



Beigette Gill

Halsey Gulick Award Recipient 2024

“She was the perfect person to be in that role at that time because she is such a thoughtful, calm presence.” This praise of the 2024 Halsey Gulick Award recipient is well deserved and widely shared. As the COVID-19 pandemic upended the globe, and the Maine youth camping industry along with it, this year’s award winner, serving as Maine Summer Camps board president, rose to the challenge with grace, intelligence, and quiet and confident leadership. “We needed somebody who could relate on a personal level to what was happening to us emotionally as well as logistically,” this colleague continues.

Vastly capable and organized, with emotional intelligence “off the charts,” she offered hope, strength and an inordinate amount of time to help the MSC members navigate unprecedented challenges. “She was the right leader at the right time,” says a fellow MSC board member. “Not only did she do it with flying colors, but she did it at a time that brought us challenges we had no idea to expect.”

Another colleague says this camp professional “brought a new definition to what ‘pivot’ means.” Together with former MSC Executive Director Ron Hall “they handled themselves so deftly and beautifully.” While Ron “got the job done,” this colleague reports, “this year’s award recipient “really came in to bring some true compassion and helped us find the joy of what we do in very tough circumstances.”

Ron Hall describes this camping professional as “unflappable” during the peak of the pandemic. “Totally supportive to all and always looking for ways to help camps in the most challenging of times. And she was always ready to give us hugs!” The warmth, compassion, and dedication she demonstrated during the pandemic “kept us positive and inspired to do our great work helping kids feel safe and secure,” another colleague reports. “But more than that, she reassured members amidst all the challenges of the pandemic that ‘all will be well.’”

Our 2024 Halsey Gulick recipient exhibits curiosity coupled with self-awareness, taking the time to “understand herself and therefore herself in relationship to others,” says a longtime friend and fellow camp owner/director. She brought great energy and dedication as a former Education Committee chair and, a remarkable listener, she also asks insightful questions. “I think she is extremely knowledgeable but very approachable, so she comes across as such a collaborator rather than a leader from above.”

The awardee has also personally faced a life-altering event, and she and her husband met that challenge with extraordinary resilience, colleagues say. Another camp director praises, she is inspirational in how she teaches “us all what’s so important about picking ourselves up and reinventing ourselves, making us stronger physically, emotionally and spiritually. The greatest thing is that she has so much insight into the human connection that inspires people to reach for their very best,” this fellow MSC board member concludes.

This year’s Halsey Gulick Award winner consistently brings her best in providing such inspiration. Honoring her as a champion of human connection, curiosity and compassion, an individual who buoyed an organization facing unparalleled obstacles with tremendous care and capability, Maine Summer Camps presents the 2024 Halsey Gulick Award to Beigette Gill.