

ΧΡΥΣΗ ΓΕΦΥΡΑ GOLDEN BRIDGE

newsletter

in this issue

*Meet our
2023 Summer Staff!*

*Improvements sponsored
by Leadership 100*

*Spotlight on the IV Next
Young Adult Travel
Program*

*Why are Orthodox
Christian Summer Camps
so Important?*



SPRING 2023



ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE

From His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

Beloved Ionian Village Alumni,

Christ is Risen! Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη!

I am overjoyed to offer you these words of heartfelt paternal greeting for this spring edition of your alumni magazine, “The Golden Bridge.” As alumni of this thriving and dynamic ministry within our Sacred Archdiocese, you serve as the bridge that connects Ionian Village’s rich history with its vibrant present, paving the way for a future filled with boundless potential, creativity, and inspiration. You continue to cultivate and strengthen the bonds of love, fellowship, friendship, and solidarity that unite all of you as former campers and staff. And I thank you wholeheartedly for your ceaseless concern and dedication to the ongoing success of this extraordinary program.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the camp’s revival has been a tremendous success. New facilities have been constructed, numerous upgrades to existing infrastructure have been made, and many facets of the daily camp experience have been entirely revamped. While your unwavering and enthusiastic support has been instrumental in achieving these improvements, special thanks and recognition must be given to Leadership 100 as well for its generous grant, which made several of these renovations possible. I am hopeful that these enhancements will significantly elevate the daily activities and overall experience for campers and staff alike.

I am also delighted to announce the appointment of Marina Floratos as the new Director of Ionian Village. Marina is well known to all of us, and she has been a part of the IV family for many, many years — first as a fellow camper, next as a member of the staff, and finally as an integral part of the office and leadership team. She undoubtedly embodies the energy and enthusiasm that characterize Ionian Village, and I am confident in her ability and commitment to lead the camp in a most commendable and exemplary manner. In congratulating Marina on her new and exciting role, let us all join in wishing her the very best and utmost success!

With paternal love in the risen Lord,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



A Message from the Director of Ionian Village

Xristos Anesti!

In the first six months as the Director of Ionian Village, it fills me with much hope and excitement to see the fervor and outpouring of love that our Alumni and supporters have continued to display. Year over year, our community continues to grow as participants and staff experience the amazing program, and then share their stories with their loved ones upon their return home. Our community is unlike any other.

As we prepare for the 53rd summer of Ionian Village, we are thrilled to announce some exciting developments, which you'll read about in the coming pages. As you all know, our camp has always been a place where young people can come to explore their faith and build lifelong friendships. I know that this summer will be no different, and that we have all your prayers with us as we travel to Greece.

Ionian Village is a community that evolves and is always made better by the people who love it most – all of you. As alumni, you are an integral part of the camp's history and legacy. Your contributions to our community have helped shape the program we have today, and we are grateful for your continued support. Our goal for the Golden Bridge newsletter is to provide updates on the ministry, keep our incredible community connected, and offer ways to become involved. I look forward to hearing from, seeing, and connecting with you as we recommit to our newsletter and meet back at the chapel.

Marina Floratos
Director of Ionian Village



Marina has been intimately involved in Ionian Village for many years, first as a camper in 2009 then as part of the administrative team of the camp since 2014, when she started as a Summer Staff Member and subsequently became the full time Program Director. She has extensive experience in hospitality and travel, having worked in the corporate event management industry for 4 years.

Marina currently lives in Naples, Florida with her husband Steven Calakos and they are members of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church.

Opposite: His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros during a visit to Ionian Village last summer accompanied by (left to right) Yiorgos Nastoulis; Kyria Nadia, His Eminence's mother; and Father Nektarios Papazafiroopoulos, Chancellor of the Archdiocese.

