



Spencer Ordway

Halsey Gulick Award Recipient 2021

This year's recipient of the Halsey Gulick Award was born into camping. Less than a year old when his parents purchased Winona Camps, this extraordinary individual has filled every camp role, served on Maine Summer Camps committees for decades, and has made an indelible mark on the full range of camp operations both at his own camp and those across Maine.

Camping is in his DNA, and his talents and commitment are invaluable.

Over the years, from camper to counselor, unit director to assistant director to director, this recipient has developed a mastery of the camping profession that is unparalleled. Both an outdoor educator and seasoned coach, he has made particularly lasting contributions to the joint Maine Summer Camps and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Junior Maine Guide Program.

The JMG program director calls him a “guiding light” and “quiet leader” for the JMG program, whose efforts around pandemic procedures helped make the 2021 JMG Testing Camp happen. He has also long chaired the JMG Board meetings, and “always gets the job done.” He is the go-to person for questions and problem-solving. When the program moved from Swan Island to the Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve it was this individual who retrieved equipment from the island, facilitated a JMG trailer makeover, and masterminded and provided a van and driver for daily water runs at the current JMG testing site. He has been a true hero in helping to operate this one-of-a-kind outdoor living skills program for youngsters.

He has also facilitated and led the creation of large-scale training programs – Winona Training Clinics -- that for years have positioned staff members from scores of camps to prepare themselves to carry out their camp responsibilities safely and professionally.

At Winona Camps he has spearheaded the creation of approximately 65 wilderness-based trips at Winona Camps each summer, developing a curriculum for campers of all levels and imparting the most essential details, right down to perfect and precise van directions for camper drop-off and pick-up in western and northern Maine's farthest reaches.

The 2021 Halsey Gulick Award recipient is, most of all, a camp director who has developed deep connections with parents, campers, and, in particular, staff. As his sister and co-camp director praises him: “he has very high standards, but he is so well beloved because his high standards don't mean zero tolerance for mistakes of youth.” As a result, his loyal staff respects him to a degree “that it's not even accurate to call them employees,” she continues. “The environment he provides is much more of a family nature.”

A “tremendous camp director,” to whom Winona Camps and camps across Maine extend great admiration and gratitude, the 2021 Halsey Gulick Award is presented to Spencer Ordway.



Past Recipients of the Halsey Gulick Award

For distinguished service to the organized youth camping movement in Maine

Richard Deering – Birch Rock Camp – 2020

As a former Board President his efforts included reorganizing MSC's committees, infusing new energy to the Education Committee and providing clearer purpose to dormant committees. He has served on the Maine Tourism Council as well as ACA, New England's board of directors. Indeed, his advocacy for Maine camps, along with his unfailing support for colleagues and friends, are exemplary of the positive, collaborative nature of MSC. At the same time, he is a successful realtor, no doubt sharing these same qualities. Our recipient has traveled a path from Birch Rock camper to now Birch Rock Camp's Executive Director. Caring and generous, collaborative, and committed, our recipient is described as "a steady flame of the fire that spreads the value of camping, the importance of connection with peers, the power of people joining together."

Lisa Tripler – Kamp Kohut - 2019

A camper in New Hampshire, and, as a young adult at Camp Fernwood, kitchen help, swim instructor and waterfront head counselor, and head counselor. Kamp Kohut was in Lisa's family, in her blood. Owning the camp was Lisa's long-time goal and now she and her husband have owned the coed camp for 27 years. Long involved with Maine Summer Camps, Lisa has served on the organization's Education Committee, Marketing Committee, and Membership Committee. She has provided lengthy and steadfast service on the Board, served as Board secretary, and was involved in numerous momentous organization decisions, such as spinning off MSC and MYCA, and hiring an Executive Director. When Lisa Tripler and her husband Dan Rapaport bought Kamp Kohut almost three decades ago, it was a new adventure. Today, every day, the adventure continues. For her spirit, her energy, and her vast expertise.

