

## YOU SAID IT ABOUT WEST END HOUSE CAMP

During and after each season, we get many unsolicited letters, thank you notes, and emails from parents, as well as many returned surveys. All this gives us positive and constructive feedback about the past summer. It is noteworthy that 80% of these are from the MOMS! Here is just a sample of what we have heard:

**“All the counselors are amazing role models. They are all polite, extremely well spoken and exceptionally bright. They are all true sportsman. Steve Lepler runs West End House Camp flawlessly and with ease. He is professional, nurturing, and tremendously accommodating. Steve is all heart, he takes a genuine interest in every camper and instantly becomes their biggest fan for life. We are so grateful and lucky that our boys get to be part of the West End House Camp family. The bonds that are formed at West End House Camp are unbreakable and immeasurably special.”**

**“I am extremely happy with my WEHC experience. Steve goes above and beyond the scope of what the director at my daughter’s camp does to make the parents feel comfortable and more importantly he empowers the boys to become confident and kind future men.”**

**“The boys had a great summer and loved camp once again! They haven't stopped talking about coming back to camp and are counting the days! \_\_\_\_ was actually crying for the first two days he was back home that he missed camp and wished it wasn't over!!! They would like to come for the whole summer.”**

**“Great counselors and structure for \_\_\_\_\_. He is still glowing when he talks about this summer. It gave him great confidence as he started middle school.”**

**“As my son was a rookie - the staff and leadership went out of the way to make him feel welcomed and completely comfortable.”**

**“Great place, great people, great experience.”**

**“The boys had a great time!! I put the old year book on their bed before they came home and they sat together and read the whole thing. Thanks for everything you did for my boys this summer. Best 10-year-old summer ever!”**

**“\_\_\_\_\_ absolutely loves WEHC as do we!!!! He was sooooo happy this summer.”**

**“Great staff, great program for campers, and thank you for being so flexible with our family needs.”**

**“My son came home super happy and full of confidence. the color war program is amazing -- so creative and challenging at the same time.”**

**“My son had a really good time. This was his first time for overnight camp. Thank you!”**

**“Overall, the boys had a great experience. They loved the league teams and all the different sports activities and evening activities. They enjoyed waterfront as well.”**

**“My son loves Color War best. I love the amount of activity and the unplugging from technology.”**

**“Overall it's a great experience and a beautiful place to escape to and meet new people.”**

**“The fact that from day 1 my son felt part of the WEHC. He connected easily with his peer, counselors and senior leadership.”**

**“I love that the boys came home wanting to go for longer next year and really love the competitive nature of the leagues and the team sports. They loved Desert War and really enjoyed many of the evening activities. They enjoyed the water skiing and tubing but wish they could have done more. Overall it was a great experience.”**

**“I can’t say enough about West End House Camp. My children are grateful to be there. I would recommend anyone send their children there.”**

**“Continuity of staff is a sign of a well run camp. You also keep it fresh but retain the sense of tradition.”**

**“Bill and Steve are amazing. They know all the campers, are responsive to parents and ensure every boy is safe and having a great experience.”**

**“My son attended his first camp session at age 14 this summer. He came home a little more independent, a little more sure of himself. I know it was a positive experience for him being away from home in such a supportive environment. A great place to be a boy in the woods. Such a treat for these boys to get away from our crazy modern hyper paced life.”**

**“ \_\_\_ had an amazing experience. I have heard endless stories of the new friends he made and the adventures he went on. I can’t believe how many new things he tried that I thought he would be too nervous to try, like waterskiing! It sounds like he did really well. He was so excited to tell me about the award he received for rookie of the session. I will admit, I was pretty homesick for him the day the bus left, but the beautiful letters and the pictures posted on Bunk1 assured me that he was having a great time and clearly very happy. The other parents have been so welcoming and inclusive on Facebook, welcoming us to "the family" for life. You guys really lived up to the hype! \_\_\_ will definitely return next summer and stay longer. I promised him!”**