Above: Serving as a Staff Member in Aegina; With His Eminence and Father Nektarios, shortly after Marina's appointment as Director; Marina and her husband, Steven, at the Chapel.



in this issue

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|-----------|--|-----------------------------|
| 6 | | <i>Meet our 2023 Summer Staff</i> | 26 | | <i>Holy Friday in Glyfa</i> |
| 20 | | <i>Why are Orthodox Christian Summer Camps so Important?</i> | 27 | | <i>Alumni Connections</i> |
| 22 | | <i>Leadership 100 Improvements</i> | 28 | | <i>IV On-the-Go</i> |
| 24 | | <i>What is IV NEXT?</i> | 28 | | <i>Stay Connected</i> |

THANK YOU

to the Ionian Village 2023 scholarship donors!

On behalf of all of our scholarship recipients who will be joining us this summer, we offer our gratitude to the following individuals, parishes, and organizations that generously offered scholarships this year:

- *The Basta Family*
- *George and Venetia Pallis Memorial Youth Fund*
- *The Tiches Family*
- *Anastasia & William Tronoski*
- *So Blue Greek Ceramics*
- *The Metropolis of Detroit*
- *Anunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Baltimore, MD*
- *St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Bethesda MD*
- *St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church, Boca Raton, FL*
- *St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA*

Congratulations to the campers who will be joining us this summer through the Ionian Village Scholarship Program!
We can't wait to see you in Greece!

If you're interested in offering a camper the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience Ionian Village through our scholarship program, please reach out to us anytime at ionianvillage@goarch.org

ΧΡΥΣΗ ΓΕΦΥΡΑ GOLDEN BRIDGE

newsletter

Why the “Golden Bridge?”

For over 50 years, thousands of campers, staff, and clergy have passed through the historic gates of Ionian Village, fulfilling Archbishop Iakovos’ dream of establishing a “Golden Bridge” of Orthodoxy and Hellenism between America and Greece.

The goal of the Golden Bridge Newsletter is to connect all of us that were blessed to be a part of the Ionian Village experience.

AN EXCERPT FROM “Η ΧΡΥΣΗ ΓΕΦΥΡΑ”

By Τάκης Γαζουλέας, Αθήνα 1992

“The castles of the historic triangle: Corinth – Mystra – Chlemoutsi, stand today as monuments of a glorious history of centuries past. The “castle” of Ionian Village stands tall, raising the children, boys and girls, of the Greeks living in America and bridges both the physical distance between the old and the New World, as much as the spiritual and emotional distance experienced by the Greeks living abroad, and by their children. With this idea as inspiration, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos characterized the camp as a “golden bridge,” strengthening the bond between Mother Greece and her children, the Diaspora, in America.”



“Τα κάστρα του ιστορικού τριγώνου: Κόρινθος – Μυστράς – Χλεμούτσι, ορθώνονται σήμερα, μνημεία μιάς μακραίωνης ένδοξης ιστορίας. Το κάστρο του Ιονικού Χωριού ορθώνει πανύψηλα τα παιδιά, αγόρια και κορίτσια, των Ελλήνων της Αμερικής και γεφυρώνει τόσο την απόσταση από τον παλιό μέχρι τον Νέο Κόσμο, όσο και το ψυχικό κενό των ξενητεμένων Ελλήνων και των παιδιών τους. Γι’ αυτό και ο Σεβασμιότατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος κ. Ιάκωβος χαρακτήρισε τις κατασκηνώσεις σαν χρυσή γέφυρα μεταξύ της Μητέρας Ελλάδος και των παιδιών της, της Διασποράς, στην Αμερική.”

introducing . . .

OUR 2023 SUMMER STAFF!

Ionian Village depends upon its highly motivated and energetic Staff Members, each of whom is selected through a careful application process. In whatever role you experienced IV, we know you will agree that our Staff is one of the most crucial elements of the success of the program.

On the following pages, we are excited to introduce you to this summer's 2023 Staff Members! Each of these young adults are committed to the mission of Ionian Village and will love our campers unconditionally as they lead with faith, positivity and humility. Through their selfless dedication, their campers will grow immensely and our staff members, too, will walk away from the summer with the incredibly fulfilling experience of having facilitated the best summer for our campers.

