



Beam is a summer camp in Strafford, NH where kids 6-17 learn to make things happen through fine and manual arts, technology and collaboration.

Campers produce and enjoy the Beam Project, a spectacular large-scale endeavor, ranging from the conceptual to the structural, designed by a notable designer, architect or big thinker.

Campers make something or learn something new in the Beam Domains of their choice, unique, in-depth, hands-on explorations in the arts, sciences, athletic or cultural fields taught by the Beam Staff and Guest Masters.

Campers learn the tools, techniques and temperaments of creation to apply to their own plots, plans and schemes.

● Beam Philosophy:  
Craft + Collaboration = Compassion



We know that by making and collaborating, kids acquire the strength, skill, confidence and knowledge that they can do and accomplish anything they want to.

Our tools are as much imagination and perseverance as drill press, dance, camera and fabric. Our 750 acres of twin lakes, fields and mountains are as much our work spaces as our computer lab and wood shop. We put all of it to use to inspire creation, play, and to teach kids how to bring ideas to life.

Whether building something spectacular, swimming, hiking, playing ball, camping out, telling stories, or learning something new, we do it with a commitment to collaboration, craft, curiosity, openness and sense of place.

# Beam Guides: Learners & Leaders



The Beam Guides, our Counselors and Visiting Masters, are the teachers, builders and brighteners who work and play alongside campers providing a safe and enriching experience. All the Guides are people over the age of 20 who make a life and living from pursuits involving invention, design, planning and production.

Beam Counselors are alumni or students at the country's most important institutions of design and innovation, including Carnegie Mellon, Pratt, Cooper Union, Harvard, Brown, and NYU.

Beam Domain Guests are professional artists, architects, engineers, craftspeople, teachers, designers, chefs, musicians, videographers, builders, and makers of all kinds who join us to share their unique practice.

# Beam Project: Building Big Ideas



The Beam Project is the centerpiece of the Beam session. It's an ongoing demonstration that a skillful crew, a good plan and, patience can bring the biggest schemes to life.

Every summer we do and build something never done or built before. Beam conducts a worldwide Call for Project Proposals to select each summer's Project. Teams (we call them Waves) of Campers guided by the staff work on different aspects of the Project each morning. Waves are groups of no more than nine girls and boys of mixed ages.

## Past Projects

### 2005 The Nexus Canopy

A raised, 42' x 36' grid of wood and fabrics that the campers transformed from shelter to maze to movie theater to art installation to banquet space. Project Master: Fabian Jabro/Standard Architects

### 2006 The Beam Fleet

Seven wooden vehicles, designed, and built by the campers, equal parts kinetic sculptures, simple machines and rolling canvases. Project Masters: Steve Gerberich & Nathaniel Leib

### 2007 The Beam Micro/Macro Domes

Five geodesic domes based on the forms and structures of virus proteins, that became shelters, sculptures, playspaces and activity centers. Project Master: Caitlin Berrigan

### 2008 Jungletopia

Three tree-houses ring a 16-foot armature to form a play/contemplation space that bridges Beamers' imagination and craft with the forest environment. Project Masters: Jan Drojarski & Jon Bocksel

### 2009 Float With The Flowers

Two extraordinary structures, part puzzle and sculpture, comprised of wooden balls and dowels, that stand on land and blossom on water. An exploration of how simple elements combine to form complex systems and represent natural contours and forces. Project Masters: Christine Baumgartner & Manuel Kretzer

## ● Beam Domains: Afternoon Mastery



Every week, each camper chooses to explore a new Domain to pursue learning, making and experimenting with personal goals and products in mind, rather than the Project's collaborative objective.

Domains are held in two periods each afternoon except Sunday. Every Sunday we hold a Domain Fair, where, following colorful presentations from the Counselors and Visiting Masters, Campers choose Domains for that week. Each Saturday evening, Campers share their Domain work for the week in the form of exhibits, performances and video presentations.

- shooting short movies
- building a catapult
- launching hot air balloons
- building wilderness shelters
- making Oreos and Doritos from scratch
- studying kung fu and building traditional Balinese gamelan instruments
- fashioning costumes based on famous fairy tales
- building rowboats from branches and tarps
- performing in improv noise bands
- building solar cookers
- building solar-powered robots
- knitting bags and clothing
- producing plays we wrote
- making a giant dinosaur pinata
- creating our own Nations
- building a wood-fired kiln
- learning to Salsa Dance
- weaving a soccer-field-sized tapestry
- telling 100 10-second stories
- playing and dancing in a samba band

Every summer the selection of Domains is challenging, exciting and unique.

# Beam 535 Clubs: Plots, Plans & Schemes



In 535 Clubs the camp splits up to scheme. It's time set aside for brainstorming, plotting, and making plans, where campers are encouraged to lead the charge in making their own projects real.

535 Club sessions have resulted in a full camper-designed restaurant, a completely choreographed Bollywood dance, a Viking invasion, shark attack and a camper-lead revolution, on top of video projects, invented games, camper bands and more.