Sue McMullan – Alford Lake – 2019

Her first decade provided immediate evidence of a future camping professional of the highest caliber. Whether it was packing out trips, serving as a tent counselor, acting as head of tennis, or head of program, this vibrant addition to Alford Lake Camp came to camp in 1970 and quickly became indispensable. Sue spent 1980-1982 as associate director, then took on the role of co-director from 1983-1991. Since 1992, a 27-year span, Alford Lake Camp has thrived under the direction of our award recipient. For 40 years those abilities have been the key to her leading the camp's senior counselor trainee program. As camp director, this beloved guide and visionary has continued to implement programming and opportunities for the girls Alford Lake Camp serves. From 1980-1982 she served on the board of directors of ACA New England. She served on the board of directors and as education committee chair of Maine Summer Camps for many years. She was also a trustee at Waynflete School.

Alan Kissack – Kingsley Pines – 2018

For more than 40 summers, Alan Kissack has committed unwavering dedication to the growth of youngsters at Maine summer camps. Alan's first foray into camp life was as a camper and then as a staff member in virtually every role at Camp O-AT-KA in Sebago. He then took on the role of Director of YMCA Camp Jordan in Ellsworth. For the past 23 years Alan has served as Director of Kingsley Pines Camp in Raymond. He guided Kingsley Pines through a period of significant expansion, and the camp now hosts nearly 600 children a summer. Alan has also dedicated countless hours to the growth and improvement of Maine camps as chair of the Maine Summer Camps marketing committee. His primary project was spearheading a complete overhaul of MSC website. Alan's overarching goal is the development of children, and he embraces each summer as an opportunity to achieve this goal. Every decision he makes is rooted in what is best for the kids, and he has ingrained this commitment in all the staff who have worked for him.

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Ron Hall – Maine Summer Camps – 2017

From his ten years at Camp O-AT-KA, to his current position as Maine Summer Camps Executive Director, Ron Hall has built on his long-time tenure as an educator in continuing to create positive camp experiences for youngsters from all backgrounds. At Camp O-AT-KA he created a program that met the needs of all boys with all interests. ACA New England has also been the beneficiary of Ron's talent. He has served as board Vice-President, Public Relations and Camp Information Task Force chairs, and was the recipient of an award for meritorious service. Ron has also reached beyond the camping community to raise awareness of Maine camps and their impact on the State of Maine. By connecting with the Maine Tourism Association and Maine chambers of commerce he has generated increased exposure for Maine camps. Upbeat and positive, collaborative, and considerate, a listener always, Ron Hall continues to serve camps throughout Maine with energy, enthusiasm, and expertise.

Tim Ellis – Chewonki – 2016

Tim Ellis's Chewonki career began in 1938. Tim's childhood summers were spent at Chewonki as the son of the head counselor, and eventually Tim forged his own path as a camper and counselor. By the time Tim took over as camp director in 1965, Chewonki was already steeped in 50 years of camping traditions. Tim was the first employee of the newly formed Chewonki Foundation.

In the fall of 1971, Tim pioneered the first residential school program at Chewonki for a group of eighth-grade students. Imagine a 10-day fall program at Chewonki with your eighth-grade class. Tim was the visionary that made this happen. Tim also served as president of the Maine Youth Camping Foundation from 1989 to 1991, giving of his time and experience for the good of all Maine camps. As we look to a future where the camps of Maine have a tremendous opportunity to partner with our schools, we celebrate the leadership of Tim Ellis.

Barry Costa – YMCA Camp of Maine – 2015

Barry has embodied a commitment to the values of Maine camps for decades and has worked tirelessly to preserve and expand those experiences for Maine youth. For more than 25 years of service as Director of the YMCA Camp of Maine, he opened the doors of a true Maine camp experience to thousands of children.

All the while, Barry strived from behind the scenes of day-to-day camp operations to advocate on behalf of

all of Maine's camps. His steadfast and exemplary service to the Maine Youth Camping Association has benefitted camps and campers alike. He spent countless hours in Augusta both providing testimony and being present to monitor legislation on behalf of MYCA and MSC. Fulfilling the Y's long-standing goals of developing mind, body and spirit, Barry made connections with a broad range of Maine groups and non-profits, hosting creative programs and retreats, and tapping into international relationships, specifically China. He is largely responsible for the camp's transformation into a year-round venture. Barry's dedication has been lasting, effective, and instrumental in the irreplaceable camp experience of children across the state of Maine.

