



CAMP CONISTON MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUTH

YMCA Camp Coniston

Several years ago tragedy struck the NH papers with the story of a father who murdered a mother while their daughter was in the house. **This young girl has attended YMCA Camp Coniston on financial assistance every summer since the unfortunate tragedy.** That first summer after the murder was tumultuous for the young girl and for her cabin mates. Parents received letters home from campers with tales of a child in their cabin with a murdered Mother. Parents called with concern, and the curiosity from families outside of camp was very high.

On the morning of check out, as parents arrived earlier than normal to pick up their children, a beautiful scene appeared. The girls all gathered around the front porch of the cabin with their college-aged counselors, **hugging, laughing and sharing the bonds and independence** that come with two weeks away at overnight camp.

The parents, all at a distance, stood silently, many with tears in their eyes as they realized their children had matured and grown in ways they had never imagined possible at a summer program. That day, **exemplifying true character, the campers taught their parents an important lesson of understanding and acceptance.**