We will also introduce you to our Clergy and Medical Staff as well as our Leadership Team. Our Medical Staff take time away from their personal practices to donate their skills and expertise to caring for our campers while in Greece, and we are so thankful to them. Similarly, our Clergy take time away from their parishes and communities to serve the spiritual needs of Ionian Village, leading us in Chapel services, facilitating Orthodox Life conversations, and sharing their own faith experiences. Finally our Leadership Team is comprised of a diverse group of dedicated and creative individuals that truly believe in Ionian Village and its success. The Leadership Team works closely together during the summer and before to not only ensure that every aspect of the program is planned and executed meticulously, but that every moment of the Ionian Village experience is meaningful and intentional.

Welcome to Ionian Village 2023!



ANASTASIA STAURULAKIS

Anastasia is more than ecstatic and thrilled to return to Ionian Village and serve as a staff member this summer. Ever since she was a camper in 2016, Anastasia has been yearning to go back to IV. She is so excited to share the breathtaking and life-changing experience that is Ionian Village with the campers and play a role in what will be the best summer of their lives. Anastasia Staurulakis is from Mclean, Virginia, right outside Washington D.C, and grew up attending St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Bethesda, Maryland. She just graduated from Tulane University with a degree in finance and is pursuing a master's degree in accounting. Anastasia is a movie and TV fanatic who can make a mean frappé and loves playing tennis in her free time. Anastasia is looking forward to meeting and Greek dancing the night away with all of you in just a few short months, and, if you ever need her, you can find her at the IV periptero getting a motion juice and Papadopoulos Digestive cookies.



ANDREAS CHRISTY

Andreas, Andy, Dr. Dre; a man of many names and a lover of good times. Johnny Cash actually preemptively wrote the song "I've Been Everywhere" to describe his escapades across the USA, Greece, and the globe. He is the designated grill master at family parties. As one of five boys, he knows a thing or two about being mischievous, although his pranking days are behind him...mostly!

In 2017 as an IV camper, Andreas met some of his best friends AND gained religious experiences he carries with him daily. While all the campers can't wait for summer in Greece, Andreas is just as excited for camp to start! Let's have the BEST SUMMER EVER!



ANDREW VELLIS

Andrew Vellis is from Burlingame, California and attends Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco. In 2019, Andrew attended Ionian Village as a camper. It was the best summer of his life and is excited to come back now as a counselor. Andrew brings enthusiasm and lightheartedness to make IV a great experience for campers just like his counselors did.



ANYSSIA KOKINOS

Anyssia (Sia) Kokinos is from Los Gatos, California, and grew up attending St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose and Greek Village Camp. She attended IV as a camper in 2016 and cannot wait to return this summer! Sia graduated from Washington University in St. Louis and plans to attend law school in the future. She has been traveling, both on her own and with family, since August of 2022, and Ionian Village will mark the end of her year-long journey! Sia is most excited about dancing into the night, planning fun activities for campers, and making countless memories!



ARIA DALKAS

Aria can't wait to meet each and every one of you this summer, she can't hold back all that KEFI! She loves going on new adventures, hiking, surfing, baking and anything art related. She's a proud plant mom, has an addiction to collecting shells and is always taking pictures of everything. She feels so blessed to be going back to the place that brought her life long friendships and strengthened her relationship with God. :)

DALLIS KEHOE

Dallis began her IV journey in 2017, where she traveled to Greece for the first time, attending Session 1 as a member of Cabin Crete. While at Ionian Village, she went with many of her Metropolis of Boston friends and her older brother, Patrick. Her most valuable takeaway from IV '17 was rediscovering the ability to let go and trust in God, herself, and others. Dallis is SO excited to serve on staff this summer and cannot wait to make IV 2023 one of your life's best and most memorable summers. Dallis graduated from Wellesley College in May with a degree in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies, and she hopes to go to law school in the near future. You can find her talking, debating, frolicking, admiring the moon, or getting active in her free time. Dallis is a PROUD Bostonian who is energetic, enthusiastic, and extroverted (though she identifies more as an ambivert). Dallis loves watching shows like The Vampire Diaries, Arrested Development, and Attack on Titan.