**“I just wanted to reach out and say thank you for running such a great camp and being so responsive to each camper. \_\_\_ had a great time and had a lot of memories to share.”**

**“Thanks, Steve. \_\_\_ had a lot of nice things to say about the camp, and said he wanted to return next year. He said he had good conversations with you about many things – including how New Balance sneakers are underrated! – and enjoyed Bill’s guidance on chess and really enjoyed the spelling exercises.”**

**“ \_\_\_ has arrived home [to China]. He tells us he had a very unforgettable month at West End House Camp. And he is eager to be a 3A camper next year. Thank you all very much!”**

**“We can’t thank you enough. The boys LOVE camp! Enjoy the rest of the Summer. We will plan to see you in January. Thank you again!”**

**“Counselors and staff made my son feel comfortable and safe while at camp for the summer. Maturity of counselors was impressive.”**

**“I would like to thank you so much for everything! \_\_\_ can’t stop thinking about the camp and he is begging me to send him there next summer. He is so happy and I can’t thank you enough.”**

**“I would like to thank you sincerely from all our family for taking care of \_\_\_\_ and giving him the fantastic opportunity to join the camp again.”**

**“We are very grateful that \_\_\_\_ was given this wonderful gift of summer camp. He will definitely be returning next year!”**

**“\_\_\_\_ said he wants to come back next year for color war again!! Woo Hoo!!! Thank you for a great summer!!!”**

**“Just wanted to say thank you for making \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_'s summer so wonderful! They love camp and feel right at home... They even love it more than the first year!”**

**“We had the most amazing visiting day and \_\_\_\_ has not stopped praising every single part of WEHC!! The one thing that stood out to us the most was how wonderful your staff is, they are truly wonderful!!”**

**“I am very impressed with West End House Camp. \_\_\_\_ seems much more relaxed and confident. Great camp and I will highly recommend it to all.”**

**“Thank you for assisting with my sons’ opportunity to experience overnight camp. \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ LOVED it! I am so grateful especially knowing how happy they were. Thank you once again.”**

**“\_\_\_\_ had a fantastic time! I have heard nothing but positives. He came home happy and healthy!”**

**“\_\_\_\_ had a great time at camp! You have an amazing team up there!”**

**“I am so thankful to you and your staff for doing all that you do to make every summer better than the last. \_\_\_\_ comes home every summer a better person than when he left.”**

**“He is SO sad to not be at camp anymore. He has cried numerous times about how much he misses camp already! He keeps telling us little tidbits from camp and everything is just so amazing. Your staff is incredible. \_\_\_\_ feels so close to everybody and I can’t believe how many people knew him yesterday. And, I love that he knows all of the campers and staff's first and last names! We only went through a couple of the Bunk1 pictures, but I can’t wait to go through everything with him soon. I can see why West End House Camp has the reputation it has and I can see why you have generations of campers expressing their loyalty and love for all things WEHC. Count us in as a part of this family now!”**

**“Overall I really loved the camp experience that \_\_\_\_ had. He loved it and wants to go back... the personal feel of the staff, the traditions, the focus on values and sportsmanship.”**

**“Thanks to all the staff for making such a positive difference in the lives of our boys!”**

**“Thank you for all that you do and all the camp stands for! Such a positive and fulfilling experience for \_\_\_\_!”**

**“Steve, thanks for all you and your staff do to making each summer so wonderful!”**

**“I can not thank you enough Steve for this wonderful time that \_\_\_\_ enjoyed and cherished. You are a true gentleman, and also give my regards to the whole staff.”**

**“Thank you for your commitment and dedication. What you do is impacting lives positively.”**

**“\_\_\_ had the best summer. He had mixed feelings to be home last night. He misses camp!”**

**“Whether as a camper or a counselor, \_\_\_ just loves being at West End House Camp. Thank you for providing this home away from home for him.”**

