



# Parent Handbook



# Our History

"Great things happen when youth and mountains meet" – Frank H. Cheley



## Mission

*"We build the lasting character and resiliency of young people, creating unique life experiences in a challenging and nurturing natural environment."*

Cheley Colorado Camps was founded in 1921 by Frank H. Cheley. As a young man, his dream was to provide an opportunity for boys to get away from the city in a beautiful outdoor setting, to learn the ways of the woods and wilderness, and to develop a spiritual awareness from the world of nature. His work with the YMCA convinced him that youth learn best through firsthand experiences, particularly under the direction of dedicated adult leaders. A century later, these basic principles are still the foundation for our work with young people.

Frank put his dreams into action when he opened the Bear Lake Trail School – "An Alpine Summer Camp for Boys" – on the shores of Bear Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park. This leadership training summer camp became very popular and in 1926, "vigorous girls" were welcomed to Chipeta, named after the Queen of the Utes, wife of Chief Ouray.

Cheley moved to the Land O' Peaks Ranch in 1927, now "main camp," and is comprised of





## Purpose

*"To inculcate in [young people] that spirit of honesty, purity, unselfishness, love, alertness, determination and courage. Cheley aims to help [young people] cultivate the ability to act spontaneously in the right, and by doing this to contribute definitely to the creation of a better world."*

three separate units for boys and three for girls. Beginning in 1937, Frank opened the Trail's End Ranch for Boys (BTE) on Fox Creek, near Glen Haven. In 1941, this camp became Trail's End Ranch for Girls (GTE) and BTE was moved to 80 acres of land located on the North Fork of the Big Thompson River. Since then, the massive lodges, cozy cabins, and covered wagons have been carefully maintained, providing a legacy rich in tradition and memories.

The Cheley family has been steadfast in upholding the philosophy of camp life that Frank envisioned. Today, Cheley is under the fourth-generation leadership of siblings, Jeff Cheley and Brooke Cheley-Klebe. Over the years, Cheley has been featured in a number

of local, national, and even global publications. We've survived a few floods, fires, pandemics, a World War, the Great Depression, and more. We've employed countless staff, provided a life changing camp experience to over fifty thousand campers, celebrated 100 years of Fun Plus®, and have made incredible strides in youth development and the preservation of nature.

Cheley is a leader in the camping and youth development business. We pride ourselves on our involvement and accreditation with the American Camp Association, the only national accrediting agency for summer camps in America. We are licensed by the state of Colorado and a member of the Western Association of Independent Camps (WAIC), The Camp Owners and Directors Association (CODA), the International Camping Fellowship, and a Leave No Trace Partner.



**We're happy to welcome you to Cheley & excited for your camper's Cheley Experience!**

# A Family Business

*The 3rd, 4th,  
and 5th Generations*

## **Jeff Cheley** *Director*

Jeff is part of the fourth generation of camp leadership with his sister, Brooke. He has a B.A. in business from the University of Texas at Austin. Jeff started as a camper at age nine and was a counselor and unit director. He is an active volunteer with the American Camp Association, the Western Association of Independent Camps, and serves on the boards of the Estes Park Health Foundation and the Denver Area Boy Scouts of America. Jeff and his wife, Erika, live in Cherry Hills Village with their three sons: Jackson, Harrison, and Hayden. When Jeff is not chasing his boys around the house, he enjoys playing golf, skiing, cycling, or taking a Sunday afternoon nap.

## **Brooke Cheley-Klebe** *Director of Camper and Parent Services*

Brooke is part of the fourth generation of camp leadership with her brother, Jeff. She graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in communications. Brooke was a camper for nine summers and a counselor for four before joining the year-round team. As a former competitor in freestyle skiing, an Ironman triathlete and a graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School in Patagonia, Brooke brings a wealth of knowledge to the backcountry program of Cheley. She lives in Denver with her husband, Kurt, and their daughters, Ellie, Kate and Sam. Brooke enjoys skiing, hiking, traveling, and spending time with family.

## **Don and Carole Cheley** *Director Emeriti*

Don attended Colorado College and Menlo College, graduating with a B.A. in business. Don is an active volunteer with the Rocky Mountain Conservancy, the American Camping Foundation, the American Camp Association, and First National Bank of Estes Park. During the summer, you can find Don driving around camp in his pickup truck checking on activities, campers, and the facilities. He may be sweeping a porch, cutting down a tree, or fixing a vacuum.

Carole is Don's wife and has worked at Cheley for over 25 years. She has a B.A. in fine arts and a M.A. in Counseling from the University of Northern Colorado and was a teacher and school counselor for 10 years before joining Cheley. She enjoys traveling, yoga, taking pictures, reading and getting to know the campers.



Back Row L–R: Ellie Klebe, Erika Cheley, Hayden Cheley, Jeff Cheley, Brooke Cheley-Klebe, Kurt Klebe, Samantha Klebe  
Front Row L–R: Jackson Cheley, Harrison Cheley, Kate Klebe, Carole Cheley, Don Cheley

## Counseling & Support

### Our Staff

We invest a lot of energy in recruiting and training our staff, and it shows. In annual evaluations, our counselors consistently receive high marks from campers and parents, who describe them as friendly, happy, knowledgeable, caring, and fun to be around. Campers grow to love their counselors, cooks, nurses, bus drivers, and the rest of the staff part of the Cheley Experience. They all contribute to the feeling of community that is so prevalent at Cheley.