Greg Shute – Chewonki – 2014

Greg has provided powerful camp wilderness trip experiences to the children of Maine's summer youth camps, through his own direct trip leading at Chewonki, and as an educator of and advocate for countless wilderness trip programs throughout Maine. From his roots growing up in Belfast and at his family's "camp" on Pitcher Pond in Lincolnville, to his numerous adventures in the woods and on the waters, Greg has seen it all in the Maine outdoors. In 1991 Greg became Chewonki's first Wilderness Trip Director. Through his leadership, he has pioneered new wilderness trips for teens while providing safe wilderness experiences for tens of thousands of campers and students at Chewonki. In 2011 Greg played a vital role on behalf of Maine Summer Camps in working with the state to revise the Maine Trip Leader permitting system for camps, representing Maine Summer Camps as a key partner in the process, working so that the interests of the camps were understood and incorporated. Greg's lasting legacy is that we, as a group of camps, will be able to provide transformative wilderness camping experiences in the Maine outdoors to the next generations of Maine campers.

Fritz Seving – Camp Fernwood -- 2013

Fritz has been a catalyst for positive change and forward thinking in the Maine camp community for the past several decades. A camper from the age of 7, he became a staffer at Camp Robin Hood at 15 and worked at camp through his college summers and recruiting in the winter. Fritz began his career with Fernwood in 1989. Making sure to keep Fernwood's founding principles in the forefront he inspired and excited children to grow and learn during their summers at camp. Fernwood's enrollment grew. In 1998 he founded Fernwood Cove, Maine's first half-season traditional girls' camp on the

Camp Chickawah property, which required extensive reconstruction. He served as President of the Maine Summer Camps from 2003-05 and is currently its Treasurer. He was instrumental in the formation of the Maine Youth Camp Association (MYCA), and is an active member of the board in the role of Vice President. Fritz has been a board member of the Association of Independent Camps (now CODA) and is a founding member and advisory board member of the Maine Camp Experience organization.

Mary Ellen Deschenes – Maine Summer Camps – 2012

Mary Ellen has been involved in Maine camps for over 25 years. As a sponsored child camper, she learned first-hand the long lasting benefits of summer camp and later served as Camp Susan Curtis's Executive Director for 14 years, bringing a camp experience to thousands of Maine's disadvantaged children. For the past decade, Maine Summer Camps has been the primary beneficiary of her talents. She has expanded the services of MSC to its members. Mary Ellen runs the organization efficiently on a modest budget, implemented a fundraising program, and expanded marketing, web presence & membership. She provides valued guidance to camps on regulatory and legislative issues. Mary Ellen was pivotal in the formation of MYCA, the governmental relations "sister" association of Maine Summer Camps. She is a past president of Maine Summer Camps (1995-97) and was a board member from 1990-2002.

Garth R. Nelson – Camp Agawam – 2011*

Garth was destined to be a camp director beginning as a camper at Camp Wyanoke, NH, continuing as a counselor, trip director & waterfront director for a number of years. He moved on to be asst. director & director at Camp Passumpic, Vt. for 5yrs. In 1984 he came to Agawam, after long-time owner Dave Mason retired. He was active in MYCA (now MSC) serving on the board from 1986 – 1993, holding the office of treasurer from '89-'92. He played a pivotal role in the JMG program from '86-91. Garth retired his directorship in 2008, but remained as Director of the Board of Operations until 2010. He is also a long-time girls' soccer coach for Hanover High School, MA, an avid hiker, and has climbed Mt. Washington 100 times. Garth died in 2013.

Pamela Cobb Heuberger – Camp Runoia – 2010

After growing up as a camp kid, Pam headed out on her own to pursue other interests and an MBA, but returned in 1990 to run Camp Runoia as the 4th generation of family directors. Changes she made insured the camp's financial stability. Pam's involvement in Camp Runoia accompanied a growing involvement in MYCA and New England ACA. As president of each organization, she brought vision and leadership to both. Pam also branched out into National ACA service as an ACA board member, Council Delegate and Ambassador. Pam is respected nationally and is a strong voice for New England camps. She is a licensed pilot, scuba diver, avid skier and sailor.