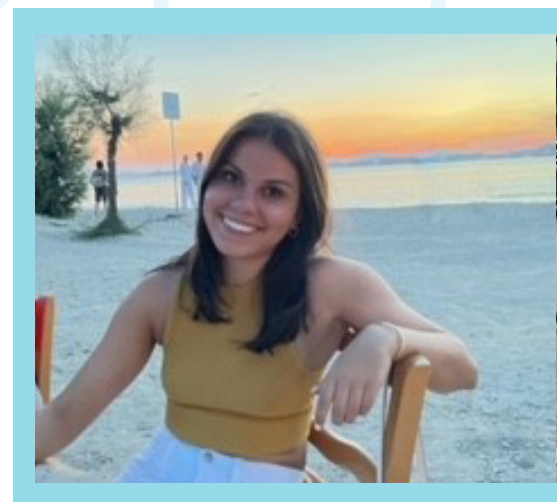
ELENI GULAS

Now we will introduce Eleni Gulas, she is 22 years old and from Birmingham, Alabama. Eleni was previously a dancer and enjoys all kinds, but especially Greek dancing! She also loves music and singing even if she is a little off key most of the time. Three words to describe her would be energetic, passionate, and playful. Eleni attended IV back in 2019 and cannot wait to return and relive the life changing experiences alongside the campers and creating new memories with everyone! She also is really good at braiding hair for those hot summer days!

The success of each summer depends greatly on our highly motivated, deeply passionate, + carefully selected staff members!

ELENI KOUZOUNIS

Eleni Kouzounis is from Houston Texas but currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia where she attends Annunciation Cathedral. Ever since being a camper in 2017, Eleni has been eager to return to the best place on earth (even attending IV Next in 2019). Eleni loves spending time with her 2 year old golden retriever Reese, rewatching Gossip Girl for the 100th time, and jamming to old Taylor Swift at any chance she gets! Eleni is most excited to enjoy Kyria Sophia's world class cooking, grow in her faith, and meet all of the campers!





ELLIE PAPATHANASIOU

Ellie is a 21 year old born and raised in Dallas, TX. She first went to Ionian Village in 2019, and fell in love with the fellowship and experience she gained there. After that summer, she felt called to serve others, which led her to apply to be an IV staff member in 2023. Ellie is a friend to all, and is passionate about building confidence in her peers. She is looking forward to this summer, and being apart of the 2023 IV staff!



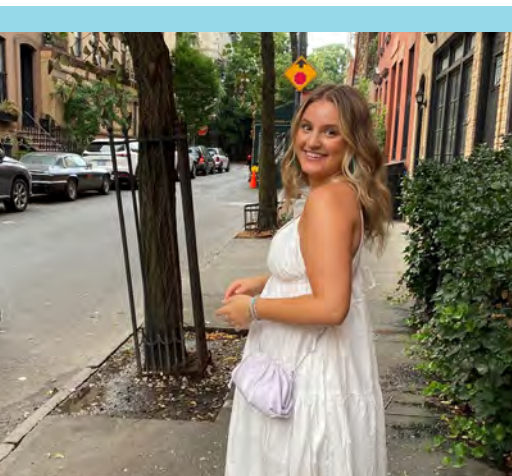
GEORGE PAPADEAS

George Gregory Papadeas is a 22 year senior old from Denver, CO and attends the Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral. He has been actively involved in the church from a young age having attended metropolis camp, GOYA basketball tournament, and Ionian Village on numerous occasions. George humbly served as Butler University's OCF President, HSA President, and as a counselor at the Metropolis of Denver camp. Outside of the church, he is an avid Greek dancer and skier and looks forward to somehow combining the two during his time in Greece! George has always dreamed of being an IV Staff Member and could not be more ecstatic to not only see the campers grow in faith and fellowship but to do so alongside them!



JACK MCCLURE

Jack McClure is a 22-year-old from Atlanta, Georgia who loves being active and playing sports while learning and practicing the Greek culture with Greek dancing, learning to speak Greek, and hopefully soon learning to play a Greek instrument. Jack plans to graduate in May 2023, but he can't wait for the month of June when he gets to return his favorite place on Earth, Ionian Village! Some of Jack's unique talents are his athletic ability, his leadership qualities, and his deep care for others. He can also twist a pencil between his fingers and can whistle 4 different ways.



