

# Spirit of America & Geneva Glen Peace Prize Awards

Since its founding, Geneva Glen Camp has worked to provide a setting that emphasizes the development of sound values and growth of character. Each summer, GG honors its campers and staff by recognizing them with the Geneva Glen Peace Prize and Spirit of America Awards.

## Peace Prize

*Conditionally awarded during World Friendship to one male camper or one female camper who has displayed outstanding leadership and devotion to the ideal of friendship among nations, and unusual respect for human life, liberty and freedom*

## Spirit of America

*During American Heritage, we strive to instill a deeper appreciation of the history and culture of the great Americans that created our country. Our country's foundation comes from a diverse melting pot of people blended together to form our great nation. At Geneva Glen, we recognize one camper and one counselor each year during American Heritage that displays outstanding leadership and devotion to these ideals. This person's acceptance of all cultures, the ability to share with others these traditions, and enthusiasm for American history is evident to all those around them and inspires others to follow in their steps.*

While we are saddened to not be able to personally see the growth of our campers at camp this summer, it is our hope to carry on the tradition of recognizing these awards in our camper community. The teaching of and sharing of the values of mutual respect, honesty and acceptance of others are essential to future leaders in the world. Pursuing these values teaches individual responsibility, understanding of cultural differences, courage to live at one's best and care for one's environment.

As we are unable to facilitate the awards at camp this summer, our wish is that GG's campers and staff members will share their time, talents, compassion and commitment to the world outside of Geneva Glen's gates in meaningful ways. Throughout the summer we hope to highlight the work being done by our campers on social media and other camp communications like the Sunday Vespers Programs to serve as inspiration for others. Campers and their families will have the opportunity to nominate honorees for recognition for the two awards at the end of the summer. Recognition of nominees will be made by camp staff during a final ceremony in August.

## So how can you participate?

Each person may find their own unique way to participate, based on abilities, time and resources available to you. It can be a daunting task to begin a new project, so start small. Here's some tips to help you get rolling:

- Start with opportunities near to you in your neighborhood. Spend an afternoon cleaning up a park or empty lot. Once you've done it once or twice, recruit some family or friends and bring them along to help out and expand your area.
- Look for ways to share your talents and skills with others to build up the community around you. Create a "little free library", start a small community art project, or set up greeting card making station.
- Find ways to share the care and support you give to others at GG back at your home and in your neighborhood. Spend some time with your family learning about your family's heritage, offer to help your family or a neighbor with a project.

- Seek to put a smile on the face of your neighbors and friends. Write someone a thoughtful letter, make and share small gifts with those around you.
- If you have the opportunity to travel further or be away from home, spend some time volunteering with a service organization, collect financial or material donations for those in need, or find other ways to help people in your community.
- Above all, use the creativity and the compassion you share with and have for others here at GG and find ways to make your home community more like GG this summer.

To share your experiences, please send photos of your activities to Levi Gribas ([levi@genevaglen.org](mailto:levi@genevaglen.org)), and we will share them with the camp community to spotlight your great actions.

If you would like to participate and would like to receive updates and reminders, [please sign-up here](#). Nominations will open in late July and be available for submission through July 31<sup>st</sup>.