Georgia Koch – Camp Bishopswood – 2009

For a woman who has dedicated nearly her entire adult life to youth camping, it is an interesting footnote that she never went to camp as a child. Georgia moved to New England at the age of 26 was hired by Camp Bishopswood as Camp Director. During her tenure she reached out to groups with special concerns, hosting deaf & hearing impaired campers at Bishopswood, inner city Atlanta kids to NE camps, and hosting Camp Chrysalis, one of the first camp programs for AIDS victims & their families. Georgia is a founding board member of the original MYCA. As a veteran ACA Accreditation Visitor she has mentored many camp directors. Georgia's has a history of going out of her way to help others without good support systems through terminal illness and other serious problems.

Robert Strauss – Camp Wigwam – 2008

Bobby began his camping career at 12 when his parents Helen & Ned purchased Camp Wigwam. Like most camp kids he served every role imaginable at Wigwam. He graduated from Lake Forest College (Illinois) and earned his Master's in Sociology from Florida Atlantic University. In the late 70's he returned to camp taking over as Director from his parents. From 1993 to present he has been active on the MYCF board, serving as President from 2005-07. He started the MYCF buying group and the Annual Spelling bee. He hosts two post season camps: Camp to Belong - a camp to reunite siblings in foster care, and a camp for developmentally delayed and disabled adults & children from the Chicago area.

Steven Sudduth – Wyonegonic Camps – 2007

Steve's camp career started at the ripe old age of 16 months. Forty years later he is co-directing Wyonegonic with his mother, Carol Sudduth. As a young man he attended Camp Winona for ten years as a camper and staff member. He graduated from the University of Vermont. After college he worked in hotel management in Colorado. Upon the death of his father, Steve stepped into the family girls' camp business. From 1999 to present he has been active on the MYCA board serving as Legislative Chair. He is chair of the Legislative Priorities Committee for ACA-NE. He serves on the ACA National Public Policy Committee. He was the recipient of the ACA National Service Award in 2006.

Phil Lilienthal – Winnebago -- 2006

Phil began life in camping nearly at birth. His father, Howard, became owner-director of Winnebago in 1956. After college Phil entered the Peace Corps with wife Lynn and founded Camp Langan in Ethiopia in 1965. The camp operated until 1974. Following Howard's death, Phil returned to assume directorship of Winnebago. In 2003, after son Andy took over as director of Winnebago, Phil resumed his international calling by founding World Camps, Inc. and runs a camp in Africa for children affected by the HIV/Aids crisis.

Dave Mason – Camp Agawam – 2005

Dave was Director of Camp Agawam from 1955 to 1985. His father, Appleton Mason, founded the camp in 1919. One of Dave's visions was to provide local Maine boys with the benefits of a camp experience. In 1971 he and his wife Peg established the Main Idea, a free week of residential camping for disadvantaged Maine boys. The program was awarded the national Eleanor P. Eells Award for Program Excellence in 2005.

Jay Stager – Med-O-Lark – 2004

Jay's passion has been to revitalize Maine camps that were falling on hard times. Camps benefiting from his involvement include Nashoba North, Hidden Valley, Maine Teen Camp and WorldPeace Camp (later called Omni). Jay offered an alternative camp experience at Med-O-Lark in 1967 when he opened a coed camp banned color wars, guns, archery, uniforms, junk food, and strict regimentation. Med-O-Lark was an instant success and has continued to evolve as a child-centered camp ever since.

Ed Trenner – Kamp Kohut – 2004 *

After service in World War II as a decorated pilot, and college, Ed began a camp career that took him from New

York to Maine. He purchased Kamp Kohut in Maine. He was most proud of mentoring new camp leadership and of his efforts to "rescue" several Maine camps. Camp Vega, Camp Wazyatah, Camp Laurel & Laurel South have historical ties to Ed. He was active in MYCA and National ACA, and helped establish the first ACA Standards Program. He died in 2011.