**“The staff is amazing and my son felt comfortable with everyone at any age.”**

**“The facilities are second to none. You can’t beat WEHC for the value. I spend a lot more sending my daughter to camp and the facilities at her camp don’t compare!”**

**“They had another amazing summer!!! Thanks again for all you do to ensure they have an awesome 8 weeks!!! Until next summer...”**

**“We just picked \_\_\_ up. He had another amazing summer at WEHC! Thank you thank you thank you! That place is heaven for him.”**

**“Thank you again for everything. I am so happy that we became part of WEHC.”**

**“I just want to thank you for all that you did for \_\_\_! He came home [to Mexico] really happy. He had a really good time, and I think his English got better. He says you’re such a great person. THANK YOU FOR CARING SO MUCH. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.”**

**“Hi Steve and the WEHC staff, I wanted to say thank you for keeping my son very safe and healthy at camp. \_\_\_ had a great time and is looking forward to returning next summer. He made lots of friends and did lots of fun stuff. He couldn't stop talking about the color wars and all the fun activities. Thanks again! You guys are AWESOME!!”**

**“\_\_\_ has come back [to China] for two days. During these two days he has kept talking about what happened at camp. He is so happy and excited. Thank you so much for your help. This experience must be very meaningful for him. He is looking forward to attending next year camp.”**

**“West End House Camp has been the single most positive experience in my son's 18 years. It has without a doubt helped to shape him into the person he is today. The staff is experienced and attentive. History and camaraderie run deep. This is a place where a boy makes friends for a lifetime. This coming summer will be my son's 10th at WEHC-- a proud staff member helping to carry on the tradition. Can't say enough good things about his WEHC experience. He absolutely LOVES this camp and all that it stands for.”**

**“\_\_\_ will definitely be joining you again next summer! He had a great time and I think it helped him grow!!! Thank you for everything you did this past summer to make \_\_\_'s time memorable! You truly are one of a kind and have such a big heart for all these kids!”**

**“\_\_\_ had the best summer ever this year. He has already said that when he is old enough that he wants to be a CIT. WEHC has had a major impact on \_\_\_. It has made him more mature and an overall better person. I can't thank you enough.”**

**“Words cannot express how thankful we are to you and WEHC for giving \_\_\_ such an amazing opportunity. Hopefully this will be the beginning of a very long relationship with West End House Camp!”**

**“Just to let you know that when we were talking recently, I asked \_\_\_\_ what the best part of his summer was. Right away he answered West End House Camp! I thought that was great, especially as he had done some other good activities during vacation. Just wanted to share this little story with you.”**

**“It was a great season for the boys, they all very much enjoyed their time at camp and all the fun and experiences.... the stories have not stopped since we picked them up at the bus on Saturday. I am optimistic that they will all want to return next summer. And thanks for looking after the boys and making their summer at camp so great, I know the memories will last for many years to come.”**

**“\_\_\_\_ came off the bus beaming, wearing his color war muscle shirt and telling me how proud he was of the white team. He wants to come back for 8 weeks next summer.” Thank you for a fantastic summer. We will see you next year!!”**

**“\_\_\_\_ had the best summer ever and really hopes to return as a CIT next year. Thank you so much for everything you do for him and all the boys at West End.”**

**“A huge thank you to all. Pick up last night was really great. All the boys in the cabin were so lovely and it was really fun to meet them. \_\_\_\_ seemed so happy and was obviously missing camp immediately. He went onto Bunk1 last night and looked at all the photos. I am sure he was up late doing that. Thank you so much for everything –WEHC is a wonderful place and I am so glad that we have been able to give \_\_\_\_ this piece of life. I know he is so connected now and has found a place of comfort there!”**

**“Thanks for your continued commitment to raising fine young men who know how to enjoy camaraderie, community, and life.”**

**“Thank you so much. We feel really good about how it played out. They both seem to be in a really good place. We are thrilled. You and your staff are tremendous. We can't thank you enough.”**

