

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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1st Annual YMCA Buck Leadership Award Presented to Princeton Teens

The YMCA's Alexander K. Buck Leadership Award honors legacy of philanthropist and good neighbor, Whip Buck.



Local Princeton teens Cole Eisenberg (left) and Emily Ott (right) were selected as this year's recipients of the YMCA's Buck Leadership Award as part of the Discovery Camp's Hometown Heroes week. The Buck Award, created in memory of Princeton resident and community supporter Alexander "Whip" K. Buck, is presented annually to two camp counselors who embody and demonstrate characteristics of the late Mr. Buck.

PRINCETON, August 17 - On Wednesday morning, August 17, campers at the Princeton Family YMCA's Discovery Camp watched as two of their favorite counselors were honored with the first annual YMCA Alexander K. Buck Leadership Award. Those selected to receive the honor were Cole Eisenberg, 18 years old, of Princeton and Emily E. Ott, 19, also of Princeton. The ceremony was one of several activities highlighting social responsibility for the week's theme "Hometown Heroes."

Annually the award is presented to two YMCA camp counselors, one young man and one young woman, who best exemplify and reflect the leadership qualities, character and passions of the late Alexander "Whip" K. Buck, a longtime Princeton resident and former trustee and supporter of the YMCA and its mission. The qualities and characteristics include demonstrating the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility; showing humility and kindness to others in actions, words and deeds; serving as a good citizen in the camp community and showing a love of democratic principles of fairness and respect;

possessing an infectious spirit of fun and adventure and inspiring others to follow; valuing the natural environment and encouraging others to do the same; demonstrating a balance of spirit, mind and body as a well-rounded individual; learning from his or her mistakes and accepting and sharing wisdom; and putting others first and being committed to serving others at every turn; And finally, being “a good friend to all.”

Kate Bech, CEO of the Princeton Family YMCA, presented the awards, saying “Mr. Buck, a longtime supporter of the YMCA mission and other important community organizations, was truly a Hometown Hero to us and many others, and this annual award is a wonderful testimony to his good works and legacy.”

Cole Eisenberg, son of Patricia Grieco and Izzy Eisenberg, grew up at the Y, first as a camper and CIT, before becoming a senior counselor. A graduate of Princeton High School, Cole will attend Pace University this fall as a freshman. Emily Ott, daughter of Steven and Lisa Ott and a sophomore at Quinnipiac University came to the YMCA this summer and embraced her role with passion and enthusiasm. Both young adults were truly “a friend to all” and served as exemplary role models to their peers and the campers.

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About the Y

The Y is one of the nation’s leading nonprofit strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Across the U.S., 2,687 Ys engage 21 million men, women and children – regardless of age, income or background – to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation’s health and well-being and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. Anchored in more than 10,000 communities, the Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. www.princetonymca.org