Pat Smith – Camp Wawenock – 2003

Since 1968, Patricia A. Smith, CCD has been with Wawenock and has been a director for the past 15 years. Pat's lifetime commitment to quality camping includes planning seminars and trainings for MYCA and ACA-New England Section conferences. She has been a trainer for Red Cross Water Safety, Life Guard Instructor, ACA Standards visitor, member of the ACA-New England Section Standards Committee for 12 years and was the MYCA membership chair for 13 years. Pat also is an active volunteer in local recreation programming for children in Raymond.

Dick Thomas – Camp Chewonki – 2002

Dick's camping experience at Camp Chewonki in 1970 evolved after college to Development Director and later Camp Director. He has been an active member of MYCA's Board of Directors and was President from 1997 - 99. He initiated a major strategic planning process to set the course for the future of MYCA. Dick has held numerous committee posts with ACA, New England as well as serving as a standards visitor and ACA delegate. He was presented the 2002 ACA NE Section Service Award at the ACA New England Spring Conference.

Betty Cobb – Runoia – 2001 *

Betty began her camping career at the ripe old age of eight - and never missed a summer except during WWII. Betty and husband Phil purchased Camp Runoia in 1960. She was involved with MYCA and ACA as a board member and chaired ACA's Membership Committee for New England ACA for years. She received the ACA Section Honor Award, and National ACA's Regional Recognition Award. Betty was one of the original members of the State Trip Leaders and Junior Maine Guide Advisory Board. Betty passed away in 2003.

Ed Andrews – MYCA Consultant – 2000

Ed was Assistant National Director of the American Camping Association (ACA). He served on the National Board and National Standards Board of the ACA and the Board of both ACA-NE and as Treasurer of MYCA. He was also the Director of Cooperative Education at the University of Maine. As consultant to the MYCA for over

13 years, he was responsible for the oversight of the Camping Services Project at the University of Maine. Ed Andrews is an advocate for Maine children's camps worldwide.

June Gray – Camp Wawenock – 1999 *

June was an education “guru,” with a primary focus on training staff and challenging all of us to expand our notion of what camp can be and do in today’s society. She was part of the leadership team at Camp Wawenock, a camp for girls in Raymond, for over 40 years. She began as a staff member and later was the owner/director. June served many years on the boards of MYCA, and ACA New England. She also served a long tenure on the Editorial Board for the national ACA’s Camping Magazine. June died in 2011.

Tim Wilson – Seeds of Peace – 1999

Tim Wilson’s career in camping began back in 1960, as a counselor at Camp Powhatan. Since then Tim has served as Maine’s First Commissioner on Human Relations in 1970, the headmaster of the Hyde School, and also a teacher in Pittsburgh in the 1980’s. Tim was the co-director in 1993 at Powhatan, and later the director of the Seeds of Peace camp in Otisfield. Through a carefully crafted program, teenagers from war-torn countries are taught to put away prejudice and anger and to learn to live together. Tim’s spirit is an indispensable part of the camp.

Bruce A. Chalmers – 1997

President of Chalmers Real Estate and Insurance and a business member of MYCA for many years. His involvement with a multitude of political activities allows Bruce to be on a first name basis with the former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, and former Secretary of Defense, Bill Cohen. He never hesitates to bring the needs of Maine’s children’s camps to the attention of his many friends in public service. Bruce’s presence as an advisor and friend has been reassuring to camp directors under immense stress during times of disaster. We are fortunate to have had Bruce’s involvement for over four decades.

John Paul Erler – 1996

Jack is a vigilant watchdog over legislative incursions that may harm or benefit the camping community. He has positively and constructively drafted and submitted beneficial alternatives to destructive proceedings in Augusta. Jack answers phone calls from directors, soothing ruffled feathers, counseling patience and cooperation instead of confrontation, and reassuring us that a competent, successful attorney is on the side of

Maine's children's camps.

