



## Chots' Shot

Happy Friday, and welcome to another edition of the J Day Camps Chall'er. This week, I have been pondering what creates the magic of camp – the friendships, the skills, the memories. What is it about summer camp that makes us love it so much? I think it comes down to three simple words: **PLAY. CONNECT. GROW.**

You've seen these three words all around J Day Camps this summer. They show up in the welcome letter, the camp brochure and, most prominently, on the camp T-Shirts.

Play is at the heart of childhood. Kids live to play (adults, too 😊). Camp is built for play. Camp gives children the freedom to play all day long, often while learning wonderful life lessons simultaneously. Play builds confidence and teaches socialization better than most activities, and it's always fun.

Play leads to connections. Whether it is to other people, certain activities or simply to rainbows, people crave connection. Camp is designed to make connections to all things around us. The amount of time we spend outdoors builds connections to nature. The various activities we present to campers build connection to skills and hobbies. The network to peers and caring adults is the most valuable connection that camp offers.

All these connections lead to growth – in all kinds of directions. I have told camp staff for years that being a camp counselor is a bittersweet job. While you make a huge difference in a child's life, you won't really get to see the results of your work. That occurs in the next 20 plus years because what happens at camp affects a camper for the rest of their lives. Whether it's a week, a summer or a lifetime later, camp always helps us grow into our best self.

I hope everyone has a restful weekend full of play, connection and growth.

See you in the carpool line,

Chots



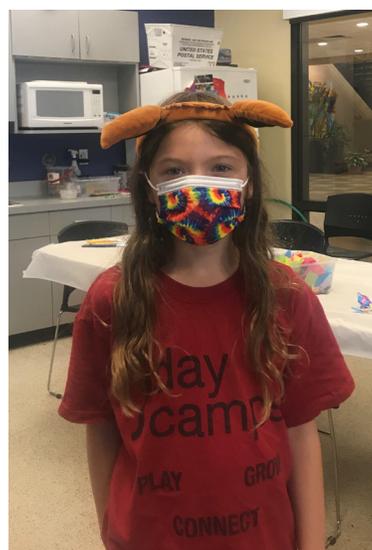
## Introducing Sam Eckert, SFC Specialist

My name is Sam, and I am the Cooking specialist this summer. When I first started doing the cooking activities at camp, I was a little nervous. Kids are very honest, and I knew that cooking is an activity that all the campers love to do. I wanted to make sure I was always making it fun and tasty. Seeing the kids get so excited when they find out what they will be doing in cooking is enough to make your day! One day, we were making grilled cheese sandwiches and a camper asked me where I got everything. He wanted to make a grilled cheese sandwich just like I did because it was “the best grilled cheese ever.” There have been times that other staff have come up to me to tell me that their campers talked about the cooking activity all day because they enjoyed it so much. When I hear this, I realize how much our campers love being able to help make the dessert or small meal that we are doing that day and that makes me happy!



## Introducing Kim Cheng, J Day Camps Counselor

Hi, everyone! My name is Kim, and this is my first summer as a counselor. My first year at J Day Camps has been awesome. I love seeing the kids having fun in each of their activities – whether it's gymnastics, cooking or swimming! It's also been really cool getting to know all of the campers better every day! They have so much to teach me.



# Report from Chesterfield: Island Time

We had a fantastic fourth week at the Fox building! This week for Wacky Wednesday, we went island style and dressed up in our bright and colorful Hawaiian attire. Our art projects included decorating cookbooks, paper cans and papier-mache fish. In science, we played “sink or float” and had a great time learning about density and guessing which objects would keep bobbing. On Wednesday, we played bingo and trivia. We even had a round of counselor trivia! In cooking, we made a delicious Oreo dip that was super refreshing. In sports, we had a great time playing tennis-baseball. Thanks for a great week!



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