

SENIOR RECOGNITION INTRODUCTION

The text below is read by Belknap's director at each candlelight as a preface to our Senior Recognition awards.

Gene Clark, Jr., the director of Camp Belknap from 1960 – 1988, was a true believer in the tenet that future leaders are not born, but trained. His sustained belief in this principle inspired him to take what had been a highly acclaimed leadership program at Belknap to a greatly heightened level. Gene Jr.'s vision for the Belknap Leadership was to identify young men in the Senior Division with the potential to become leaders, train and nurture them in the fundamentals of "leadership by example," place them in positions of responsibility, and help them grow through trust, support, and the example of others. Gene's extraordinary faith in young men over the years helped bring his vision to reality, as the Belknap leadership has grown and continues to grow steadily in strength and depth. This is certainly one of Gene's greatest and most enduring legacies. Therefore, it is in Gene Clark Jr.'s name that we wish to recognize all of Belknap's future leaders, our Senior Recognition recipients.

The Senior Division Leaders take the Gene Clark Jr. Senior Recognition selection process very seriously in an effort to identify those boys with the trainable leadership qualities we desire. We understand our Senior Division is filled with many talented, kind boys with a love for Belknap, and we know that most all of them will make enormous contributions to future society through their jobs and through their roles as family men. We regret that we have a finite number of leadership positions here to offer.

We thank *ALL OF THE SENIOR DIVISION CAMPER*s for their love of Belknap, for their commitment to camp, and for what they've meant to Belknap campers and leaders over the years. To those Seniors who will not return another summer go our best wishes and our sincerest gratitude.

REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A BELKNAPPER. YOU SHOULD FEEL EXTREMELY PROUD OF YOUR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LIFE OF A BELKNAP SUMMER!

The boys whose names I will read shortly have been identified by the Senior Division Leaders with the support of our Leadership Director and Leader Corps Director, in a long line of tradition as this session's *Gene Clark Jr. Senior Recognition Recipients*. From this group of boys and those identified in the other three sessions of camp will come next year's Leader Corps.

These Seniors have exhibited during their stay at camp this summer some important traits that we feel indicate they have the potential to become future Belknap leaders. They have been **CONSISTENTLY POSITIVE AND TRUSTWORTHY**; They have **PARTICIPATED ENTHUSIASTICALLY IN ALL AREAS OF CAMP LIFE**; They have **MADE AN IMPORTANT, POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR CABIN AND DIVISION**, and they have **SHOWN TRAINABLE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES**, which include a *STRONG SENSE OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, SELF CONFIDENCE, RESPECT FOR OTHERS, KINDNESS, AND HELPFULNESS*.