JOANNA TILLER

Joanna, or as some like to call her, Jojo, is thrilled to be heading back to Glyfa Beach to serve on your 2023 staff! She has been involved with IV since her time as a camper back in 2016, most recently assisting the office staff for IV2022. Joanna grew up in Marietta, GA at Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, Greek dancing, working the festival, and as an active member of GOYA. She now lives in Manhattan, NY living her dream of working in fashion! When she is not drinking μέτριο frappes, Joanna can be found helping you style the cutest dress code appropriate outfits and attempting to Greek dance to Taylor Swift songs. Joanna cannot wait for the campers to experience the magic of Ionian Village and fall in love with the camp as much as she did!



JULIA KRANTZ

Julia Krantz is a Junior at Michigan State University majoring in Kinesiology. From the age of nine Julia has had the honor to attend the Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp as a camper and camp counselor. Julia is known for her bubbly personality, and adventurous mindset, you will definitely find her breaking it down on the dance floor this summer! A fun fact about Julia is her love for Dominos pizza, she is proud to say she can devour a whole pizza by herself in one sitting. Most importantly, Julia can't wait to meet the campers and her fellow staff members as she is ready to make IV 2023 THE BEST SUMMER EVER!!!

LILY MARKS

Lily is from Chicago and is so excited to drink Fanta, attempt to Greek dance, and eat loukoumades with you all! At camp you'll probably find Lily trying to go on a run, doing fun accents, and contemplating breaking her vegetarianism because of Kyria Sophia's amazing cooking. Lily loves to draw, dance to Bad Bunny and Shakira, and can devour a bag of oregano chips. She is so excited to meet you all and spend the summer together!

LUKE SABRACOS

Luke is graduating from the Boston Conservatory in May, where he is studying Musical Theater. He's spent the last four years performing around the city of Boston, but now he's ready for the best summer of his life at Ionian Village. Luke attended Ionian Village as a camper in the summer of 2019. His friends describe him as the life of the party and he's always ready for an adventure. He can't wait to see the campers bring all the Kefi to camp.



MORGAN LILLY

Morgan Lilly first experienced IV in 2019 as a camper in Kerkyra where he truly had the best summer of his life. He is honored to share in the blessing of this camp and return to help serve all of you in 2023. Morgan just graduated from the University of Georgia (Back-to Back National Champions) where he majored in Political Science and International Affairs and intends on going to law school. He loves vintage clothing and anything with some history (like Greece, the cradle of civilization and birthplace of democracy btw). With a passion for Greek dancing, he can get carried away sometimes doing the Zembekiko (see picture for proof of chipped tooth from IV 2019). Even without frappes, he is very energetic and loves playing sports and getting active. Morgan also loves reading and watching shows like Game of Thrones, One Piece, and Peaky Blinders. He can't wait to give it his all to help you enjoy this once in a lifetime experience!





*Our staff dedicate their entire summer to Ionian Village
and commit to leading our campers with
unending faith and love.*

MARIA MANOLIAS

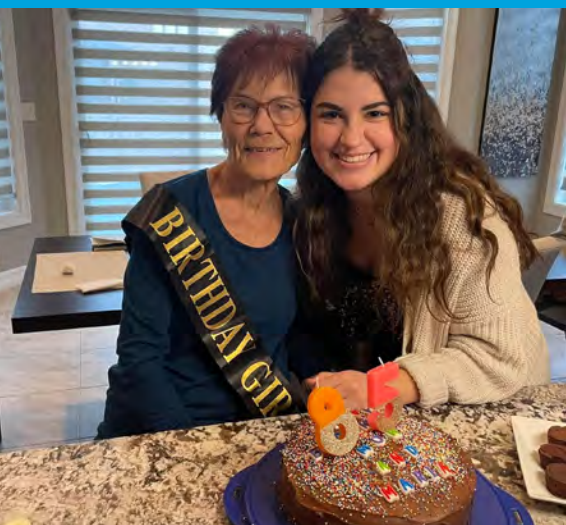
Maria Manolias is beyond excited to spend summer 2023 traveling around the Ionian Sea with you! A proud Michigander, professional older sister, and devoted Greek Orthodox Christian, Maria attended Session 2 in 2018—an experience that ultimately changed her life. She is most excited to guide you on your spiritual journey, but she also cannot wait to (1) Introduce you to the wonders of a Papadopoulos Dark Chocolate Digestive cookie (2) Host sing alongs and share fun facts on the bus (3) Build sandcastles and play Spike Ball (4) Greek dance the summer away!

