

The Wise Times

Spring 2020 | Volume 13, No. 2

Words for the Wise

Camp Wise is all about relationships. It is about community. And it is about building connections. When the summer comes to a close everyone returns to school and work and we often hear "I wish camp happened ALL YEAR LONG". And when we asked our families at the end of the 2019 Summer, how we can help provide that Camp Wise ruach (spirit) outside of the summer months, we received overwhelming feedback that Camp Wise should offer more in-person programming throughout the year. So, we added a number of new opportunities to our calendar. These new experiences allowed for the "Home of Happiness" to be shared outside of the summer months. One of these new experiences was our first annual Fall into Fun Program for current 1st-4th grade students.



Fall into Fun

During the first weekend in November, over 35 current and future Camp Wise campers gathered for a Shabbat afternoon and evening at Camp Wise. We packed the day full of the best camp has to offer with favorites like arts & crafts and the climbing tower. After a camp tour via a hayride, the campers even had the chance to spend

time in a Chalutzim cabin. We closed out the night with dinner in the Chadar followed by a Camp Wise Havdalah service and song session!

Another way we engaged with our community was through a collaboration with the Shaker Rocks rock gym. With the help of their Head of Programming & Instruction and former Camp Wise Ropes Supervisor, Jonny Bolton, we scheduled two events with the newly-opened rock gym. When the weather wasn't nice enough to climb outside, we were happy to be inside and engaging in one of our favorite camp activities!

Finally, we changed our winter overnight program to be one mega weekend for current 5th-8th graders. We loved having a large group of campers together for one of the snowiest weekends of the winter! Highlights included a song session with Sheldon Low, evening programs, campfires, and tons of outdoor play!

When spring approached and we learned that our families would be facing a "new normal" with stay-at-home orders, we jumped into action. While we couldn't provide in-person gatherings as we had in the fall and winter, we found new ways to sustain and grow our community by enhancing our already robust online presence. We have posted multiple activities and live sessions on Facebook and Instagram. When I was a camper, long before Facebook, Instagram, Zoom, and even YouTube were developed,



Above:
An abundance
of snow for
Winter
Overnight



Right: Climbing
at Shaker Rocks

I had to stay connected the old-fashioned way. I collected my bunkmates' home phone numbers and addresses. If I wanted to stay in touch I needed to pay to call my friends or write an actual paper and pencil letter to be mailed! Nowadays, we are lucky to be able to connect in new ways online so we don't feel so far away from each other even though we are miles apart.

Camp Wise is about relationships, it is about community and it is about building connections. Right now we are grateful to be able to maintain these relationships through all of these virtual methods. But we know that technology is no replacement for the connections made at camp. The connections formed late at night when it's long-passed "lights out" or those cultivated through overcoming challenges in daily activities, stay with us well beyond our summer days. While we long for the time we can spend together in person, we are grateful to have so many other avenues to engage with one another. We are looking forward to connecting in person, when it is safe to do so! In the meantime, thanks for connecting with us anyway you can. And join us as we eagerly anticipate many more late nights under stars, at the Home of Happiness! ★

Shana Says: Tikkun Olam



Rabbi Shana Nyer – Jewish Educator

One day a rabbi and a soap maker went for a stroll when the soap maker abruptly turned to the rabbi and asked, "What good is religion? We have had religion for thousands of years. But everywhere you look there is evil, corruption, dishonesty, injustice, pain, hunger, and violence. So, I ask you, what good is it?"

The rabbi did not answer but continued walking with the soap maker. They approached a playground where children, covered in dust, were playing in the dirt.

"There is something I don't understand," the rabbi said. "Look at those children. We have had soap for thousands of years, and yet those children are filthy. What good is soap?"

The soap maker replied, "But rabbi, it isn't fair to blame soap for these dirty children. Soap has to be used before it can accomplish its purpose."

The rabbi smiled and said, "Exactly. And so it is with religion. We can teach it, and people can say they learned it, but until they have used it, it cannot make a positive difference in the world."