We refer to our staff as Youth Development Professionals. They are young adults who have completed at least one year of college or equivalent. Our ten-day staff training covers safety and risk management issues; team building; counseling, programming, and teaching skills. Chosen for their love of the outdoors and working with youth, our counselors are tuned into young people and enjoy playing a part in their development.

Typically, over half of our staff members return to camp the following summer. This continuity encourages greater expertise and further development of skills and knowledge of the Cheley Experience. Many staff members were Cheley campers, which gives them a valuable perspective as camp counselors. From cooks to camp directors, our camp staff spends their summers residing at camp, creating a vital, close-knit camp community.

Staff members must submit an application and three references, complete an interview, undergo a criminal background check, and complete a sexual abuse training prior to arriving at camp for staff training. International staff are hired through camp staffing agencies and are screened and interviewed in their home countries prior to their interview with Cheley. Most counselors have First Aid and CPR certifications, and at least one staff member taking campers on overnights or into the backcountry has Wilderness First Aid or higher.

# Our Ages & Units

*Our units are organized according to age & gender and offer the same renowned Cheley Experience staffed by 15-17 enthusiastic counselors.*

AGES 7-10

## Quarter B-4

The camp you select for your child will hopefully be the camp they call a second home for many years to come, which is why we offer Quarter B-4, our five-night introduction program. For children wanting a taste of the Cheley Experience, QB4 gives campers a window into Cheley and allows them to play and build independence. QB4 takes place once a summer and is split up into two age groups: the **PIKAS** for 7 & 8 year olds and the **MARMOTS** for 9 & 10 year olds.

### PIKA ACTIVITIES

Fishing, climbing wall, archery, riflery, hiking, exploring nature, singing and dancing.

### MARMOT ACTIVITIES

All the above. Technical climbing, horseback riding, and outcamping.

# QB4

ALL AGES

## Unit Overview

Each unit has their own well maintained lodge, boathouse, and living spaces. We are a large camp, but this set-up ensures individualized attention for each camper. Six of our eight units are located at Land O'Peaks (LOP), while the other two are located at the Trail's End (TE). Campers at Cheley participate in program and campfire with their unit, although some cross-unit opportunities do occur, including Chapel, All-Camp Campfire, and Play Day.

### CAMPFIRES

Skit practice, square dance, vespers, recognition campfire, scavenger hunt, skit night, Mario Kart, s'mores, and more.



AGES 9-11

## Lower Ski Hi & "Lower Sky High" Lower Chipeta "Lower Chi-peta"

No matter how much or how little outdoor experience you've had, our Lower units are a time for our youngest campers to enjoy camp life and learn the fundamentals of a wide range of activities. For many, it's their first time at summer camp so we provide our Lower campers with the special attention they need. It's a chance for campers to set goals, develop a Code of Living, live in a caring community, and become more self-reliant.

### ACTIVITIES

Archery, challenge course, climbing wall, crafts, fishing, high ropes, hiking, horseback riding, outcamping, riflery, sports, technical climbing, and more.

# LOP

AGES 12–17

## Boys' Trail's End (BTE) & Girls' Trail's End (GTE)

Located 12 miles east of Estes Park, the Trail's Ends are self-contained. GTE is an 85-acre ranch bordered by wilderness land along Fox Creek while BTE is an almost 300-acre ranch which borders Rocky Mountain National Park along the impressive North Fork of the Big Thompson River. The TEs have seventeen and sixteen respective Conestoga wagons, their own boathouses, lodges, dining halls, and other facilities, including Barns, craft shop, and archery/riflery ranges.

The age range at the Trail's Ends provides a strong sense of camp unity with a mature and nurturing family feel. Our campers at BTE and GTE feel the added-strength of the friendships that develop in a setting modeled after the pioneer days of the rugged West. Both TEs offer a strong and loving support system that's so important during your teen years because you're able to rely on your peers and counselors and gain a greater sense of independence. Some campers apply to be a Camper in Leadership Training (CILT) seeking additional responsibilities and leadership experience in their final summer at camp.

### ACTIVITIES

Archery, backpacking, ceramics, challenge course, climbing wall, colts, crafts, fishing, fly fishing, high ropes, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, outcamping/solos, rafting, riflery, sports, SUP, technical climbing, via ferrata, woodworking, and more.

AGES 12–13

## Ski Hi & "Sky High" Chipeta "Chi-peta"

Our Middle units cater to both first-time campers and campers returning from our Lower units. You'll have many opportunities to test your wings while enjoying the pure fun of camp life and time with one another. In order to nurture these ideals and principles, campers in our Middle units are treated like young adults. They develop a Code of Living and participate in activities that offer adventure and a definite sense of accomplishment, which will make you more confident about who you are and what you're all about.

### ACTIVITIES

Archery, backpacking, ceramics, challenge course, climbing wall, crafts, colts, fishing, high ropes, hiking, horseback riding, outcamping, rafting, riflery, sports, SUP, technical climbing, woodworking, and more.

