

## Another Great Summer!



Tomahawk summer 2015 was a blast! With over 9,000 guests coming through camp, there were tons of opportunities to make new friends and memories that will last a lifetime! A big new attraction this year at the Boy Scout camps was the aqua trampolines! Scouts jumped around on them, slid across the water woosh platforms, and launched each other off the blobs! For the Webelos in Navajo, two water woosh floatables were a big hit as well! These platforms led to lots of fun games like water dodgeball and king of the woosh! The new floatables were popular in all the subcamps and made the beach an even more fabulous place to visit!

In all the Scoutcraft areas across camp, each subcamp was given a huge stack of treated poles to use to make the most awesome Scoutcraft structures they could! Scouts got to utilize the all new constructions like the massive rope swing, monkey bars, swinging staircases, and much more! The new poles

saved Scoutcraft a great deal of time that it would take to cut down and strip new poles from the woods, and will last much longer! With dozens of new structures to climb and explore, there's no limit to the fun that campers can have in Scoutcraft!

Tomahawk now has its own Journalism Team! Scouts seek the best scoop around camp and write an article to be published in a fun weekly newsletter. It was jam packed with fun and exciting articles about new activities at camp, interviews with staff, helpful health

and safety tips, and so much more! Scouts learned about news reporting and how to edit and publish a newsletter.



The fun at Tomahawk doesn't end with the summer. Looking forward to winter camping, the massive snow tubing hill has been re-vamped and is now better than ever. The massive 350 foot long tubing hill had the banks built up on the two huge turns. Scouts can start higher on the hill and have even more fun rocketing down! The tube shoots out over the frozen lake and is a fun activity for winter campers of all ages.

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### 2015 Holiday Party: December 28th 6:30-10:00 p.m.

Join us for our annual holiday gathering where you can visit and catch up with fellow Tomahawk staff alumni. Food and drinks will be provided.

Please feel free to bring a pinewood derby car to race. It will cost \$5 to enter into the pinewood derby tournament, or \$10 to rent a car to race. All proceeds go to support the Tomahawk Alumni Association.

Bring your old class B shirts or uniforms. We'll be giving them to new staff during staff week.

## Interview with President-Elect Derek Flom

What years did you serve as a Tomahawk staff member and what positions did you hold?

- 1988 Super CIT 6 weeks Sioux Scoutcraft, Chippewa multi areas (Only two subcamps at that time)
- 1989 Kitchen Staff - Skid row in Chip really wanted to be in program but was happy to be at Tomahawk - still connected to staff on FB from that year
- 1994 Sioux Camp Commissioner - I took over archery range duties as well second half of season due to departure of our archery range director
- 1995 -1996 White Pine Shooting Sports
- 1997 Foxfire Outpost Director - Best time ever! Awesome staff and we made fun happen!
- 1998 Navajo Camp Director - Toughest camp job ever. Seriously if want to be a senior at camp, be an area director. managing a camp is more than most realize.
- 1997 Winter Camp Snowbase Ranger - I lived at camp for a full year, so much happens behind the scenes year round. When you see a camp ranger during the season don't just wave at some point in the summer thank them and get to know them.



What were some of your favorite experiences?

The Cope Course in 1987, ecology with MJ, working with the properties committee remodeling cabins, living at camp in the winter...too many to list. Campfires, Sioux staff dinning, any dining hall singing crazy songs, going to camp



school, visiting a Sioux troop on a rainy day waiting for the food truck. Riding on the food truck

as a Commissioner, and trying to resurrect the staff lounge in the admin building! Friends I got to know! Sean & Lloyd, Myron. Dudley locking up my bike behind the Directors cabin for speeding. Jeff Sulzbach for throwing me in the lake. Joey Silverman for teaching me how to windsurf and the importance of tan feet! I could go on and on. Marshall for just being the beach guy who can rock a campfire skit! How many pages do we have I could go another 5,000.

How did your experience at Tomahawk affect your life?

I have Human Resource oversight at my company and I have a Boy Scout experience. Some of my best employees were scouts and went to camp. I can't emphasize this enough; First Class or Eagle Scout if they spent time in the program at all, they are a better employee. Note: put this experience on your resume. It means more than you think for not only a summer job but also a career.

### Board Members Needed

Interested in serving with Derek on the Tomahawk Alumni Association Board of Directors? Please contact Brian Halloran at [bhalloran@nsbsa.org](mailto:bhalloran@nsbsa.org) or 651-254-9178.