I am so excited that this summer we will be putting our Jewish learning to use and making a positive difference in the world. We will be taking a deep dive into our core value of *Tikkun Olam*, repairing what is broken in our world. Last summer we discovered what it meant to be created *b'tzelem Elohim*, in God's image. And this summer, we will begin to learn and put into action what it means to live up to that responsibility. Through social action, social justice, and *shomerei ha'adamah* (being guardians of our earth) we will begin to make a difference one act at a time.

Not Your Average Day

A day at Camp Wise is filled with SO many opportunities to explore new activities and to deepen skills in old ones. As we reflected on the daily schedule, finding time for campers to build skills, foster new relationships, grow in confidence and independence, and develop a sense of belonging were important to us. With these goals in mind and through camper, parent, and staff feedback, we improved our daily schedule for Summer 2020. No day is average at Camp Wise, so why would we want an average schedule?!

New Schedule Highlights:

Rest Hour is for rest – CW mornings are filled with fun, and campers have asked for a true, hour-long rest hour to prepare for the action-packed afternoons. We want to keep this hour sacred to allow extra time to relax, write letters home, and possibly nap!

Chofesh – Traditionally, chofesh has been before dinner, but it is moving to before lunch. Crazy, right?! Campers want more daily elective options, so we anticipate offering activities like Magic the Gathering, Volleyball, Football, Bracelet Making, and more!

Chugim – Instead of having three a day, we will now be offering two a day. However, campers will have more elective opportunities this summer as we have added an additional chug block into each camp session! We believe this will allow for more skill-based learning with less interruption.

Designated shower time & extended Nikayon (cabin cleanup) –

Staff and parents will like this change! It will help keep campers and staff healthier throughout the summer, which will allow them to have more time for fun.

Medicine Distribution – We have more thoughtful about medicine distribution times. Our new daily schedule will allow us to decrease crowds at med pass and reduce time away from camp fun!

New Program Highlights:

Mountain Biking has been a long-loved activity at camp, and while the bikes undergo maintenance twice a summer, we felt it was time to purchase a new fleet. We cannot wait to see campers zoom by us on our new bikes! Special thank you to our Alumni who participated in our shortened Wise Madness campaign. The donations we received will help us to purchase new bikes.

Because we want campers to continuously learn new skills that they can take home and share, we are working to create "Levels of Achievement" that campers can work towards in each program area. Be on the lookout as we finalize the details.

We are beyond excited for this summer and the fun that we will all have together. In the spirit of Tikkun Olam, if your family is doing a "spring clean" this Spring, Camp Wise will happily accept contributions of gently loved outdoor games, sporting equipment, craft supplies, and more to put in our Village Moadons to use during downtimes.

Be in touch!

Summer:

13164 Taylor Wells Road
Chardon, OH 44024
216.593.6250

Fall, Winter & Spring:

26001 South Woodland Road
Beachwood, OH 44122
216.593.6250

www.campwise.org

wisekids@mandeljcc.org

Camp Wise all-stars: Spring 2019



**Rachel Braun –
Chalutzim Supervisor**

What is your favorite Camp Wise activity to participate in and why?

I love yoga at camp! It is so relaxing and such a good workout. It is a great break to breathe, stretch and reflect, especially with all of the chaos that comes with camp.

Most looking forward to... Free swim! Free swim is my favorite time of day at camp because it is so refreshing to jump into the pool on a hot summer day. This is the best time to hang out with the campers in my cabin and in the other cabins. Also, who doesn't LOVE instructional swim!? "Instructional is fun! Instructional is for everyone!"

Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is Positivity is the key to happiness. I would not have such a positive mindset if it were not for the experiences I have had and lessons I have learned at camp. This is thanks to all of the amazing counselors I had as a camper who taught me to keep an open mind about activities that I may not love and to stay positive. A positive attitude will change your outlook on life and make you a much happier person.



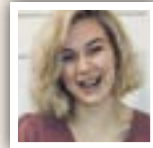
**Leia Withee –
Ohalim Supervisor**

What is your favorite Camp Wise memory?

One of my favorite camp memories is from my second year of Ohalim. We were the 08 Princesses and we had a rock that was painted to look like a pea. Every night the rock would be under someone's pillow and that person got to tell any story they wanted. It was my cabin's favorite part of the day because we got to hear and tell so many funny stories over the course of the summer.