AGES 14–17

## Haiyaha & "High-yAh-hah" Senior Chipeta "Senior Chi-peta"

No age is too old to start going to camp! Campers in our Senior units test their grit, create lifelong friendships, and develop a strong set of values. Our goal for our eldest campers is to provide appropriate challenges and leadership opportunities that transform teens into young, happy adults. With the Code of Living as the cornerstone of this endeavor, you're given a chance to step out of your routine and learn what you stand for. Some campers apply to be a Camper in Leadership Training (CILT) seeking additional responsibilities and leadership experience in their final summer at camp.

### ACTIVITIES

Backpacking, crafts, high ropes, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, outcamping, rafting, riflery, solos, SUP, technical climbing, via ferrata, and more.

# Our Values and Beliefs

We live by our Core Values and Beliefs, which embrace **harmony, honesty, integrity, unselfish love,** and **concern for human dignity.** We believe these values transcend our personal and professional lives.

We believe that everybody has the capacity to lead happy and productive lives, and should have an equal and equitable opportunity to do so. We must try to live in peace with ourselves and those around us.

We believe that everybody should have the ability to act spontaneously in the right. Kindness flows from character reflecting the highest moral fiber.

We believe that everybody should have a deep and abiding respect and care for the natural world. The joy of being outside and in nature is one of the highest joys that humanity can possess.

Emotional well-being and exceptional character require a foundation of high self-esteem, courage, and determination. This inspires us to be real with one another and accepting of our differences.





# Our Anchors

## The Blue Kerchief

Campers and staff participate in the Blue Kerchief (BK) Ceremony near the start of camp. Campers agree to the Code of Living that was created and are presented with a Blue Kerchief to signify the importance of, and their commitment to, the Code of Living. Campers wear light blue kerchiefs, staff wear dark blue, and CLTs wear yellow. We wear our kerchiefs with pride and put them in a special place in our cabins or wagons. They are worn on Sundays at Chapel, and at special all camp events. Any recognitions such as patches, pins, buttons, and special camp memorabilia may be put on the kerchief. If a camper is not living up to the Code of Living, the unit director and Boys'/Girls' Camp director may withdraw their kerchief until they prove that they are a good citizen and regain the right to wear the kerchief.

## Trigger Bill

Trigger Bill is our cowboy philosopher and you can find his words of wisdom in lodges, dining halls, and in the Trigger Bill quote book, available in the store. Legend has it that the outline of Trigger Bill can be seen among the aspen trees as you drive up the driveway at Land O'Peaks.



Cheley

COLORADO CAMPS

## The Code of Living

Frank H. Cheley had incredible foresight. He realized that the values he saw as relevant to society and young people in the 1920s may not necessarily apply to our community decades, even a century, later. Instead, Frank built a core system of values that evolves with society. He called it the Code of Living. Every term and every summer, each unit, counseling staff, and support staff form their own Code of Living. While each Code may differ in its physical form, most often the Code of Living is a written – and signed – set of standards and values (e.g., traits like integrity, grit, perspective, tenacity, and acceptance).



# Preparing For 2022

## Payments

Monthly payment plans can be arranged during enrollment. **We encourage families to use ACH payments (eChecks)**, which draft directly from your checking or savings account, instead of credit cards; however, deposits and payments may be placed on Visa, MasterCard, or American Express or paid by check. **We offer a 2.5% discount for payments made using ACH via our online portal or checks.**

## Discounts

If you register before November 1st, you will receive a \$200 early-bird discount. If you pay in full by January, you will receive a \$75 discount. Siblings, not including the first, will receive a \$150 discount for Summer Camp and a \$50 discount for Quarter B-4.

## Waitlists

Once a Summer Camp unit or Quarter B-4 is full, then a waitlist is created in the order that we receive the application; a deposit is not required to join a waitlist.

## Financial Assistance

If you are in need of financial assistance, please visit A Thousand Summers, previously the John Austin Cheley Foundation (JACF), which was established in 1989 to honor the memory of John Austin (Jack) Cheley to help fulfill his dream of making a summer camp experience available to deserving youth who could not otherwise afford it. Please contact them for more information at (720) 981-2532 or [www.cheleyfoundation.org](http://www.cheleyfoundation.org).



	Dates	Tuition
<b>First Term</b>	June 14 – July 10	\$6750
<b>Second Term</b>	July 12 – August 7	\$6750
<b>Pikas</b>	August 8 – 13	\$1100
<b>Marmots</b>	August 8 – 13	\$1400

## Cancellation Fees

	Summer Camp	Quarter B-4
<b>Before Jan. 1</b>	\$300 <i>per term</i>	\$200
<b>January 1</b>	\$500	\$200
<b>February 1</b>	\$700	\$300
<b>March 1</b>	\$900	\$400
<b>April 1</b>	\$1,200	\$500
<b>May 1</b>	Full Tuition	Full Tuition

# Paperwork Needed

**All forms are due by May 1st.** These forms are required by regulatory agencies and support us in providing a tailored experience for your camper. If you have questions, please contact Peggy.