MARIA MENOUTIS

Maria is so excited to serve on staff for Summer 2023! She is ready to head back to Ionian Village after 4 long years since being a camper in 2019. Maria grew up in Connecticut and is graduating from the University of Connecticut this year. She is most excited about Greek dancing, connecting with our faith, and helping the campers have the time of their lives! She cannot wait to meet her campers and see them have the same life changing experiences and memories as she did!

MARINA MERMIGIS

Marina is from Chicago, 21 years young, fun-loving, responsible, and highly passionate about movement. She loves practicing yoga, swimming, hiking, running, and every activity to get her body moving! She craves exploration and follows adventure wherever it may take her; last summer, she lifeguarded on the beaches of Cape Cod, and she can't wait for this next adventure at Ionian Village!





PETER ARVANITAKIS

Peter is originally from Kansas City, MO and grew up attending St. Dionysios Greek Orthodox Church, part of the Metropolis of Denver. In the church he is involved as an altar boy and enthusiastic Greek dancer. He attended Ionian Village as a camper during the second session of 2019. Peter is excited to be on IV grounds again and enjoys joy chanting and storytelling with campers, and is looking forward to eating Kyria Sophia's food!



PHOTI KYRIAZI

Photi grew up in and resides in Denver, Colorado. He loves being outdoors, whether that involves hiking, backpacking, hammocking, skiing, yard games, or going on his daily walks with his dog Meli. In love with deep conversation, Photi loves diving into topics relating to God, how we can grow closer to God, and the purpose of life. He is ecstatic to have the opportunity to go back to IV for 2023, and can't wait to get to know the wonderful people there!



SOPHIA AFENDOULIS

Sophia Afendoulis is from Grand Rapids, MI, and recently graduated from the University of Michigan. Sophia attended Ionian Village as a camper in 2018 and has wanted to return ever since. She has an intense obsession with Trader Joe's soup dumplings, and is always found with a camera in one hand and a Diet Coke in the other. Sophia is committed to the bit, and is not afraid to be silly. Sophia has been attending summer camp since she was eight years old and has served as a counselor and as the Media Director at the Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp. Sophia cannot wait to meet the campers and be a part of the true magic that is Ionian Village. She is ready for endless laughs, kefi, faith, friendship and LOTS of singalongs this summer!



SOPHIA ATHAN

Sophia is an IVXIX (2019) alumna from Boca Raton, Florida and her home parish is St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church. She will graduate this Spring from the University of Florida (GO GATORS!) with a degree in Political Science and International Studies with a focus on Greece and the European Union. Her biggest flex is that she gave Prime Minister Mitsotakis a fist bump during a meeting on a Greek foreign policy trip! When she's not dancing to Athina Mou or calling her mother (again) for her famous Pastitsio recipe, you can find her cheering on the McLaren Formula 1 team, listening to Lorde and Bad Bunny on repeat, and getting way too competitive with her intramural beach volleyball team. She is so excited to return back to Ionian Village to give campers the best summer of their lives and help them grow in their faith.

STEPHANIE GAROUFALIS

Stephanie is so excited to be back for her third summer at IV! She attended IV as a camper in 2016 and as a participant at IV Next in 2021. She can't wait for the campers to experience the magic of Zakynthos, cabin Olympics, and Kyria Sophia's amazing cooking! Coming from the best city, Chicago, Stephanie is a huge Chicago sports fan! She loves all things Taylor Swift and speech pathology. In her free time, she enjoys binge watching reality TV dating shows and cheering on the Iowa Hawkeyes! Stephanie cannot wait to meet the campers in a few short months!