**“Thanks again for helping us get \_\_\_\_ to your camp; he really loved it and said he wants to come back for 4 weeks next year! We will tell others about you all and hopefully find some other boys to send to camp from our area for next summer. And your offer to come down to do a presentation is wonderful.”**

**“\_\_\_\_ had such a good time at camp. It was fantastic. He seems like a grown up. First words out of his mouth were “can I go back next summer”? That's the best endorsement. Thanks again.”**

**“My son has attended West End House Camp for the past 6 years. He was one of a group of 5 boys from our town in New Jersey that went up. At this point, 3 of those original 5 boys have become members of the 5 year club. \_\_\_\_ is going to be a CIT this coming summer. The camp is small and intimate, allowing strong friendships to form. I also appreciate that the boys live in open air cabins and that cellphones and games are not permitted - these make for so much more of a natural experience...and being on that beautiful lake only adds to the environment! The facilities are well maintained and the staff is incredibly attentive. According to \_\_\_\_, the food is great, too!”**

**“My son has spent 5 summers at West End House Camp and has loved each summer more than the last. He has a special relationship with his counselors that lasts throughout the year.”**

**“Best camp for the money. A tradition of excellence with some of the best staff year after year.”**

**“Unquestionably, the best summer camp in the region! Superb staff, sensational facilities, creative and fun activities, all for a great value. My sons both attended West End House Camp for a decade and it helped shape their lives. I'd give it the highest recommendation possible.”**

**“My son has been going to WEHC for 11 years, first as a camper and now a staff member. These have been the best summers of his life. Not only did he love the sports, but he learned to swim, water ski and sail. The camp has help him learn responsibilities and mature into a fine young man. He has made many great friends.”**

**"\_\_\_\_\_ adored camp as did his friends and they are returning. Thank you for a wonderful and life enhancing experience."**

**"\_\_\_\_\_ had another wonderful summer at West End! Each time, he comes home saying it was "the best summer ever!" He benefits from the West End experience in more ways than we can count. Thank you for making that happen."**

**"I can not thank you enough for the wonderful experience it was for \_\_\_\_\_. He still talks about it and of how much fun he had!"**

**"\_\_\_\_\_ loved the sports/fun every day but what separated it from others is the diversity."**

**"I can't thank you enough for the fun \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ had at camp. They would come back tomorrow if they could! Next year I would love more weeks. WEHC has had such a positive impact on the boys. Thank you from all of us."**

**"The place looks phenomenal! The ballfield is amazing. Camp is super clean. \_\_\_\_\_ loves the paddleboards. Wow! WEHC has never been better!"**

**"The boys raved about all their counselors. Both had a wonderful summer and were so happy!"**

**"I must say that it was clear to me that respect and respectful behavior is part of the West End House Camp culture."**

**"\_\_\_\_\_ loves the waterfront activities like waterskiing. He likes playing sports against other camps. He loves Desert War and Color War."**

**"I like the size of the camp and how everyone knows each other."**

**"I enjoy hearing \_\_\_\_\_ tell us about his experiences and the fun things that campers do. He likes being with his camp friends and cherishes his time at West End House Camp."**

**"\_\_\_\_\_ 's 6th year was as wonderful as the others. He couldn't wait for it to start and didn't want it to end."**

**"My son had a fabulous first summer, the kind that makes a child want to come back for years."**

**"He had another memorable summer. Exposure to many activities, made great friends, well cared for by staff and directors. THANK YOU!"**

**"\_\_\_\_\_ was very happy and wants to come back. He LOVED Color War. I was very pleased!!"**

"Thanks again for allowing \_\_\_\_ to participate in WEHC. He had a wonderful experience there and is looking forward to next summer. He has been telling everyone all about the activities and the friends he made. We have no doubt that going to WEHC had a positive impact on him and sending him there was one of the best decisions we've made. Thanks again for everything."

"\_\_\_\_ thoroughly enjoyed his time at camp this summer. Thanks so much for helping to make it possible for him. I really appreciate it!"