Forms marked with an asterisk(\*) are completed during registration. If you enrolled online, you will use the same login information to complete the following forms:

- Additional Camper Information\*
- Terms of Agreement\*
- Medical/Health History Form
- Parent Information: This helps us prepare for your camper and is vital for our staff to provide a quality experience. Even if your camper has attended Cheley for years, new staff use this form to get to know your camper.
- Parent Employment Information
- Travel Form: We need this to plan for your camper's arrival and departure. Please fill this out as soon as you know your travel plans so that we can suggest flights to other families in your area.
- Store Form
- Sunscreen Permission
- Cabin Request
- Rafting Waiver
- Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risks & Release and Indemnity Agreement
- Responsible Together: Cheley Colorado Camps in COVID-19

You will also be asked to submit the following paperwork:

- Camper Photo
- Healthcare Provider Form: Only after it has been signed by your camper's doctor
- Colorado Immunization Form
- Copy of Health Insurance Card
- Immunization Exemption (if applicable)
- Copy of IEP or 504 (if applicable)
- Action Plan for Medical Emergency (if applicable)

**If this is your camper's first summer at Cheley,** you will be asked for two Letters of Introduction. Please ask two adults who know your camper (e.g. teachers, coaches, neighbors, religious leaders, or anyone other than a family member) to submit this introduction.

## Camp Store

The store is open every day, except Sunday, in the morning for supplies and in the afternoon for "treats." Stores do not accept cash, rather you will set a spending limit for your camper and will only be charged for your camper's purchases, not your entire deposit.

## Cabinmate Requests

Campers may make ONE cabin request per summer – they do not carry over from previous summers. The request must be mutual: the other camper's parents must make the request as well. To make a cabin request, please contact our office.

# Arrival at Camp

## By Car

Cheley is located 75 miles northwest of Denver and is about a two-hour drive from Denver. Please arrive at Land O'Peaks or to the Trail's End properties between 1:00-4:00 pm. **We cannot accommodate arrivals prior to 1:00 pm.** When you arrive, you will be directed to park and can help your camper settle into their cabin/wagon and meet the counselors. Please take your camper and all medication, including over the counter, to the Health Center.

## By Plane

Campers should arrive at Denver International Airport (DEN) between 8:00 am-1:00 pm on Tuesday, June 14th (First Term) or Tuesday, July 12th (Second Term). **Please do not schedule flights that arrive before 8:00 am or after 1:00 pm.** If you need to schedule a flight outside of our arrival window, please contact Peggy prior to booking the flight.

Campers will be met as they deplane by a Cheley staff member wearing a red Cheley staff shirt with a blue kerchief and a clipboard. If your camper is traveling as an Unaccompanied Minor, note that on your travel form. Staff members will gather a group of campers and escort them on the train to the main terminal. Our luggage team will bring luggage to "Home Base" to be collected. **Label all checked baggage with the yellow bag tags that you will receive by mail.** When we have enough campers to fill a chartered bus, we will load the bus and send it to camp (Land O'Peaks). TE campers will take a van from LOP to the TEs. Campers should bring cash for snacks. We will have your camper call you at some point during the airport greeting process. The bus fee is \$40 each way and will be billed to your camper's account.

## By Bus

Your camper can also meet us at Denver International Airport (DEN) to take the bus to camp. [Our Travel Coordinator](#) will contact you before the term starts to confirm your arrival time and "home base" location. The bus fee is \$45 each way and will be billed to your camper's account.

## Late Arrivals

It is extremely difficult for us to accommodate campers who need to arrive at camp after our start date. If your camper needs to arrive late, please contact Peggy as soon as possible. There is a \$175 fee for special trips to and from the airport to cover fuel and staff time.

# What to Expect

## The First Few Days

The first day of camp is spent getting to know the campers and staff in your unit, while learning about Cheley. Wednesday is Orientation Day and campers will learn about program (activity) offerings, get to know campers and staff in their unit, and more about camp life in general. During the first week, campers have program on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

## Our Cabins and Wagons

Most cabins sleep 10-15 campers and two or three staff members. Cabins have bunk beds, dressers, and space for hanging clothes (a few hangers are provided per camper). Suitcases are stored within the unit until the end of the term. Wagons at the Trail's End Ranches sleep four campers and have drawers, and storage space. Each wagon has a Wagon Mama/Papa – a staff member, who is responsible for those campers. Because we don't want wildlife visiting, food is not allowed in cabins/wagons! There is a scheduled time each day for campers to clean, including making beds, tidying up belongings, emptying the trash, and sweeping.

## The Boathouse

All units, excluding Ski Hi, have an indoor bathroom facility (what we call "the boathouse") with flush toilets and private stalls, private shower stalls, sinks, and cubbies for toiletries. Ski Hi is the only unit with a bathroom (three showers, two stalls, a urinal, sinks, and cubbies) in each cabin.



# Health & Wellness



## Health Centers

We have a team of nurses, four health centers, and often have a doctor on site as well. We work with Estes Park Health if additional treatment is needed. We will call you if your camper has been taken to the doctor/hospital, receives a prescription, or spends the night in the health center. If your camper has an emergency or requires external medical care, we will phone call home the same day unless it is after 9:00 pm in the camper's home time zone, in which case a phone call will occur the following morning.

## Medications

Our health centers are stocked with standard over the counter medications, so there is no need to send these items. **All medications sent to camp must be in original packaging with prescription AND must be listed on the Healthcare Provider Form.** Over the counter medications, vitamins/supplements, along with dosage and time taken, must also be listed on the Healthcare Provider Form. Please do not send medications or supplements if it is something the camper can do without while they are at camp.

