

The camp Mahican Story

**Written by
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The Camp Mahican Story

What is Camp Mahican? It is a place where children of all ages come together to make many new friends, and memories. What is friendship? It is when you learn to get along with others, and to treat others well, no matter how different others may be from you. In the end however, we are all the same: Human beings who are looking for the same thing: friendship.

You, and perhaps your new friends will have a lot of fun at Camp Mahican in many ways. In Arts and Crafts, set your imaginations free and get a chance to be creative! You can decide to make a fuse beads figure of anything from cats, dogs, and other animals to anything you can imagine! Many projects at Arts and Crafts also include numerous coloring and painting activities such as coloring books, making flower pots, necklaces, and so much more! With Donna at Arts and Crafts, it will be a very fun time!

A lot of fun can also happen at the Playground. You can play games of hide and seek, or make up your own games. In the field, you and your friends can play many games including kick ball, soccer, basketball, volleyball, and more! When on the Playground and/or the field, please remember to **BE SAFE!!**

If you're a swimmer, then you'll love to spend a lot of time down at our waterfront, where you will receive many swimming lessons from lifeguards Debbie and Arlo! Along with our swimming lessons at the waterfront, you are able to play games in the water, build sand castles if you want to stay on the beach, or even feed the fish on the docks! Be on the lookout for the Big Ugly! He is a BIG bass that tends to drop by every so often! Regardless of what you may be doing at the waterfront, please be aware of the small black water chestnuts, as they will hurt you if you touch, or especially step on them! While down at the water, please be respectful to **ALL** counselors and lifeguards during Buddy Checks. Buddy Checks occur every 15 minutes, at which times,

everyone gets out of the water, and attendance and headcounts are re-taken. This is very important to ensure that each and every camper is safe. Whether you like to swim, stay on the beach, or feed the fish, you and your friends will have a lot of fun! **PLEASE BE SAFE!!**

These are just a few of the amazing activities that happen at Camp Mahican! Other activities include many exciting things such as playing Air Hockey in the afternoons, and playing many exciting board games, anything from Uno to Battleship, and beyond! Each year, Camp Mahican celebrates bringing many new friends together with a different theme. Many examples include 2007's Space Camp, where all of our campers dressed up as astronauts, 2014's Jurassic Camp, where everyone celebrated the many types of dinosaurs that ruled the Earth millions of years ago, and 2015's variety year of four different themes including safety, polar bears and penguins, Halloween and superheroes, and the Olympics! No matter what year you're in, regardless of its theme, Camp Mahican helps bring new friends together each, and every time!

As July comes to an end, the last week of camp is **FULL** of amazing events! One of them is Tie-Dye Day, where you can bring in either a white T-Shirt, or a pair of white socks, and you can get creative and dye your white clothes any combination of colors you wish. We also have a variety of animals that may visit on the last week of camp. These are certified therapy dogs who have a lot of experience with people in many places, such as nursing homes and hospitals. These include Debbie's yellow labrador Chloe, Ali the pug, and many more. And, if all of the fire drills are done successfully (quickly and quietly) throughout camp, a pizza, and perhaps even an ice cream party are awarded to campers on the last day. Also on the last week of camp is Open House. At Open House, all campers can invite their parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, and many more friends and relatives to the camp, so they too can see just what a fantastic place Camp Mahican really is.

Beginning in 2002, Camp Mahican gained its best asset since it began: Dominic. For many years, Dominic has been Camp Mahican's Director. He has helped many kids and families of all ages in many ways. He has helped bring many people together as best friends. Dominic knows Camp Mahican inside and out, everything from the staff, to all of the kids and their families, to all of the amazing activities that happen at camp! Dominic encourages friendship to everyone in every way, no matter how different people may be from each other. On the very last day of camp, he even goes in the water! From helping with numerous sports games, to putting together, and arranging all of these amazing special activities, to helping kids get along, and just being an awesome and inspirational role model and friend with everyone around him, no matter what the situation may be. He does these things for one reason, and for one reason only, the kids. In both good times, and bad, Dominic is always there for us. His legacy at Camp Mahican will live on, and continue to inspire many others for many, many years to come.

For more than 45 years, Camp Mahican has turned many kids from strangers, into best friends. Camp Mahican is an excellent example that **PROVES** that no matter how different others may be, lifelong friendships can still be made. This will continue to be Camp Mahican's sole goal for many, many more years to come. In the words of Dominic Merante, we all must remember to be "chillin' like a villain".

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The Camp Mahican Pledge

Camp Mahican.

A place where sharing is caring.

A place where happiness is achieved by respecting,
and getting along with others,
no matter how different others may be from I.

A place where I learn that no matter how different others are,
we are all the same.

A place where I am able to set my imagination free.

A place where I learn that happiness is the key to success.

A place where I learn many skills that will help me in life.

A place where amazing memories are made to last a lifetime.

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