



Dear Camp Natoma Families,

I hope you are enjoying a fulfilling fall season! This is the time of year that we reap the last of our harvests in the fields, the time that friends and families gather, that we spread generosity and goodwill throughout our communities.

Growing up in Camp Fire and going to Camp Natoma every summer, I am grateful for my early education in community service and generosity. These institutions nurtured a healthy sense of giving in me from a very early age that continued to grow over the years. By the time I graduated high school, I had logged almost 500 hours of community service.

I still strongly believe in the importance of service to one's community and giving back; and am so excited to get to give back to the Camp Natoma community that helped shape who I am today!

Since you are receiving this Stick-E S'more, you are involved in Camp Natoma in some way. Maybe you went to camp yourself or have a child who attends each summer. So you are familiar with the benevolent entity and spirit of camp known as The Amotan.

The Amotan is the embodiment of generosity.

While only the Camp Director can see The Amotan, it is felt throughout camp by the kind things it does for campers.

The Amotan eats the poison oak off the trails each spring so that campers don't get itchy rashes.

The Amotan flips over mirrors or other reflective objects campers may have forgotten about so as to avoid starting a wildfire.

The Amotan leaves soapstones for campers when they are least expecting them (and most need them).

I know now the true reason these kind gestures take place at camp, but that magic of an invisible, generous spirit seeping into every part of camp remains and continues to inspire me.

I sometimes joke with fellow staff members that I feel like The Amotan. I am often told at camp that I am generous in a quiet way that doesn't ask for thanks.

I like to bake cupcakes for the staff on hard days. I write anonymous letters of encouragement. I work behind the scenes to make sure that every camper, every volunteer, every counselor, feels valued and appreciated.

I looked up to The Amotan as a child and feel that it still inspires me to emulate quiet kindness and do good in the world!

If you have been inspired by The Amotan, like me, or are looking to give back to a community that has nurtured generations of kind kids, I would like to invite you to sign up to be a [volunteer this spring](#) with Camp Director Vivien or make a donation to our [Giving Tuesday](#) campaign. Kindness and generosity are a part of who we are, and we are grateful for those of you who make camp what it is by giving back.

Thank you.

With Kindness,
Carl

PS - You and your camper can write your own story about the kindness of the Amotan with [this activity sheet](#)!



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