"Camp was 2 months ago, but WEHC is still fresh on \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_'s minds. Just a couple of days ago they were sharing stories about camp and they both were talking about next summer already."

"I've been wanting to mention that we've had multiple 'Hey! West End House Camp!' encounters. \_\_\_\_ often wears his camp t-shirt and our most recent shout-out came from a flight attendant on American Airlines on our return flight from London in August. She stopped us and said her husband went to WEHC and was at the alumni weekend right now. Everyone lights up when they talk about the camp."

"My son is still talking about all the fun he had at camp and how he can't wait to go back next year! He really loved it. I will be signing him up soon...just need to iron out the dates...."

"\_\_\_\_ reported that he had his best year this season. Loved the staff and really liked the kids in his bunk."

"First and foremost, we want to let you know that \_\_\_\_ had the most AMAZING summer!! I can't imagine him enjoying anything more. My husband and I are both so happy and could not be more pleased with the WEHC experience."

"The boys are back and had a GREAT time. In fact, \_\_\_\_ spent the first 2 hours crying about wanting to be back. Thanks for a great summer experience, they will be back next year for sure."

"\_\_\_\_ is doing his semester abroad and is so well adjusted. We told him how impressed we were and he gives all the credit to camp! He grew up at West End and learned so much about adjustments in life. He gained so much self-confidence and courage to try new things. Thanks for everything! He is grateful and so are we!"

"I wanted to write to thank you so very much for the beautiful and powerful letter of recommendation that you wrote for \_\_\_\_\_. I was truly blown away. I can't thank you enough. It meant so much to him and really might be the letter that makes the difference for him to get into a really good school. You have always been there for us!! Really it is remarkable. You have always had a 6<sup>th</sup> sense seeming to know just what we need. I want you to know how thankful I am. And as his mom your words really moved me and I so appreciate that you see and appreciate \_\_\_\_\_ that way."

"I appreciate very much the work you do in your camp. For \_\_\_\_\_ it was a great experience and now he is another boy, more mature and secure of himself. Thank you very much for all!"

"Thanks again for a great summer at WEHC! It was \_\_\_\_\_'s best ever! As always, thank you for your kindness, generosity, and patience."

"I wanted to thank you very much for everything. It was another awesome year. My kids had a great time, loved the activities, counselors and, of course, Color War. They haven't

stopped talking about the night activities, leagues, waterskiing, etc.... I also want to thank you for making them feel so special.”

“Thank you for having \_\_\_\_ at WEHC. He really had a good time. I cannot tell you how much I appreciated \_\_\_\_ being able to experience "overnight camp". He already asked about next year. I am not originally from here and my camp experience was very different; I want you to know that the camp is beautiful, the grounds, the activities, the counselors, etc... No wonder the kids have a great time. You have done a fabulous job.”

“The camp is wonderful, as well as you and your staff! Thanks again and we will be signing up soon for next summer!”

“This was \_\_\_\_’s first experience and he enjoyed the summer immensely!”

“\_\_\_\_ has grown at WEHC. He can’t wait to come back and always speaks fondly of his time there. He tells his friends about WEHC all the time!”

“This was \_\_\_\_’s first year as an 8 weeker. He loved it! Caring staff, active programming, lack of technological devices! Keep up the good work!”

“I would like to thank you for the time you spent with me last year, arming me with a ton of knowledge when it comes to camping, for that, we are truly grateful. \_\_\_\_, as we knew, was a shy, bashful boy, and ever since he returned, he has demonstrated a level of maturity beyond belief. Also, \_\_\_\_ has become more vocal in his convictions, shown some leadership and has taken more ownership of his responsibilities at home and in school. I thank you for allowing him to be part of a strong tradition at West End House Camp. With that said, please place him on this year's camp list; he mentioned to me he would love to spend a month with his West End brothers.”

“\_\_\_\_ had a blast. He loves going there every summer. Every year it gets better and better!”

“My son has grown so much! It was exactly what he needed and wanted. He has completely come alive and is now thriving.”