

## Closing Camp Sunrise Property

Kester Wilkening  
December 13, 2016



Dear Belvedere Family Community,

It is my regret to inform you that the Camp Sunrise Property in Harriman State Park, NY will not be leased in 2017, and it is unlikely that we will be able to secure the lease again from NY State Parks once it is let go. It is sad to see this property go, as it holds many wonderful memories for True Parents and our members. I want to give a sincere thank you to everyone who has invested their time, money, and energy into Camp Sunrise over the years.

However, this does not mean that the Children's Sleepaway Camp program is being shut down, we just have to find a new location. **If you are interested in seeing the Sleepaway Camp continue and would like to help, please contact Hank Chin:**

- Email: [chinhm@gmail.com](mailto:chinhm@gmail.com)
- Phone: 914-310-6427

The reasons the Camp Sunrise Board and financially responsible communities (Clifton, NJ, Belvedere Family Church, New York City communities) have decided not to lease the Camp Sunrise Property:

1. Because of the \$48,000 debt this year and lesser, yet still substantial debts in previous years, the Clifton, NJ church community has withdrawn its' financial backing for 2017. This accounted for 30% of the financial responsibility. No one has been found to pick up this 30%.
2. Given item #1, an attempt was not made to meet the conditions of the Belvedere Family Church for their 40% responsibility in 2017, chiefly:
  1. Hiring a new Business/Camp Director
  2. Reducing the current debt from \$48,000 to \$10,000.

I have not heard anything from the New York City communities and do not know their position on this. They covered the remaining 30% financial responsibility.

The Belvedere Family Church is responsible for 40% of the current \$48,000 debt, approximately \$18,000. We will pay for this out of an emergency fund, and this will be our last financial obligation to Camp Sunrise.

For a summary presentation of this year's Camp Sunrise financial's, see this report: [docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Sij03nQO2NClMlpI6f\\_fSih3xtVWBVPq3MD7mt7F4k/edit#slide=id.g19339aa3e4\\_0\\_168](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Sij03nQO2NClMlpI6f_fSih3xtVWBVPq3MD7mt7F4k/edit#slide=id.g19339aa3e4_0_168)

Again, it is sad to see Camp Sunrise go and it will always hold a special place in many of our hearts. We hope to find a more sustainable solution for providing a high-quality summer camp for our youth. God Bless you and your families.

Sincerely,

Kester Wilkening  
Chairperson, Belvedere Family Church Council

For the Camp Sunrise Committee: Yuki Jones, Lynn Walsh, Kester Wilkening

# Camp Sunrise

Camp Sunrise has been a cultural mainstay in our community for decades and has touched the lives of thousands of people, from the days of the nation wide summer workshops to the local camps that still go on today.

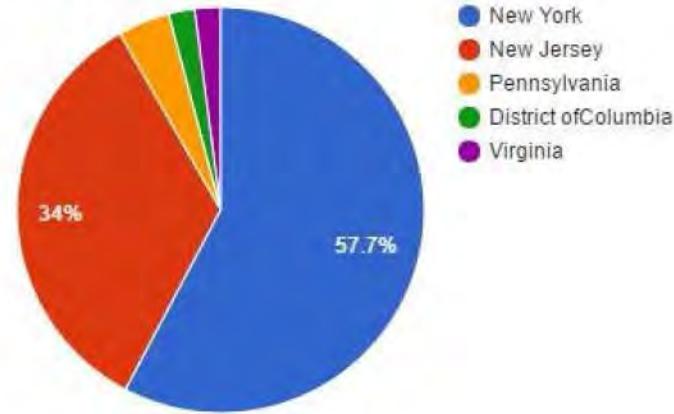
This year, however, Camp Sunrise saw a **30% decrease** in sleepaway program attendance over last year and a **65% increase in net deficit**, continuing a trend of net loss. As a result, all of our communities in the greater New York area are called to reflect on the value that the camp provides and weigh it against these increasingly large deficits to help our communities decide what will become of the camp in the 2017 year.