Davis and Louise Gulick Van Winkle Wohelo – Luther Gulick Camps – 1995

Directors of Wohelo, the Luther Gulick Camps, Davis and Louise have always been the silent leaders and “doers” for Maine camps. Louise was secretary of the New England Camping Association at an early age, and Davis has served as President of the Maine Youth Camping Association. They have chaired the New England ACA Camping Conference on more than one occasion. Since 1989, they have edited and published the Maine Directory of Children's Organized Camps. They have hosted MYCA Board and Fellowship Meetings many times.

Joel W. Bloom – Camp Powhatan – 1994 *

Joel held many local and national leadership roles including President of the New England Camping Association, the Maine Camp Directors Association and Vice President of the American Camping Association. Joel has worked to encourage the camping community to support multi-cultural programs and make camping available to all children. He was instrumental in the creation of the Susan Curtis Foundation, and in 1993, brought the "Seeds of Peace" program to Maine where children from the Middle East camp together to increase the understanding that leads to peace among people. Joel passed away in 2009.

Carol S. Sudduth – Wyonegonic – 1993

Carol Sudduth served many years on the board of the Maine Camp Director's Association, and was Vice President when it became MYCA. She was instrumental in charting a new course for MYCA after studying the needs of Maine camps. Carol served on the ACA New England board for 10 years and is a past President. She also served on the National ACA board, was Dean of four Camp Director Institutes, and also served on the National Certification Board.

Jean G. McMullan – Alford Lake – 1992

As director of Alford Lake Camp in Union, Maine, Jean invited Samantha Smith to take greetings from Maine camps on her history making trip that included visits to camps in the former Soviet Union, thus beginning an incredible increase in the worldwide exchange of campers. Jean has been National President of the American Camping Association but her first love is Maine camps and she has given extensively of her time, energy, and resources collectively and individually to help Maine camp directors succeed.

Helen Herz Cohen – Walden – 1991 *

Helen Cohen created the "Main Idea" as a post-season-ten-day camp for inner city girls. Contributions cover part of the cost of the program, but Helen never allowed lack of funds to prevent any child from attending. She often opened her camp to the local community and encouraged and provided support to other Maine camp directors who needed assistance. Helen died in 2006.

John “Moose” Curtis – Winona – 1989

Moose Curtis, while a counselor at Camp Winona, worked closely with Bob Whiting on the development of the Junior Maine Guide Program. He began directing the testing encampment in 1977 and has continued ever since. Asked by the Governor to help set up the Trip Leaders Safety Certification Program, Moose sat on the original board and served as chair during the development of the Maine Trip Leader Training Curriculum.

Frank M. Levine – Trebor – 1988 *

Frank was named a recipient of the American Camping Association’s highest national honor, The Hedley Dimmock Award. He was also nominated to stand for election to become President of ACA. Frank designed and secured funding for the nation’s first on-going study of Children’s Organized Camping. He created the Gulick Award to "...honor Halsey and to give MYCA status in recognizing subsequent, outstanding leadership." Frank served as Executive Director of MYCA from 1983 to 1989. Frank died in 2012.

Alan B. Ordway - Winona – 1987 *

In addition to regional and national camping leadership roles, Al Ordway served for over twenty-five years on the MYCA Board, including three years as President. Al was owner/director of Camp Winona. As Legislative Chair, he created and served as the only Chair of the Maine State Safe Drinking Water Coalition. Al's public service activity was extensive and included several years of service on town boards and committees and many years as President of the

Board at Gould Academy in Bethel, Maine. “Uncle Al” passed away in 2013.

Philip Jackson Cobb - Runoia – 1986 *

Ranging from the Council of Community Services to the Peace Corps, Phil was remarkably active in public service continuing in the tradition of his father who was Maine's Commissioner of Fish and Game from 1950- 1963. As owner/director of Camp Runoia, Phil devoted much time to positive public policy for camps and served as a Commissioner on the State Drinking Water Board. It was his singular inspiration that originally created the Maine Directory of Children’s Organized Camps and broad marketing plan to encourage camper enrollment from around the world. He died in 2012.