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? Rolos! I love chocolate and caramel so it is a perfect mix! I am also always a fan of pretzels if I'm in the mood for something salty.

What is your favorite Camp Wise activity to participate in and why? As a camper and a staff member, I loved rainy days at camp when everyone hangs out in their cabins or moadons playing cards, making bracelets, or telling stories. It is such a good time to bond and get to know each other better.



**Kellie Branagan –
Ohalim Supervisor**

What is your favorite Camp Wise activity to participate in and

why? My favorite activity is probably the campfires! I love sitting round the warm fire and singing Camp favorites. If you add s'mores to the mix then even better!

Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is... To choose fun all the time! If you try your best to take any bad situation and make it good then you will have an incredible summer!

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? My favorite canteen item is the Hershey's Bar because you cannot find Hershey's in England that easily and I love it.



**Bec Wightman –
Noar Supervisor**

Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is...

Everyone at camp who crosses your path is worth knowing and being able to be in their lives is a joy. This community is full of some of the best people and I am so lucky to have had this, and to be able to experience it for another summer!

What is your favorite Camp Wise activity to participate in and why? THE LAKE!! My favorite spot at camp! I love being able to visit and get a jet ski ride or go kayaking or paddle boarding. I will spend all my spare time sitting under the beautiful sky looking at the Camp Wise lake!

Most looking forward to... Eating about 12 Quesadillas in one meal and then backing it up with three churros.



**Maya Cohen –
Noar Supervisor**

What is your favorite Camp Wise activity to participate in and why?

My favorite Camp Wise activity is most definitely the video chug. In video, the campers get to make a video to show on the last night of camp, CW night. I loved it as a camper and love being the staff member that gets to take the chug. It's always so fun and hilarious to see how each video is created and the final product. It is even better when you watch it a few months later when you are missing camp!

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? My favorite item in canteen is Chex-Mix. I understand the hype of Hershey bars, but Chex-Mix is always so great at any time of day. It is the perfect snack after free swim!

Most looking forward to... I am most looking forward to meeting all the new staff, campers, and trying out something new this summer! It is my 13th summer coming back and I am very excited to get my blanket-FINALLY! I can't wait to take on this new role in NOAR (the best AND most spirited village).



**Joe Gurski –
Solel Supervisor**

What is your favorite Camp Wise memory?

I have a million memories of different campfires that have all melted into one, but the cliché answer has got to be the first time we ever sang Magnificence all together and it was so beautiful!

Everyone at camp will know me because of my... Everyone at camp will know me because of my horse song, which has made it to the songbook and I'm honored to have my legacy represented forever within those pages.

Most looking forward to... Most looking forward to taking Solel 2020 on some incredible trips across America, and welcoming camp into Solel village during Shabbat.



**Ryan Singer –
SIT Supervisor**

Everyone at camp will know me because of my... loud voice and

ability to create the most obnoxious cheers imaginable.

Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is... to never hesitate and do whatever seems fun and adventurous.

What is your favorite Camp Wise memory? Becoming the evil Spirit Stealer



**Andrew Levy –
SIT Supervisor**

What is your favorite Camp Wise activity to participate in and why?

My favorite Camp Wise activity is a good old-fashioned campfire! Bonus points if there is a song session involved. There is something magical about sitting around a fire with some of your best friends, singing, laughing, and having an awesome time!

What is your favorite Camp Wise memory? Scoring a goal in the USA vs Internationals soccer game!

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? I do not have much of a sweet tooth so I am all for the cheese pingles.



**Sarah Caplan –
ILS Supervisor**

What is your favorite Camp Wise activity to participate in and why?

Maccabiah! I love the high energy and insane spirit that comes out in everyone!

Most looking forward to... Watching the ILS teens experience something for the first time and helping them learn and grow outside of their comfort zone.

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? Skinny popcorn because they are always pretty generous with the popcorn to air ratio in the bag :)



**Miki Lavi –
ROPES Supervisor**

Everyone at camp will know me because of my... Big white helmet that

I painted with the Israeli flag and my name on it. Legend says that even after three years of my absence, it is still there and intact.

Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is... Friendship!

No doubt that camp brings people together. We have staff from all over the world, from different backgrounds and yet, we get to become friends for life. Those two months we spend together feels like we have known each other for years.