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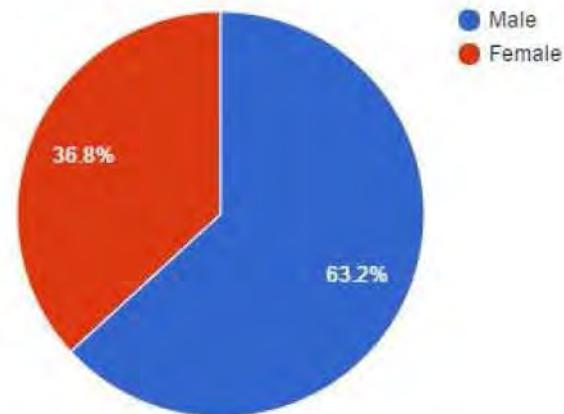
# Sleepaway Camper Demographics



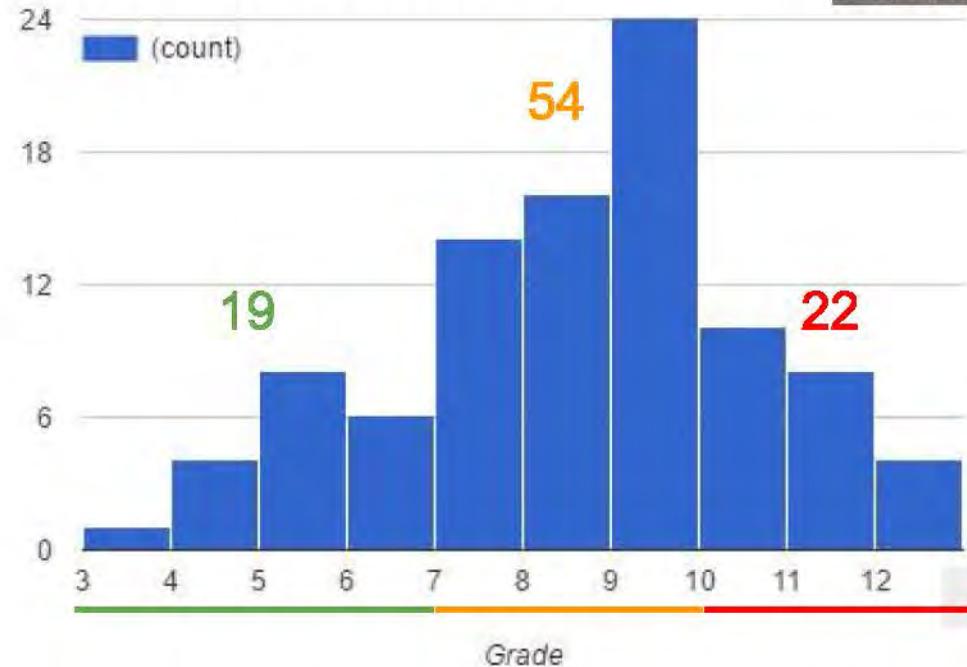
Geographical Breakdown



Girl-Boy Breakdown



Camper Grade Histogram



Note: Grade not recorded for 2 campers

# BFC Agreement

Last year the BFC agreed to take 40% financial responsibility of the debt for Camp Sunrise. The debt ended up being \$46,000 this year, so we are responsible for \$18,400.

The BFC will choose to continue to support Camp Sunrise in 2017 if:

- The \$46,000 debt can be reduced to \$10,000 by the end of the year through fundraiser
  - A new camp *business* director is hired
  - Widespread support from our community (**all of you!**)
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# Alternative Venues for Future Camps

Due to the high cost of upkeep for Camp Sunrise, it should be taken into consideration that there are other rental sites available that could be used in place of Camp Sunrise for future programs.

1. Camp Daddy Allen is a site next to Camp Shehaqua in Pennsylvania that has been used in the past by the Clifton Family Church for children's camps.
  2. The American Camp Association has a list of camps that rent to outside groups.
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