



Essence of Camp Mana

Camp Mana is a unique model of service to inspire and support children to preserve their authentic nature and experience an environment that is created to work in unity and equality with a deep and loving consideration of the Whole. Those who serve at camp come in the posture of devotional service to the God of their understanding. Camp Mana is a devotional act to serve the Divine through the hearts of the children. This posture of approach creates the deeply loving and potent space that allows the children to freely express, heal and be heard. Camp is transformational for all involved...a sacred devotional act of gratitude to the Whole.

Camp Mana offers a space of unity, community, service and love. It is an extraordinary healing environment, intentional and focused, transformative for the children and the adults who come to serve.

Camp is a container for recognition, acknowledgement, and celebration of the children. Camp is not about outcome or completion of projects...success means that every child at Camp is acknowledged and celebrated.

Volunteers come in devotion to the God of their understanding, and serve from that place. It is this posture which creates the potent space of healing for the children...seeing through the eyes of the heart, and moving from that place of love. Camp is a weekend devoted to selfless service...it is a spiritual practice and a deep offering for the adults...it will clean out all hearts that show up willing.

With the children (as well as the other adults), we meet in authenticity and equality: show up as you are. Come willing to be moved and changed and to meet the clear reflection held in children's eyes. We meet the children eye to eye, on every level, including literally: we do not tower over the children, we kneel down to meet them. We meet the children in a real way...and when issues arise for the children, we ask them with a real willingness to listen and respond: what are you feeling, how can I serve you, what do you want to talk about? We do not force the children to do anything they are not moved to do...we invite the children to participate, to share, to express their authentic hearts by showing up vulnerable with ours.

Camp emphasizes bringing the love back to the children's homes and families...it is a real experience of peace and unity, an environment created to work in harmony and consideration of the whole. This in itself is profoundly transformative for the children, to taste that possibility of unity. Many children come from challenging home environments...the hope is to empower them to take the love back to their homes, knowing it is possible for them to be seen, acknowledged and celebrated with truly loving intention.

Camp is about creating community...from the farmers who donate produce to the local businesses who sponsor children, to the volunteers and children who gather from around the Island...it is about deepening the roots of the community...rooting the Island community in authentic love and service.

"This camp has nothing to do with what is taught, shared, worked on, or created with the hands, or any of the senses. That is just absolutely to give the mind a job, while the entire being can drink from the love and the presence that is being offered to the kids. The purpose of the projects and the artwork and the movement is for self-inquiry for the child. Every single thing we do and every communication you have with these children is to point their attention back to their own heart." – Vanessa

If you are inspired to serve at Camp Mana, please contact
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