Medications are not allowed to be stored in cabins/wagons. Campers may carry inhalers and Epi-Pens with them. If they require these items, please send a spare to be kept in the health center. If campers wear contact lenses, they should bring an extra pair and/or a pair of glasses.

## Emergency Procedures

Cheley has risk management, emergency and crisis response plans in place to endeavor to prepare and respond in the event of incidents or events occurring on or off Cheley property. Since our first priority is the well-being of all campers and staff, parents and guardians will be notified within a reasonable length of time after the event of an emergency.

## Head Lice

We check all campers for head lice upon their arrival at camp. Please check your camper's head before sending them to camp and let us know if you find and treat any lice. If your camper has head lice, we will contact you.

## Altitude Concerns

Our climate is dry with very low humidity, requiring lip balm, lotion, and sunscreen. Our elevation is 8,200 feet and some campers may experience altitude sickness: typically headache and loss of appetite. The best way to combat this is to drink water, eat regularly, and rest.



# Homesickness

During the summer, campers will miss home. Like culture shock, it is a normal, predictable response to a transition. Separation from family/friends, loss of daily contact with familiar surroundings, and the normal grieving of that "loss" are all aspects that each of us experiences. The transition is a challenge built with opportunity.

While some manifestations of homesickness may exhibit themselves in the form of stomachache, headache, or loss of appetite, the core issue is adjustment. Camper's feelings vary in intensity and at different times of day. Most feelings of homesickness are not problematic; rather, the degree and duration of the behaviors can become an issue. When the feelings of sadness/anxiety associated with missing home become so strong that making friends, having fun, and participating in activities is difficult, something must be done.

The Cheley Experience is designed to anticipate the immediate needs of campers within the first few hours of arrival. Counselors get campers involved with others and redirect their attention to camp activities, which helps campers get off to a good start. Campers spend the second day of camp within their unit for program orientation and spend much of the first week participating in "get to know you games" as a way of connecting with their fellow campers. Campers are also assigned a "go-to" counselor; their job is to support the transition your camper is experiencing.

You can help prepare your camper by



## Birthdays at Cheley

When a camper has a birthday, we aim to make it a special day for them! We make a cake to share with their table and sing a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" at dinner. They may receive a birthday care package – please do not include food or money.

assuring them that you know they can make it and will be fine, and that you will be waiting with open arms and a big hug at the end of the term. Set your camper up for success by allowing them to commit to the entire term. Please don't make a "deal" with your camper that they may leave camp early if they are unhappy. Homesickness is a growing and dynamic process. It also has an end.

You may initially receive some lonely letters from your camper, describing how they miss you. Be patient. Such letters indicate that they are working through the adjustment process (and remember the time lag with mail! By the time news hits your doorstep, campers are usually having a great time). It is important to give kids a chance to work things out on their own, supported by our staff. This helps them build confidence and self-reliance. Know that homesickness rarely persists, and if it does, we will work with you to problem-solve together.

# A Typical Day



Each day at Cheley is unique and wonderful, so it would be almost impossible to specify every Day-in-the-Life variation. You will notice, however, that the Cheley Experience follows routine: one that repeats both First Term and Second Term. Each term begins with Arrival Day and Orientation Day, and ends with Final Weekend and Departure Day. Twenty-seven days might sound like a long time, but it takes that long to unwind, get in shape, and makes this experience one to remember!

## MONDAY – SATURDAY

6:45 AM Rise and shine, get ready for the day

7:30 AM **Breakfast** in the dining hall  
Program groups meet for all-day, multi-day, and half-day activities

NOON **Lunch** on the trail or in the dining hall

1:00 PM Rest hour (for in-camp programs)

2:00 PM Afternoon activities or continuation of all-day programs

4:15 PM Visit the store, shower, free time

6:00 PM **Dinner** in the dining hall or around the campfire on overnights  
Campfire, songs and taps  
Check-ins, Sweet dreams

## SUNDAY

7:15 AM Rise and shine

8:00 AM **Breakfast** in the dining hall  
Free time in the unit and staff meetings/check-ins

11:00 AM Chapel

NOON **Lunch** in the dining hall  
Sign up for weekly program  
Activities (Play Day and All Camp)

5:30 PM **Cookout**  
Campfire  
Vespers, songs and taps  
Check-ins, Sweet dreams





# Activities

We are committed to our "challenge by choice" philosophy where campers have a say and input into their experience. Our free-choice system is designed to keep friendship groups open and flexible, and allows each camper to request the activities of their liking. Each week, campers learn about the program offerings for the week and communicate their preferences to their counselors.

There are a ton of activities at camp! Prior experience is not required for any program, though some have age limits. We encourage campers to try a wide variety of activities and we don't force them to participate in activities they are not comfortable with.

All activities contain some degree of risk. Safety is a priority in our programming and we work hard to minimize any risks across the board. Please review the Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risks & Release and Indemnity Agreement in CampBrain.



# Out of Camp Activities

## Hiking

We offer at least one hike per day per unit to Rocky Mountain National Park and other areas. Our hikes range in difficulty from beginner to expert terrain. Learn to hike at altitude and follow Leave No Trace guidelines for how to enjoy the experience while preserving the trails for future generations. Early Breakfast hikes (EBs) allow you to complete a longer hike in one day by leaving early in the morning.

