



STAFF PROFILE:

Cal Gridley, Sailing Instructor

My name is Cal Gridley. I attend Wentworth Institute of technology in Boston. My main hobby is Ultimate Frisbee and I play it fanatically. I have many other pastimes though, including archery, parkour (freestyle running), and swimming.

How did you find out about Mowglis?

I discovered Mowglis through an interesting series of events that spanned a few years. Outside of camp I work as a lifeguard and swim instructor. Two years ago I embarked on a tall ships race across the Atlantic from England, and up the east coast. After the race officially finished in Boston, I brought my ship and crew to my hometown of Marblehead for a much needed break. While at port in Marblehead two of my students from swim class were able to tour the ship. Their mother, who is heavily involved with the camp, suggested me to Mr. Sam Punderson as a possible staff member.

How long have you been sailing? Where did you learn how to sail?

I have been sailing for about twelve years. I first learned to sail at a camp very similar to Mowglis. That's where I initially discovered the joys of sailing with a strong wind on a beautiful lake. I graduated to sailing tall ships when I was in high school when I began doing week long voyages in and around England and France.

Do you think sailboats are scary?

Sailboats can be a very scary place if you aren't prepared for what you have to do. There's always the danger of being thrown overboard into the ocean, getting hit with cables, beams, etc. Most of that adds to the thrill of the experience, though, and you'll find most sailors live for the sort of danger that is ever-present on tall ships.

How did you become the "Ninja Monkey King" at camp?

Believe it or not, I typically acquire a similar nickname to this anywhere I spend an extended amount of time. It *probably* has something to do with my tendency to climb over any obstacle as fast as possible. I also have a dive-roll that I use often in Frisbee and, well, you can see where things go from there...

Do you believe there are ghosts at camp?

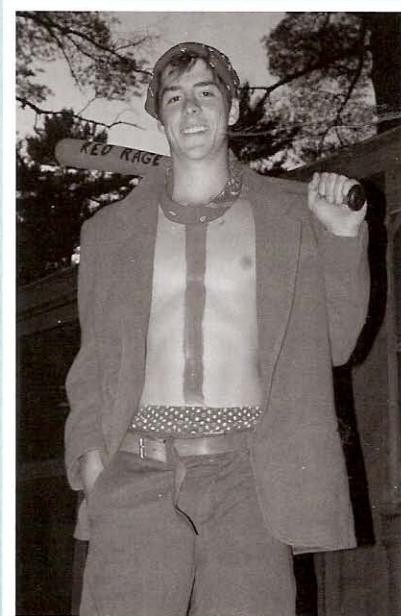
I do believe there are ghosts at the camp. I personally haven't had a visual paranormal experience that has absolutely convinced me, but I've heard some very convincing testimonies. I think it's very likely that if anywhere were to be inhabited by spirits it would be a place such as Mowglis, which builds so many strong and positive memories and can so easily become an important part of a persons life.

What was your best/favorite part of the summer as a staff member?

There are so many things that come to mind when I try to answer this. The way the kids and other staff brought me right into the fold and treated me as if I'd been there my entire life, the pure beauty of the location on the lake, the way the kids could make me laugh even when I was having a bad day, the awesome times I got to spend with the other staff. The list goes on and on.

What was your favorite special event day and why?

To be honest, my favorite event day was probably Lazy Day. Don't let the name fool you. For the staff, Lazy Day is not very 'lazy'. A day packed full of Industry periods might drive some other staff to the limit but I found that Industry periods were my favorite times of the day since I got to be out on the lake so much. And now that I'm back in classes, I'd give anything to be out on the lake.



As a computer guru why is it important to you to disconnect for the summer?

As useful as technology is, it's important to remind ourselves that we don't need to rely on it. A whole summer of fun in the sun is just what we need to prove that we are humans and we can and should rely more on ourselves to get things done. As startling as going "computer cold turkey" is, it's been a regular practice of mine to take an extended period of time away from technology over the summer for the last few years. I find it helps me take a step back from getting swept away by everyday life.

Do you have any plans for next year's sailing program at Mowglis?

Oh yes. I plan to use the offseason as planning season. We'll just count last year as my trial run. I spent some time looking at the requirement sheets from way back when, and I plan to add a lot of exciting requirements and work a lot more on some racing techniques. I can't tell you all of my secrets, though!