Jean T. Dellert – Forest Acres – 1984

Jean Dellert was the Executive Secretary of the Maine Camp Directors Association from 1965 - 1982. She was the first Executive Secretary of the newly formed Maine Youth Camping Association. In 1984 she served in the Maine House of Representatives and worked to foster positive legislation in support of Maine's camping industry. She continues to assist MYCA in following legislation affecting camping.

Maxine B. King - Fernwood – 1983 *

Macky King was an officer and leader in Maine youth camping for more than 50 years. She was the camp representative on the board of the Maine Publicity Bureau. Macky was six years old in 1921 when her parents built Camp Fernwood and was at camp every year until her death in 2007. During Fernwood’s 75th anniversary in 1995, Macky celebrated her 50th season as Director.

Myron H. Rogers - Tapawingo – 1982 *

Mike Rogers and his wife, Lenore, owned Camp Tapawingo until their 1987 retirement. He spearheaded drive to strengthen MYCA’s finances and insure its future. In retirement Mike served on numerous local boards in Sarasota, FL. He passed away in 2009.

* Deceased





J. Halsey Gulick 1899 – 1980

J. Halsey Gulick, educator, public servant, and outdoorsman, was devoted to organized youth camping and particularly to camps in Maine. He was one of the first camping leaders to call attention to the value of youth camps to the economy of the state.

In the fall of 1934 Gulick was elected President of the New England Camping Association which was the start of many years of volunteer leadership in camping's professional organizations including the Maine Camp Directors Association. In 1982, the Maine Camp Directors Association created the Halsey Gulick Award to recognize other leaders who have given distinguished service to the camping movement in Maine.

Mr. Gulick was one of very few independent camp directors of his day to reside in the state of Maine. As the son of Dr. Luther Gulick, founder of the Luther Gulick camps, he was part of a very small group to be educated with the idea that conducting recreational summer camps for children was a bona fide role for a professional educator. Halsey's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Luther Gulick, were pioneers of the camping movement. They began the first camp at Gale's Ferry, CT., in 1888. That camp was continued in 1906 when they began the Luther Gulick Camps in South Casco, Maine on Sebago Lake. Luther Gulick died during the summer of 1918 due to a strenuous winter of investigating overseas work of the Y.M.C.A. Mrs. Gulick carried on the camps until her death in 1928 at which time Halsey became director.

Halsey Gulick was educated at the Ethical Culture School in New York, Phillips Exeter Academy, and Princeton University, graduating in 1923. He taught physical education at Lehigh University from 1923-1927 and at Princeton from 1928-1929. Mr. Gulick headed the physical education department at the Fessenden School for Boys in Massachusetts from 1931-33. In 1933 he became the director of the junior division of the Mary C. Wheeler School in Providence.

In 1935, Gulick was appointed Headmaster at Proctor Academy in New Hampshire where he served with distinction for 17 years. In 1953, he left the independent school to devote his full time to the Luther Gulick Camps. Mr. Gulick had many interests including all forms of outdoor sports like swimming, fishing, motorboat racing, and skiing. In 1931 he was married to Dorothy Merrill, from Washington, D.C. Together, they directed the camps until the late 1960's, when they turned the day-to-day operations over to their three daughters.

Halsey's daughter Louise Van Winkle and her husband, Davis Van Winkle, directed Camp Wohelo, the Luther Gulick Camps for over 34 years. They now serve as Directors Emeriti.

Their children Heidi and Mark, and Mark's wife Quincy, are now the Directors of Wohelo. There are over 5000 alumni of the camps. Many of the older generation of campers and parents have known all members of the Gulick Family.





The Halsey Gulick Award

The Halsey Gulick Award was first presented in 1982 by the newly formed Maine Youth Camping Association to recognize those people who have distinguished themselves by giving unselfishly of their time, energy, and resources to improve organized youth camping in Maine.

Recipients are selected by their colleagues in camping for their record of public service to the camping movement in Maine. Anyone may recommend candidates for the award. Candidates need not be members of the Maine Youth Camping Foundation dba Maine Summer Camps (formerly MYCA) and their contribution to Maine camping may not necessarily be related to leadership roles within the Association. The award is normally presented at the annual summer meeting of the Maine Summer Camps.