## Backpacking

Backpacking trips range from one to four nights. Campers carry all the necessary gear and food, and cook meals at their campsite.

## Climbing

We offer technical outdoor climbing on our property at Christmas Tree Rock and a Via Ferrata program. All technical climbing is run by Kent Mountain Adventure Center (KMAC). Helmets are required and provided.

## Outcamping

We transport small groups to beautiful campsites on our property for two and three-day outcamps. Campers and staff cook all meals, learn how to build a fire, pitch a tent and build a shelter. Other activities may include hikes, Frisbee and other sports, a dirty derby, and relaxing in a hammock. Campers in Haiyaha, Senior Chipeta, and at the TEs are invited to do a 24-hour solo experience. Counselors are nearby and check in periodically.

## Horseback Riding

Sign up for all-day trail rides and two to four-day horsepacking trips. Helmets are required and provided.

## Mountain Biking

We use Specialized mountain bikes, which are purchased new each summer. We teach proper bike riding form and technique to aspiring and seasoned riders on day trips and overnights of up to three days. Campers learn bike maintenance and can try their hand at the Cheley Challenge—biking up our long, steep driveway—upon returning to camp! Helmets are required and provided.

## Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP)

We offer day trips to Union Reservoir in Longmont. We work with Rocky Mountain Paddleboard to provide this program.

## Fly Fishing

Campers can spend a morning or afternoon fly fishing at various locations.

## Whitewater Rafting

Campers ages 12 and up can sign up for a day of rafting on the Poudre River in Fort Collins. We work with A Wanderlust Adventure and they provide all the gear, including life jackets and helmets, and guides take our campers and staff on a fun river adventure.

# In Camp Activities

## Horseback Riding

Ring rides, working with the colt training program, and Little Ranchers. We have 140 horses, five riding rings and numerous trails. Helmets are required and provided.

## Sports

Basketball, soccer, rugby, lacrosse, football, aerobics, running, relays, games, ultimate Frisbee golf, dance, yoga, and more.

## Crafts

Woodshop, ceramics, jewelry making, tie dye, leather work, mosaics, painting, paper crafts, copper enameling, and more.

## Riflery & Archery

Riflery uses air rifles in lower units and .22 rifles in older units. Learn how to aim from a prone position and move up to sitting and standing as you master the technique. Eye and ear protection are required and provided. In archery, arm guards are required and provided.

## Climbing

Campers can try a variety of difficulty levels at our indoor climbing wall. Helmets are required and provided.

## Fishing

Spend a half day relaxing by our beautiful, spring-fed, well-stocked pond. When you catch a trout, bring it to the kitchen and they will prepare it for you for dinner!

## Ropes Course

On our low ropes course, campers work in small groups, with a challenge and a timetable and must work together to come up with a plan. The low ropes course is comprised of a variety of activities that include webbing, swinging ropes and balancing logs. Challenge yourself above the ground at our high ropes course. Harnesses and helmets are required and provided.



# Program Recognitions

Many of our programs offer recognitions. Recognition books are available for each camper with checklists to work on. Patches are typically earned during the term as long as the camper starts early and is committed to completing it. Otherwise, it can take more than one term to earn a patch. The first step of a patch is the basics and the second level combines the basic knowledge with the ability to perform well in the activity. Patch holders are expected to continue their leadership in these skill areas if they are on program in that area. At the Trail's Ends, campers work toward Junior or Senior level patches, depending on their age.

## We offer the following program patches:

- Horsemanship: Riding Patch (all units) (colloquially, "RP")
- Hiking: Chipmunk or Mountaineering Patch (all units)
- Outcamping: Outcamping Patch (all units)
- Backpacking: Backpacking Patch (all units, except Lower Ski Hi and Lower Chipeta)
- Mountain Biking: Mountain Biking Patch (Haiyaha, Senior Chipeta, BTE & GTE – Senior only)
- Climbing: Spider Patch (Lower Ski Hi and Lower Chipeta)

## We also offer participation patches:

- On the Trail Patch: for spending a certain number of days out of camp over the course of a single term (BTE & GTE, Ski Hi and Chipeta)
- Pinecone Patch: for participation in a variety of activities (Ski Hi and Chipeta)
- Circle of Stars: for participation in a variety of activities (Lower Ski Hi and Lower Chipeta)

**Archery:** White, black, blue, red, and gold pins, based on scores and distance.

**Riflery:** Young Specialist (Lowers only), Prone Specialist, Sitting Specialist, Standing Specialist, and Kneeling Specialist, based on scores. The Master Patch is earned only after competing all four levels of every award.

**Gold Spurs:** Campers in Haiyaha, Senior Chipeta, Boys' Trail's End, and Girls' Trail's End (Seniors) can earn the Gold Spurs through top achievement and ability in all camp skills, over multiple terms. Gold Spurs are awarded after meeting qualifications in all of these areas: horsemanship (Riding Patch), backpacking (Backpacking Patch), mountaineering and hiking (Mountaineers Patch), handicrafts (must have completed projects in two different craft areas), mountain biking (Mountain Biking Patch) or outcamping (Outcamping Patch), and in-camp skills and general sports (Riflery Prone Specialist IV and Archery Red Arrow from 15 yards).