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? I am more of a savory person and I cannot get enough of those "Lays", but it is so much better to join in with another friend and split something sweet with them, best combo!



**Fraser Somers –
Lake Supervisor**

Everyone at camp will know me because of my... Likeness to Spider-

Man and Peter Pan

Most looking forward to... Seeing and catching up with all the staff and campers, whilst rocking the five year bag of course.

Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is... Never be afraid to be yourself, even if you're not fully sure who that is.



**Mimi Light –
Art Shack Supervisor**

Most looking forward to... I am most looking forward to campfires every night before bed with everyone!

Everyone at camp will know me because of my... Constantly rainbow dyed hands.

Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is... something important I have learned from camp is that kindness is the most important trait and different doesn't mean better or worse, it just means unique, and unique is a good thing.



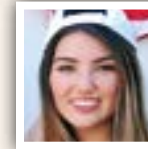
**Ally Costello –
Media Supervisor**

What is your favorite Camp Wise memory?

The best memory I have of camp is in 2007 when we celebrated 100 years of CW! I was a Chalutzim camper and I remember the most fun carnival and helicopters dropping pillowcases from the sky!

Everyone at camp will know me because... I will be snapping pictures and videos all day for the CW Instagram & Facebook. Make you sure follow along this summer!

Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is... Kehillah, community. The sense of belonging and the community at camp is the best feeling. This is what has kept me coming back since 2006 and I would not trade it for the world.



**Sarah Senkfor –
Teva Supervisor**

What is your favorite Camp Wise activity to participate in and why?

My favorite Camp Wise activity is song sessions. I love singing with everyone and learning new songs because it really makes me feel connected with the community.

Everyone at camp will know me because of my... Funny outfits. I have a funny hat or a costume for everything, and I cannot wait to show them off.

Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is... Everyone should be open-minded to making new friends from different backgrounds. Camp has introduced me to some of my best friends from all over the world. I've gotten to build such incredible friendships that wouldn't have been possible without Camp Wise.



**Adam Cohen –
Sports Supervisor**

What is your favorite Camp Wise activity to participate in and why?

I have always loved ropes and helping campers achieve things they had previously thought not possible.

Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is... To have empathy for those who come from different backgrounds and places!

What is your favorite Camp Wise memory? I loved making "the bee video" when I was a camper. We were making a music video and stumbled upon a bees' nest. The video quickly turned into us running away at top speed.



**Shana Nyer –
Jewish Educator**

What is your favorite Camp Wise memory? The Shabbat we had services

in the covered gym and it was POURING!!! Everyone was squished together to keep dry and the staff was AMAZING! They were singing at the top of their lungs with AWESOME energy to distract the campers from the storm and brought the ruach to Shabbat.

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? The Hershey Bar – simple, delicious, chocolatey goodness – YUM!

Everyone at camp will know me because of my new stories to come this summer and of course the return of Schwartz and Greenberg and maybe even the Flying Fettuccine Brothers!



**Rachel Weinstein –
Infirmary Manager**

**What is your favorite
Camp Wise Memory?**

Building relationships with the campers/staff throughout the summer!

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? Popcorn! Is a reason needed? Popcorn is life!

Most looking forward to... Seeing the campers!



**Cori Bloch –
Day Camp Supervisor**

**What is your favorite
Camp Wise activity to
participate in and why?**

Shabbat. Being at the chapel for services makes me feel so connected to nature and Judaism. I love hearing the entire camp united in song and prayer.

What is your favorite Camp Wise memory? My favorite camp memory is seeing my boys, Aron (8) and Leo (6) at camp for the first time in 2016. Bringing them to a place that is so important to me was so special.

Most looking forward to... Spending time at camp with the Day Camp campers. I love being part of a first-time campers experience and seeing them fall in love with camp for the first time.

Karen Solonche – Social worker
(see sidebar)



**Jodi Fish –
Infirmary Manager**

**Most looking forward
to...** Being back at The

Home of Happiness and seeing all of my campers and staff from past summers!

What is your favorite Camp Wise memory? My favorite Camp Wise memory is from when I was a camper! I have always loved the art shack, so every time I got to go and tie-dye one of my very own CW t-shirts was a highlight of my summer.