The Maine Youth Camping Foundation dba Maine Summer Camps

Maine Summer Camps is a membership organization for camp directors, staff, parents and supporters of camping and outdoor adventure programs for children and youth. It is dedicated to quality youth camping experiences for children of all ages from all parts of the world.

The Foundation also provides education and training programs for both professional and volunteer leaders of the more than 200 camps in Maine. It conducts a Junior Maine Guide program in cooperation with the Maine State Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Foundation leaders provide counsel and support in the development of a State of Maine Program for Trip Leader Training and Certification.

Membership dues, along with contributions and grants provide the resources for the programs of the Foundation. The organization is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Volunteers, under the leadership of an elected board of directors, conduct programs and activities of the foundation.





Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH FAAP

Jack Erler Award Recipient 2021

It is fitting that the inaugural recipient of the Jack Erler Award has demonstrated through vast expertise and passion a profound influence upon policies affecting Maine youth camps.

A pediatrician, public health expert, researcher, and camp medical director, the 2021 recipient of this award has effected change in childhood vaccine policy. She has made broad contributions both regionally and nationally on issues related to camps' communicable diseases policies. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began 18 months ago she has utilized her full range of medical, research, and communications expertise to guide camps, camping organizations, schools, and policy makers in implementing comprehensive and effective policy measures to keep children healthy and safe. The impact of these efforts has proven invaluable, particularly for the Maine camping industry to which she has longstanding personal and professional connections.

This year's Jack Erler Award recipient was instrumental in helping to ensure the broad childhood vaccination requirements through her work with Maine Public Law, Ch. 154 in 2019. She was well equipped through her nascent consulting practice to redirect her energies in 2020 to addressing camps' and organizations' needs for expert leadership on issues surrounding COVID-19. Since then, she was lead author of a national CDC MMWR study on camps' handling of the pandemic and has assisted both the American Camp Association, the Association of Camp Nurses, federal and state CDC personnel, Maine state officials, camps and public and private schools across the U.S. in managing COVID-19 responses and prevention and mitigation efforts.

The impact of her commitment and abilities has been vast. Like Jack Erler himself, this year's award winner has brought a combination of professional excellence, an understanding of camps' needs, and a spirit of true care for Maine youth camps' missions.

Maine Summer Camps cannot credit this recipient enough, for the successes Maine youth camps experienced these past two summers in implementing communicable disease plans to navigate the challenges of COVID-19.

Acknowledging her profound and positive influence on camps' pandemic landscape, Maine Summer Camps awards the 2021 Jack Erler Award to Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP.





The Jack Erler Award

The Jack Erler Award is given for outstanding contributions to organized camping, as exemplified by Jack Erler's long-time contributions to Maine Summer Camps. It is presented to individuals, groups, or organizations that may or may not be members of Maine Summer Camps, to recognize exceptional support of Maine Summer Camps.

The award recipient will be chosen by the Maine Summer Camps Awards Committee. The award will be granted

only upon determination of an appropriate candidate

Jack Erler's commitment to Maine youth camping has extended throughout his 50-year career as an attorney, collaborator, and advocate. His contributions date back decades, perhaps marked first by his invaluable role in 1974 in working with Maine's Department of Health and Human Services to draft the original youth camp rules. Since then, he has been instrumental in each substantive revision of those rules. For more than 35 years Jack represented camps in the breadth and depth of their operations, including issues related to children, employment, health and safety, regulatory compliance, organizational structure, land use, environmental issues, taxes, transactions, and transition planning. He has been a familiar face at hundreds of staff training sessions, offering vital education to support camps in operating safe, professional, compassionate programming.

His legislative and policy impact has also been vast, evidenced by a rich continuity of knowledge and decades of truly understanding Maine youth camps. A passionate advocate as well, Jack Erler's broad and expert influence has made Maine camps the industry leader throughout the U.S. This award represents Maine Summer Camps' heartfelt respect, admiration, and appreciation for Jack Erler's talent, humility, commitment, and invaluable contributions to Maine's youth camping industry.

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