**We also offer work toward Boy Scout Merit Badges.** Campers can complete: Wilderness Survival, Horsemanship, Hiking, Leatherworking, Wood Carving, and Riflery, get close to completing Cycling (except the 50-mile ride requirement), and do about half of Backpacking and Camping. Campers need to bring the blue merit badge card to camp and Jeff Cheley will sign off when completed. It's the camper's responsibility to get the paperwork completed and signed. We recommend focusing on no more than one or two badges per term.

# Citizenship Recognitions

The following recognitions cannot be worked on with a specific plan as there are no requirements. Rather, it is up to each camper to be the best version of themselves. This includes being kind to all fellow campers and staff, always doing their best, being enthusiastic, participating fully, and following the Code of Living. An anonymous vote is taken by all campers and staff in each unit at the end of the term for who they believe has consistently exemplified the Code of Living. These recognitions are presented at Recognition Campfire.

The recognitions are as follows:

- The Silver Coup: Lower Ski Hi and Lower Chipeta
- The Silver Spurs: Ski Hi and Chipeta
- The Gold Key: Haiyaha and Senior Chipeta
- The Driver of the Covered Wagon: Boys' and Girls' Trail's End (Junior level)
- The Top Hand: Boys' and Girls' Trail's End (Senior level)



# Special Events

## CHAPEL

Chapel is delivered by campers and staff and is focused on spiritual development. We welcome all faiths at Cheley and expect that all faiths be honored. For this reason, we have a service on Sunday morning that focuses on the common values of all religions. We focus on the Code of Living in addition to the basic values of character development. We expect that campers will return home with the same religion with which they arrived.

Like vespers, Chapel is meant to be inspirational in nature. Campers and counselors are expected to use this time to collect their thoughts and for spiritual renewal. There are also many musical performances at Chapel, including Choir, which all campers and staff are invited to join. Our setting provides unsurpassed beauty. All campers and staff are expected to attend, wearing their kerchief and appropriate clothing ("Chapel attire").

## PLAY DAY

The first Sunday of each term is Play Day with the corresponding brother/sister unit. It is designed for campers to get to know each other. Cooperation, fun, and safety should be stressed. All campers and counselors are involved in this fun day of special colors, cheers, and games to rally camp spirit and encourage team building.



## ALL CAMP CAMPFIRE

The second Sunday of each term is set aside for All-Camp Campfire, including a cookout at Woods Kitchen, horse retreat (a flag raising ceremony) in the Western Riding Ring, and dance party. The campfire counselors of all eight units host this themed night. Each unit and often support staff prepare a song/skit and gather in the John Austin Cheley Pavilion to perform it. This is the only camp event with every camper and staff member! The dance party at the end of the night closes with "(I've Had) The Time of My Life." Then we gather for friendship circle with all of camp, followed by taps played by multiple trumpeters, and a final goodnight. Check out some past performances on our YouTube channel!



## SQUARE DANCE

Each term there is a Square Dance with the corresponding brother/sister unit. The purpose is to encourage social growth.

# Visiting / Final Weekend

## VISITING AND TOURS

While we do not allow visitors as it is disruptive to the Cheley Experience, we are able to accommodate tours for prospective families.

## FINAL WEEKEND

Family and friends are invited to join us for Final Saturday! Campers will not be allowed to leave camp until Sunday. **Visit our website to view the 2022 Final Saturday Schedule.**

## RECOGNITION CAMPFIRE

A recognition ceremony is held in each unit on the final Friday night of each term (for LOP) and the final Saturday of each term (for the TEs). Our goal is to recognize as many campers as possible for accomplishments during the term. These include earning a patch or milestone in a program area, participating in a certain activity, or accomplishing a personal goal. Counselors will give a brief overview of their program area. This is a very special night in the lives of the campers and counselors, and helps us put closures on a successful term. Kerchiefs are worn and friendship candles are distributed.

## FINAL CHAPEL

The final Saturday morning of each term is set aside for Final Chapel where campers from each unit share a "What Camp Means to Me" speech. Family and friends often join for this special service.

## OPEN HOUSE & HORSE SHOW

On Saturday during Final Weekend, campers can exhibit the skills they have learned over the course of the summer. LOP campers will have an Open House format with scheduled times. Trail's End Ranches will have a Horse Show, planned and organized by the wranglers.

## BANQUET

The purpose of banquet at the end of each term is to provide a time for closure as a group. Banquets are to be special and a time for everyone's best behavior. Campfire counselors are responsible for planning banquet.

## TIPPING/GIFTS

Cheley staff members are hired and trained as youth development professionals. As part of our code of ethics, all camp staff members agree to fairness by not accepting tips or gifts.



# Food at Camp



We serve our meals family-style, which yields many benefits. Family-style meals are when the components of a meal are put on the table in bowls or plates so everyone can serve themselves. The bowls and/or plates are passed around and put back in the middle of the table where more can be eaten if desired. Not only does family-style enhance the experience of mealtime by mimicking a large family meal, but it also promotes responsive feeding and encourages better self-regulation of intake and positive weight-related outcomes. It goes without saying that mealtime is one of the best opportunities to connect with friends before heading out for the day and again over dinner when you return. Tales of daring and fearless adventure fly across the tables as our food keeps a consistent smile on each of our campers' faces. Manners and polite conversation are encouraged at every meal.