What is your #1 favorite item in canteen and why? My favorite item in canteen would have to be the Chex Mix! I sometimes want to go for the chocolate, but the Chex Mix always pull me towards them!



**Ryan Sommerfield –
Performing Arts
Supervisor**

**Something important I
have learned from my**

experience at camp is... Whilst at camp I really learned a lot about Jewish life. I come from a non-religious background and Camp Wise really opened my eyes to the Jewish culture and community. I think that being able to experience Friday night Shabbat in the chapel at camp is something truly special and something that should be cherished!

What is your favorite Camp Wise memory? One of my favorite memories from camp was seeing how happy the kids were after they had performed the end of session plays. All of the blood, sweat, and tears that went into them paid off and it was amazing to see the kids be so proud of themselves!

Most looking forward to... Catching up with old friends, meeting new ones and giving the campers an amazing summer at camp!



**Marissa Griesmar –
Social Worker**

**What is your favorite
activity to participate
in and why?** My favorite

summer activity is hiking. I love being outdoors!

Everyone at camp will know me because of my... Obsession with the night sky. ("Did you see the moon last night?!")

Something important I have learned from my experience at camp is... To go with the flow! Everything won't always go as planned but it always turns out okay in the end!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Karen Solonche



Logan, Karen and Madelyn Solonche

My name is Karen Solonche and I am excited to return to the Home of Happiness for my second summer. I am a native Clevelander, growing up in University Heights and later graduating from Orange High School. After graduating from Ohio State, I realized that I wanted to become a teacher or a therapist. I probably should have figured that out before graduating college. Anyway, I decided to go back to school and get my Masters of Education from John Carroll University. After graduating JCU, I worked in several school systems but I finally planted my roots in Beachwood. Many of our campers know me as "Mrs. Solonche" because I have been their teacher in Beachwood. I have spent the last 20 years teaching at Hilltop Elementary school. Several years ago, I realized I still wanted to fulfill my dream of becoming a counselor so I went back to school again and made that dream become a reality. So, during the day, I am a teacher and in the evenings, and on weekends I work as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor working in both a private practice and at WomenSafe.

Growing up, I went to a Jewish overnight camp in Zionsville, Indiana. I loved going to camp and feeling the pride of being Jewish. I had many special memories at camp but especially loved the Shabbat walk. I am still friends with some of my cabinmates from 40 years ago. Working at Camp Wise is very special to me because now I get to see camp from a different perspective. I get to work with campers and counselors daily to make their camp experience even more successful. As the "Social Worker" I am able to provide guidance and support to our Home of Happiness family. I work with the counselors and supervisors to understand the needs of our campers, and counselors to create supports that make the camp experience even better.

I am looking forward to another fulfilling summer at Camp Wise. I like to spend most days walking around camp and checking out all the fun activities. When you see me stopping by your activity, come say hello and introduce yourself. ★

Alumni Happenings

Last month, in lieu of March Madness being canceled, the CW Alumni Committee quickly switched gears to offer CW's first-ever "Ultimate Camp Wise Thing" Wise Madness Bracket! Alumni who donated to the original Wise Madness campaign competed against each other in their own pool, while we also opened up a community pool for our campers, staff, and parents to participate in. While our Wise Madness campaign was cut short, we brought in over \$1,600, which will support camp in purchasing a new fleet of mountain bikes! Thank you to all of our donors for your support of Camp Wise – we are grateful and lucky to have you in our community! To see this year's bracket go to page 8.

Keep an eye out for:

- **Impact Day:** Originally scheduled for early May, this event has been put on hold until further notice. The updated date and time of Impact Day is TBA. When we are able to set a new date, we will share with all alumni as it will be a wonderful opportunity to come together at 13164 Taylor Wells Road to give back to the place that gave you so much! The day will include an update on camp for the 2020 season and hands-on projects intended to help get camp ready for summer!
- **Alumni Weekend:** We will be hosting our next Alumni Weekend from October 2-4! We are excited to bring back Alumni Weekend and celebrate the holiday of Sukkot together! Ready to dwell in the first-ever CW Sukkah? We thought so. **SAVE THE DATE!**

For more information about any and all CW Alumni events and activities, contact Abby Kaufman, CW Associate Director: a Kaufman@mandeljcc.org.