## Do you have any advice for current staff members and what has Scouts / camp meant to you?

Well I could go on for a hundred hours and still not convey the level of impact or importance on this life experience. My experience working at camp has saved my life many times and its not just recognizing hypothermia, it's working in a group, it's making a 4th day of merit badge class in the rain at camp laugh, and it's untold lessons you can apply later in life that they don't teach in college. It's about the memories. Some of my best friends today are from camp even if we only see each other on social media or once or twice a year. My advice to current staff is to get to know as many of your fellow camp staff as possible. Be proud and be competitive but not cocky. If you have worked at camp more than one year you not only influence the boy but you also influence the 1st year staff member and to everyone you connect with. Just being selected as camp staff is a special honor. My challenge to each of you is to get to know at least two people in each sub camp. Twenty years from now you can thank me by passing along the same message. I keep in touch with as many former camp friends as possible. Network, you never know when you need to know that somebody! It's even more impactful if they are a friend from camp! Most of all the honor of still being involved today to watch the awesomeness of this place give life experiences to so many more!



## Sean Merhar Creative Leadership Award

The Sean Merhar Creative Leadership Award was created following Sean's untimely death following his long battle with depression, in 1997. Sean was 22. The award began in 1998.

Sean had been a camp staff member for 7 years, working at Sioux Camp, Chippewa Beach, and served two years as the Sioux Camp Director 1995-1996.

The award is presented annually to the camp staff member who best represents Tomahawk Scout Reservation in his or her position.

Sean's family and friends established the award due to Sean's great love of Tomahawk. It was created to encourage and recognize staff members who reach beyond the normal job requirements and work outside the box, demonstrating a leadership style that distinguishes them from their peer group with similar responsibilities.

Candidates are nominated by Tomahawk Staff with finalists reviewed by

camp leadership, past winners of the award and the Merhar family.

To be considered for the award the candidate must be a camp staff member in good standing, must have served one or more previous seasons on camp staff, and demonstrated creative leadership skills. Active participation in campfire programs is a plus.

This year's winner is Matthew "Sunshine" Casper. He can always be counted on to have a smile for everyone he sees. Morale improves when he enters a room.

At Chippewa Beach, Scouts are always excited for his sailing class. He makes everyone around him want to be better scouts.

At campfire, he always brings the most enthusiasm. He constantly encourages staff to improve their skills, and is always the first to volunteer to fill in wherever needed. His attitude and energy help make every campfire the best experience possible.



In his off time, he shows the same leadership and passion for teaching that he exhibits in his program. He spent many hours teaching other staff how to sail, how to improve their merit badges, and other skills.

## Tomahawk Instructor Awards



Chelsea Stein

Chippewa - Scoutcraft Instructor



Zach Wild

White Pine - Aquatics Instructor



Matt Browder

Sioux - Brownsea Instructor



Grace Freitag

Navajo - Ecology Specialist

Each year, the Alumni Association seeks nominations for the Outstanding Instructor Award. This award is given to one staff member from each sub camp who demonstrates passion and success with outstanding instruction to scouts throughout the summer. There were many excellent nominees this year, and it was hard to narrow the field down to just four.

From Chippewa, first year staff Chelsea Stein has been a powerhouse in Scoutcraft and constantly seeks to improve her area and her Cooking merit badge program. She fills scouts with a newfound love and respect for cooking. She makes completing the final day of Cooking an achievement that scouts are just as proud of as climbing the tower or passing their swim test.

Up in White Pine, Zach Wild exceeded expectations as a third year Aquatics Instructor. His passion for boating of all kinds and for teaching younger scouts is infectious, getting scouts fired up over Rowing and Small Boat Sailing. He leads scouts by exam-

ple, demonstrating the skills with an incredible energy and passion. He loves learning new skills himself, and is constantly seeking new things to show campers.

As a second year staff, Matt Browder's love of Sioux's Brownsea program is clear in everything he does. He strives to always talk to first year scouts as equals, putting himself on their level to better convey skills to them. He is engaged from start to finish each week, with unbound energy that seemingly comes from nowhere first thing in the morning that propels him become more absorbed in whatever it is that he may be doing.

In Navajo, no one shows more passion for teaching than first year staff member Grace Freitag. Her nature walks have an energy to them that quickly spreads to every scout out on the trail with her. She is constantly researching new ideas to use and tidbits to teach and improve her program every week. Ecology is definitely a more exciting area to be in with her around.

## Alumni Service Day

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 7th, Tomahawk Alumni Service Day! There will be many exciting projects to choose from that will have a huge impact on for camp. Plus, you get a chance to catch up with other alumni. Last year a new floating dock was built, many benches were built and distributed around



camp, and a new shelter went up at the White Pine horse corral. All these played a large role in running camp this past summer, and the next alumni service

weekend is just as important. Thirty volunteers came out to volunteer. Thank you to everyone who came to last years service day, and we hope to see many more out there this spring! For more information, feel free to contact Brian Halloran at [bhalloran@nsbsa.org](mailto:bhalloran@nsbsa.org) or 651-254-9178.