Land O'Peaks Ranch has two large dining lodges: Ski Hi Dining Hall and Chipeta Dining Hall. The Trail's End Ranches each have their own dining hall. Each dining hall has an extraordinary kitchen staff team (complete with a head cook, cooks, and kitchen assistants). Breakfast always includes cereal before the hot items, and we serve dessert at dinner. Sundays are special with homemade granola, fruit and yogurt for breakfast, and a hearty lunch before an evening cookout. Campers participate in helping to cook meals while out of camp.

For those who prefer or require a milk substitute (whether for your cereal, coffee, or glass to drink), soy milk, almond milk, and oat milk are always available. At every meal, we also serve a vegetarian and/or vegan option and gluten-free option.







# Contacting Your Camper

Everyone loves to get mail!

Please limit packages to one per camper per term and do not send food. You can send unlimited letters. Please avoid writing about how much fun your camper is missing at home. Encourage your camper to have fun and to make the most of their camp experience.

## USPS

(All Campers/Staff)

Camper Name, Unit  
Cheley Colorado Camps  
PO Box 1170  
Estes Park, CO 80517

## FedEx/UPS

(All Campers/Staff)

Camper Name, Unit  
Cheley Colorado Camps  
3960 Fish Creek Road  
Estes Park, CO 80517

## Amazon

(All Campers/Staff)

Camper Name, Unit  
Cheley Colorado Camps  
3960 Fish Creek Road  
PO Box 1170  
Estes Park, CO 80517

## Sending Emails & Viewing Photos

We post photos and a newsletter update daily in the Cheley Connection. You can also send one-way emails to your camper. You will receive information on how to do this in the spring. Emails received by 11:00 AM MT will be delivered the same day, except for Sundays when no mail is distributed.

## Phone Calls

Campers are not allowed to make phone calls. If you need to get a message to your camper, call the office and leave a message for the unit director. They will check with your camper and call you back.

## Weekly Reports

You will receive a report from your camper's counselor three times per term. To view these reports, log into the Cheley Connection.

# Departure from Camp

## By Car

Please pick up your camper and depart between 6:00am-8:00am on Sunday.

## By Plane

We are a two-hour drive by bus from Denver International Airport (DEN). Campers should schedule departures from 9:00 am-1:00 pm on Sunday, July 10th or August 7th. We leave for the airport at least four hours before departures, **so please do not schedule flights before 9:00 am or after 1:00 pm.** If you need a flight outside of these times, please contact us before booking.

Our staff help campers check baggage and check in for flights, escort them through security, accompany them on the train to the terminal, and wait at the gate with them until flights board.

Campers will be given \$15 cash for snacks and travel. The bus fee is \$45 each way and will be billed to your camper's account.

## By Bus

You can also meet your camper at Denver International Airport (DEN). If so, they would travel by bus to the airport. If your camper is taking the bus to Denver International Airport, [our Travel Coordinator](#) will contact you the week before the term ends to confirm arrival time and the location of Home Base. The bus charge is \$45 each way and will be billed to your camper's account.

## Early Departures

The Cheley Experience has a distinct beginning, middle and end and it is difficult for us to accommodate campers who need leave camp early. If your camper needs to leave early, [contact Peggy](#) as soon as possible. There is a \$175 fee for special trips to and from the airport to cover fuel and staff time.

# Other Important Info

## A Thousand Summers (previously the JACF)

A Thousand Summers (previously The John Austin Cheley Foundation) funds need-based camperships for high-potential youth to attend wilderness summer camps that positively impact youth development. A Thousand Summers was established in 1989 to honor the memory of John Austin (Jack) Cheley, and to help fulfill his dream of making camp available to deserving youth who could not otherwise afford it. Camperships are available at nine ACA-accredited summer camps across the United States. For more information or to donate, visit [their website](#).

You can also donate items that your camper has outgrown (boots, sleeping bags, backpacks, etc.) by leaving them in the office at the end of the term or mailing them to camp. Please cross out your camper's name so that we don't confuse them with Lost and Found and return them to you!

AUGUST 8-13, 2022

## Family Camp

Cheley has offered a week-long Family Camp in August since 1985. Families with children age six and older can experience our five-day Family Camp, located at the Trail's End Ranch for Boys. Activities include day hikes, horseback riding in the ring and on trails, technical climbing, fishing, crafts, target sports, games, Kids Camp for the younger campers, and more. Evening campfires are a favorite with family skits, songs, creative program reports and hilarious fun. Spaces fill quickly, so [contact Peggy](#) today to register!

## Registration for 2023

The easiest way to secure your spot for 2023 is to register during Final Weekend! We use a staggered enrollment system, which will be updated on our website when available. Near the start of camp in 2022, we will also finalize our dates for 2023 (including Summer Camp, Quarter B-4, and Family Camp). Applications are accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. Although it's impossible to generalize as it changes each year, some units fill sooner than others. Quarter B-4 and Family Camp also tend to fill quite quickly. We try our very best to accommodate every camper. That being said, we rarely recommend waiting to enroll. For more information about our availability, please contact our Enrollment Manager, [Peggy](#).