Alumni Impact Day 2019

AT CAMP WISE THE FUN NEVER STOPS!

CAMP CHAI

SUN, AUGUST 9 – THURS, AUGUST 13

A taste of camp for adults with disabilities. Enjoy activities like arts and crafts, swimming, the climbing tower, lake activities, sports, campfires, & more.

FAMILY FUN DAY

SUN, AUGUST 16

For families with children ages 5-13. Meet the Camp Wise staff and get info on summer 2019. Activities include:

- Staying cool in the pool – swimming & water slide
- Grabbing adventure on the ropes course & climbing tower
- Getting crafty with tie dye, lanyard & more
- Hiking in the woods
- Splashing around in a canoe on the lake
- Tours & fun for all!

WOMENS' WEEKEND

FRI, AUGUST 28 - SUN, AUGUST 30

Relax, unplug and have a blast at Camp Wise at this womens-only retreat.

FAMILY CAMP

FRI, SEPT 4 - SUN, SEPT 6

Escape to camp for the weekend and experience what all the kids are raving about. Your family can enjoy:

- Swimming, boating, water skiing & tubing
- Sports including tennis, archery, basketball & mountain biking
- Campfires & songs
- Arts & crafts
- Climbing tower and zip line
- Magical camp shabbat and havdalah
- Delicious kosher meals
- Activities for kids led by our amazing camp staff



TO REGISTER: WWW.CAMPWISE.ORG • (216) 593-6250

Shout Out To Our 2020 Staff-In-Training (SITs)

This summer, we have 31 SITs joining us at Camp Wise! This is the largest group we have had in years – we are thrilled to have such a vibrant, talented, committed group of young adults in this program. We have already seen them in action, volunteering at our Mandel JCC Camps Carnival over winter break and at the Mandel JCC Indoor Triathlon and Biathlon and Kids Tri in February! We are grateful for the time and energy they have dedicated to camp and The J this year. Thank you, SITs 2020!



“I’m tryin’ to tell you something about my life...”

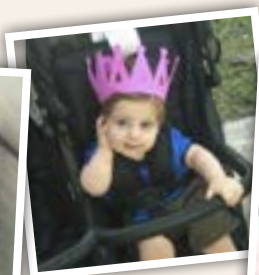
C.I.T.s (Campers in Training)



Beatrice Porter



Ivy Moore



Nathan Saad



Summer Saig

CITs	Years at Camp	Future Camper
Mike Saig	1998-2007	Summer Ryan Saig
Scott Brown (grandparent)	Former Director	Nathan Asher Saad
Jessica (Horowitz) Moore	1993-1997, 1999-2002	Ivy Miriam Moore
Amy (Saltzman) Porter	1993-1997	Beatrice Pearl Forrest Porter

B'nei Mitzvah

We are proud of you,
I said we are proud of you... uh!

When someone at Camp Wise celebrates a big day, we all stand on our benches and cheer about it! Here is a big CW cheer for all those campers, who with their families have celebrated their B'nai Mitzvah since our last newsletter. Please let us know if we've missed you and we will include you in our next issue.

Jacob Dvorin Rachel Wolf Maddy Pilloff
Izzy Kaufman Talia Millet Daniel Zelvinsky
Ethan Papcum

Wedding Bells

Leslie Robbins
(1994-2001)
married
Justin Brophy
January 4, 2020



Calling all Camp Families!

There are many wonderful ways for our camp families to help us make our summer successful. One is by hosting some of our international staff on their day(s) off. This summer we have staff joining us from countries

including Israel, Australia and the UK.

The other opportunity to volunteer is as a camp doctor. Our camp infirmary is staffed 24 hours-a-day with registered

nurses. We are looking for doctors who can “take call” (by phone) for one week to speak with the camp nurses, and arrange to come to camp three times during their call week to see campers on site.

Please call the camp office to help us out!
(216)593-6250



Mandel Jewish Community Center of Cleveland
26001 South Woodland Road • Beachwood, Ohio 44122



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CampMinder

“Ultimate Camp Wise Thing” Wise Madness Bracket!

CREATED AND HOSTED BY OUR CW ALUMNI COMMITTEE

