

PANCHO MAZZA AWARD WINNERS

“Awarded to “the camper who has shown the most courage, dedication, endurance and confidence in overcoming a challenge during his stay at camp”.

2009: Thomas Crandall

Thomas suffered a serious injury on his shoulder right before camp started. Notwithstanding his inability to participate in any sports during camp, he decided to attend camp nonetheless and spent 7 weeks helping other counsellors in whatever way he could be helpful, cheering his peers in outside competition, and doing whatever activities the doctors allowed him to do. That's the spirit Thomas!

2010: Dad Poquie

Camp Tecumseh's pastoral setting often allows campers the opportunity to reflect and learn about life and about themselves. At the same time the Tecumseh family offers effective support and general care to all campers. For several summers Dad Poquie, the 2010 recipient of the Pancho Mazza award, fully embraced the opportunity to grow and flourished under the care and concern of the Tecumseh Family. Dad, a talented and hard working athlete and a good hearted young man, had an early childhood that was filled with danger and disruption. Born in Liberia during that country's civil war, Dad's family fled to an Ivory Coast Refugee Camp, then moved to New York City and finally ended the disruption by settling down in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Tecumseh alumnus Kevin Dougherty mentored Dad during his elementary school years at a Philadelphia public school. Dad then attended LaSalle College High School, an independent, college preparatory school, where he played football and graduated in 2013. Interested in giving back to Camp Tecumseh and as a credit to his character, Dad asked to be a counselor at camp. In the fall Dad will attend and play football at Penn State University. Dad's tumultuous childhood has forged these outstanding attributes into his character - perseverance, goal-setting, and a high work ethic. Dad Poquie is a most fitting recipient of the Pancho Mazza award.

2011: Mike Lamb

Mike is the younger brother of two counsellors at camp, diagnosed with diabetes at a young age. Mike shows a great sense of responsibility and maturity in dealing with his illness, and makes the best every day of all the activities camp has to offer in spite of his condition. Way to go Mike!

2012: Jonathan Lopez

“JLO”, a kid at camp on a scholarship from the Boston Red Sox. A great example of camp's mission “making good boys better”. JLO comes from a difficult family situation, growing up in a tough neighbourhood in Boston. Over his several summers at camp, he shows remarkable growth as a person, maturing into a young man embodying the essence of Tecumseh, living his 7 weeks to the fullest to carve his own role at camp and grow in all dimensions. Tecumseh gave a lot to JLO, and he gave as much and more in return!