lisa Jeffrey •
Tamara Kolz Griffin • Barbara Krein • Todd Lambert • George Le Clair • Dustin Leer • Christopher Leiter • Eric
Lichtmess • John Marrkand • Meredith Loyd-Marshall & Tom Marshall • Peter Max-Muller • James McKowen •
Mason Meyer • James Moretti • Andrea Morgan • Philip Nuding • Robert Pierce, Jr. • Rachel Ramras • Alex
Ricardo • Heath Rosenthal • Lesley Rouso • Nathaniel Santos • Adam Slone • Joshua Stinnett • David Strah •
Alan Uphold • Joshua Velasquez • Ruelle Watson • Denise Whalen • Verizon Foundation

thank you

**Leslie Barclay
Tom Bercu
Zan Brigham
Catherine Clark
Virginia Goncalo
Nick Julian
Amy Kerr
Puck Markham
Gregory Nato
Brian Nesbitt
Brian Pendleton
Brian Rafanelli
Linda Rohler
Michael Salcido**

**Rob Williams
Nick Yarmac
Josh Young
Rick Young
Boston Harbor Cruises
Boy Smells Candles
Dignity Boston
DragCon
Pete Buttigieg Campaign
Town of Provincetown
Provincetown Town Hall
Rebecca Minkoff
Southern Glazer's
Truro Licensing Department**