Whatever anyone thinks up, we help make happen.



# Beam Pulse Period: Water & Sports



We're as big believers in playing as we are in making, and find that the two complement each other well.



Ping pong, tetherball, swimming, basketball, throwing the Frisbee, kayaking, volleyball and soccer are how we get our bodies moving.

Campers can choose to play a game or swim, or kayak during our afternoon Pulse Period.



Beam has two Willeys, Big and Little. They are lakes. We do our regular swimming from our beach and docks on Big Willey. We canoe and kayak on both Big and Little Willey.



All of Beam's Aquatic Activities are supervised by Waterfront Director Holly Halvarson and two Red Cross-Certified Life Guards. On the first or second day of camp, each camper is tested for swimming proficiency and placed in an appropriate swim group.

All campers have the option to swim at least once a day during afternoon Pulse Period.



# Beam Camper's Life

1/2" = 1'-0"



Campers live with two Counselors in Cabins comprised of no more than 12 similarly aged boys or girls. Counselors assure that the Campers are safe and feel safe at all times. Counselors help their Campers to maintain a Cabin atmosphere that is supportive and respectful, healthful and clean.

Our newly-constructed Camper Village consists of 8 wood-framed cabins and a large shower/toilet facility. The cabins include built-in bunks and individual storage. The shower/toilet building is located nearby each cabin grouping and with separate boys and girls areas, each with 8 toilets, 8 showers and 7 sinks.



# ● Beam Culture: Mentorship for All Ages



Beam is grounded in workshop principles: mentorship, safety, openness, and the cultivation of individual skill in the context of group accomplishment.

Beam's size of up to 100 Campers and no less than 25 Staff engenders strong bonds between all Beamers regardless of age. Just as we expect our Staff to share their passion for learning with Campers, we encourage and teach our older Campers to act as lead learners for younger Campers; though it's equally common and gratifying to see it work in the opposite direction.

Beam Juniors are campers between 6-9 years old. The Juniors work with the older campers in the first half of each morning's Project Period and in many Domains.

Juniors are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the 4-week Main Session. First time Beam Juniors can also attend one of our Intro to Beam Sessions; 2-week (beginning July 10) or 3-week (beginning July 25).

Beam's 4-week Main Session (July 17-August 15) is open to girls and boys aged 6-17.

Beam Pioneers are a group of older campers 13-17, who begin a 5-week session on July 10th to help the staff with preparatory work on the Beam Project and participate in Leadership Training.



Making things happen requires healthy bodies and brains. We encourage Campers and Staff to approach playing, working and living with a balance of boldness and care.



Constant and sensitive supervision supports Campers in all their fun, exploration and learning. Beam maintains accreditation from the American Camp Association by surpassing over 300 standards for operational management, quality and safety.

### Food

Huge fireplace, high ceilings, and 90-feet from end to end, our Dining Hall is the heartbeat of Beam. We gather at 8am, 12:30pm and 6:30pm every day to enjoy nourishing, well-balanced deliciousness served up by the wonderful kitchen staff. Chef Jeff Norcross prepares meals (both vegetarian and omnivorian) that are varied, tasty, nutritious and balanced.

### Safety

Beam's 1:4 staff to camper ratio makes it possible for all campers to be supervised at all times. All activities begin with a thorough discussion of safety precautions and procedures. Protective eyewear and clothing is required when working with hand-tools. All campers wishing to swim in the lake are required to pass a swim test. All waterfront and lake activities are supervised by Red Cross certified lifeguards.

### Healthcare

We have a full-time staff registered nurse with us at camp and a supervising Licensed Nurse Practitioner on call 24 hours a day. Frisbie Memorial Hospital and Barrington Urgent Care, fully-equipped and Emergency-ready facilities are within twenty minutes of camp.



# Beam Daily Schedule



## Beam Campers travel through their day in a variation of social groupings.

After breakfast and Cabin Maintenance, Campers assemble in their Waves to get ready to work on the Project. For afternoon Domains, Campers are in groups based on their selection at Sunday's Domain Fair.

Between Domain periods, Campers choose to plunge into Big Willey or play in our game of the day.

At night after dinner, we all get together again for an evening activity — Talent shows, Circuses, Game shows, Dances, Improv. We do great campfires, too.

- 8am** Breakfast
- 8:45am** Cabin Maintenance
- 9am** Beam Project Period 1
- 10:15am** Beam Project Period 2
- 12:30pm** Lunch
- 1pm** Rest & Reading
- 2pm** Domain Period 1
- 3pm** Beam Pulse (Swim, Hike, Sports)
- 4pm** Domain Period 2
- 5:45pm** 535 Clubs/Free Time
- 6:30** Dinner
- 7:20pm** Night Beam
- 8:30pm** Snack
- 9pm** Junior Campers to Cabins
- 10pm** Senior Campers to Cabins

