

### SPORTS, FUN, AND FRIENDS SINCE 1905

Susquehannock encourages the moral, social, and physical development of campers, primarily through the medium of team and individual sports. Their program is designed to engender self-reliance, self-confidence, and leadership ability. In athletic competition, at the dining table, and in cabin life campers are taught tolerance and respect for others, how to deal gracefully with conflict, and a sense of fair play.

The PeaceCamp Initiative seeks to share the strength of Susquehannock's internationally-recognized program with deserving athletes from Israel and Palestine - creating bonds of friendship and respect that will, upon their return, help sow seeds of understanding between their strife-torn communities.

### I BELIEVE IN SUMMER CAMP

**I believe in Summer Camp. In the simple joys of sunshine and sports and a spring-fed mountain lake. I believe in kids learning to live together, to play together, and to face challenges together.**

I believe that kids learn who they are, and who they want to be, while immersed in intense activities of their choosing – where joy and challenge combine in equal measure to forge, one experience at a time, the responsible and caring adult each child will become. I believe that school may be good at filling heads, but that camp is better at filling hearts.

I believe that a few weeks away from home and from parents is a great opportunity to explore who you want to be when it comes time to be on your own; indeed that only by establishing a context away from your familiar home is it possible to see past everyone's expectations and examine who you really are.

I believe that kids are tribal – that they will be irrevocably influenced by their peer groups, and that the only way for this to be a good thing is for the peer groups to have leaders who are both cool enough to inspire and experienced enough to be safe. I believe that kids want and need healthy leadership from someone they can imagine becoming – someone younger than their parents and older than their peers.

I believe that kids need someone in their lives besides their parents, someone who doesn't have to care about them, but does anyway. Someone who can accept them as they are, and convince them that they are already worthy of respect, affection, and dignity. Someone who, while accepting their present, inspires their future.

**I believe that the incandescent joy of a happy child transcends every ethnic and economic distinction humankind has invented to keep us apart. I believe that every prejudice, every oppression, every resentment, and every misunderstanding can be cured more quickly by mixing everyone's children together, making two teams, and letting them play than by any form of conflict resolution, court intercession, or legislation we've come up with so far.**

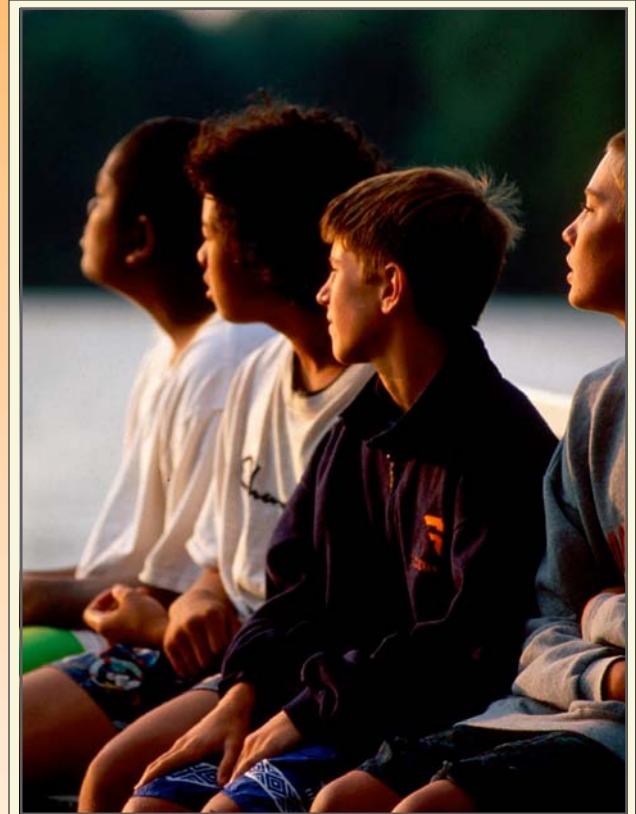
Summer camp, it seems, is primarily and originally an American institution, with a few camps, including Susquehannock, having histories and traditions that date back more than a hundred years. Many camps attract not only staff from many countries, but also an international contingent of campers from families who want their children to grow up able to speak English and to have American friends. I have, conversely, been able to travel all over the world, connecting with camp friends in Spain, England, Switzerland, Japan, Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands – not bad for spending summers in upstate Pennsylvania.

I believe that every kid would prefer that school lasted for three months, and summer lasted for nine. Not a ringing endorsement for how we run schools, but proof we all could, and should, learn something from summer camp..

*Robert Kent, Program Director*

# PEACECAMP 2008

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE  
AT SUSQUEHANNOCK



### JOIN US IN MAKING PEACE POSSIBLE



Your tax-deductible donations allow us to offer a safe and growth-filled summer to Israeli and Palestinian children at one of America's oldest and finest camps.

Contact us to find out more:  
[info@peacecampinitiative.org](mailto:info@peacecampinitiative.org)  
[www.peacecampinitiative.org](http://www.peacecampinitiative.org)

# THE PEACECAMP INITIATIVE

Camp Susquehannock, one of America's oldest and finest sports camps, in conjunction with the International Peace Dojo organization Aiki Extensions, is holding a dozen spaces open for the 2008 season - for deserving athletes, both boys and girls - six from Israel and six from Palestine.

## SPECIAL PEACE PROGRAM DETAILS

In addition to fully participating in Susquehannock's robust multi-sport clinic and competition program, members of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations will meet regularly with PeaceCamp staff members who will facilitate - in Hebrew and Arabic as well as English - conversations in which everyone will get the chance to share their own conflict experiences in a safe and thoughtfully moderated environment.

Guiding the PeaceCamp program will be the spirit of Aikido, a Japanese martial tradition that combines the samurai arts of sword and grappling with the philosophical desire to manifest harmony in the face of conflict. As such, it addresses situations of conflict that manifest themselves physically, but also offers insight into how to prevent or redirect the energies-social, political, or psychological-that might otherwise become conflict in one or another aspect of our lives. By integrating physical, emotional, and intellectual components, the PeaceCamp program seeks to forge in each participant a stronger and firmly grounded conviction that peace is not only possible, but something they can make happen.

## THOUGHTFUL PEACEFUL PLAY

Almost as important as the guided conversations and close supervision is the opportunity for all these kids to simply get out on the field and play, to swim in our pristine lake, to enjoy the excellent food in our dining hall, and to spend time getting to know campers from all over America and the rest of the world.

Sports, which we play competitively almost every day, are intense, but sportsmanship and fun are more important than the final score. Campers are placed on teams by ability,

rather than by age or cabin, so that each camper on every team is good enough to contribute to their team's success, and to experience how teamwork helps make everything possible.



## SPONSOR A PEACE CAMP DELEGATE

FULL SCHOLARSHIP FOR 4 WEEKS & TRAVEL IS \$5000

LEVEL	TUITION + TRAVEL	TOTAL
WHITE BELT	150 + 100	250
BLACK BELT	500 + 250	750
SENSEI	2000 + 500	2500
SHIHAN	4000 + 1000	5000



## HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HELP

*Camp Susquehannock and Aiki Extensions hope to make these 12 life-changing Peace Camp spots available to Israeli and Palestinian kids regardless of their ability to pay. While Camp Susquehannock is, for its part, offering discounts across the board, there are still significant travel and tuition expenses the program needs to cover. The generous support of individuals, foundations, and faith communities will help the Peace Camp Initiative succeed. Please do your part today.*

