



CAMP CHRONICLES

BVG Camp Chronicles 02.21

The Wisdom of Youth

Lessons from John Mackey - CEO Whole Foods

Walking and slow running (I'm not a very good runner!) has become my everyday mindfulness practice. I have trouble practicing the meditative mindfulness I hear so many great things about, so I practice active mindfulness! You've got to start somewhere :)

On my recent walk through the trails of Sunnybrook - my urban forest bathing spot - I was listening to a podcast featuring John Mackey, CEO of Whole Foods. He recently released Conscious Leadership, a follow up to his Conscious Capitalism book, both good reads!

In this podcast, John opens up and shares a lot of wonderful insights, but near the end, the podcast took a surprising turn and I found myself jolted out of my sharp pace and pumping arms when I heard John talk about the **wisdom of youth**. Again, as with Maslow's Hierarchy, the topic of my last Camp Chronicle, I revered in the fact that a thought leader and this time, a corporate CEO, was sharing a wisdom that is inherent in summer camp culture.

As the Camp Director it is an important part of my job to create the culture, the vibe, to set the expectations and to role model for everyone on my team - to practice what I preach.

At camp, we hire young leaders. Students who just completed their second year of high school. For many it is their very first job. Their learning pad. Their launch pad. Seldom do our staff arrive at camp thinking *'I've got a lot I can teach these older people!'*.

So that's what day 1 of pre-camp training is for, that's where I get to have a really big impact, day one! It's their first real day at work, and it's the day I make sure to repeat time and time again, that we are all here to learn from each other. That yes, I have years of knowledge and experience to share, a lot of years at life and in camp to pass on to them, but that they have just as much to teach me, and I can't wait to learn from them too.

John eloquently shares this thought on the wisdom of youth:

Every stage in our life has a certain wisdom to it. Youth has a wisdom that the old forgets about. Youth knows about play and adventures, they have a fresh openness to what life has to offer. Every stage has their own wisdom to it. We should honor that. We should not be quick to judge others because they don't see what we see.

Mackey dropped some truths that go deep into the roots of summer camp. I encourage you to tune into the podcast when you have a moment to spare! I've linked it below! He also shared some great insights into parenting, and general leadership. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

Cheers from camp,

Robyn

[LISTEN TO IT HERE!](#)

So! Everyone is asking...will camp really run in 2021?

I have been asked this question many times in the last few weeks from inquiring families, many concerned about registering for camp while we are in emergency lock down. And as it snows outside and our vaccines continue to be delayed, it is very understandable that doubts around day camp in 2021 are top of mind.

I can't foresee the future of course, and I am sharing here my perspective only. And my perspective is that we will be allowed to operate, we **will** operate and we will deliver excellence within any operational parameters the government requires us to. Camp will happen. It may look a bit different, again, but it will happen - and we are planning for it to be AMAZING.

My Pledge: WE WILL SEE SUMMER 2021 at BVG!

I am committed to bringing camp to life this summer, and we are always reviewing the programme and the facility flow to ensure we will be able to deliver and exceed the expectations of our campers, parents and staff.

Please reach out by email or phone if you'd like to talk more about camp or chat about how we will ensure we will be in action this summer. And don't forget, our **No Risk Registration** policy really makes it easy to hold your space now and finalize your decision later!

STAFF HIRING CONTINUES! We are in full throttle conducting 5-6 interviews a day as we look to staff up with the campiest, most committed, most skilled, and most responsible staff team for 2021!

Eligible candidates (currently in Grade 10 and higher) are encouraged to apply online.



JOIN US! No Risk Registration