YIANNI GORMANOS

Yianni is so excited that after being a camper at Ionian Village in 2018 he will be able to return this summer on IV Staff! He likes to fish in the spring, go to Greece in the summer, watch football in the fall, and hang out with his friends in the winter. Yianni is easily entertained and can also easily entertain others. He laughs at just about anything and often will either break out into dance or start singing a song. Yianni also loves debating sports and he cannot wait to be there for the best summer of your life.



*Just as we are inspired by these young people who knowingly
give their summer to such an important program,
we know they will inspire many throughout their time at IV!*

*While applications are closed for the 2023 camping season,
we would love to see your application for Summer 2024*

Applications open December 2023



medical staff 2023

NICOLE VANKUILENBURG

Nurse Nicole is thrilled to return to Ionian Village for the Summer of 2023! She hails from the Northeast and grew up in MA in the St. Athanasius Parish. She is also very involved with the Metropolis of Boston Camp and has been fortunate enough to spend many summers there as a camper, staff member and medical staff. Nicole loves making music, long walks on Glyfa Beach and believes laughter is the best medicine. She is ready for another summer of trading in her hospital scrubs for IV polos and monastery skirts. You can find her bee-bopping around with her first aide backpack in hand ready to take on all the adventures of IV2023!



OLIVIA STEVENS

Olivia can't even put into words how stoked she is to be at IV for her fourth summer! Having been a camper in 2010 and staff member in 2015 and 2017, she's looking forwards to a new role at camp on medical staff! When not dressing up as a spotless Dalmatian at camp, you can find Olivia working as a nurse in the cardiovascular ICU or the OR in Open Heart Surgery.

CAROL BAFALOUKOS

Carol Bafaloukos is a Nurse Practitioner who is certified in both family and women's health. She is very familiar with being camp medical staff as she has done it most summers since 2005. She has been medical staff at IV in 2019 and both sessions of 2022. Carol is very dedicated to Orthodox youth ministries as she feels there is no better way to teach our youth about our faith and culture than camp. Carol is married and has three adult children. She enjoys spending time with family, reading and spending time at the beach.

DR. ZOE PALMOS

Zoe Palmos is very excited to experience Ionian Village this summer. She loves to hike, ski, swim and travel. As a primary care physician and mother of three active teenagers, she is very capable of caring for all health-related needs. In her free time, she loves reading, listening to Greek music, and watching movies with her husband and children.



session one clergy 2023

FR. DEMETRI COSTARAKIS

Father Demetri Costarakis is the sixth generation of priests in his family. He was born in New York yet was raised his entire life in San Bernardino, Ca.

During his time at Hellenic College Holy Cross, he held leadership positions at various summer camps (St. Sophia Camp, San Bernardino, Ca; St. Nicholas Ranch, Fresno, Ca; Camp Axios, San Bernardino, Ca; Metropolis of Boston Camp, Contoocook, Nh). Fr. Demetri graduated from Hellenic College in 2000 and from Holy Cross Seminary in the fall of 2003. After graduation he served as the pastoral assistant/youth advisor at the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Weston, Ma. He was Ordained a Deacon on January 23, 2005 and a Priest on February 20, 2005. He continued to serve as the Assistant Priest at St. Demetrios until he was assigned as the Presiding Priest at the Transfiguration Church in Lowell, Ma in January 2006. In November of 2008 he was assigned to the Parish Family of St. Nicholas in Lexington, Ma where he served as the Presiding Priest for 13 years. On September 15, 2022 His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios assigned him to serve as the Presiding Priest and Dean of the St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Manchester, NH. Fr. Demetri and his wife Gloria have two boys and all of them are excited for the best summer of their life!



FR. KYRIAKOS HAMBOS

Fr. Kyriakos Hambos (formerly known as Charlie) was born and raised in Tampa, Florida. He spent the formative years of his spiritual journey at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa where he also worked as a pastoral assistant for 7 years. A year and half ago he moved to Orlando, FL to start work at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. He was married in November of 2021 to Eleftheria Hambos and was ordained to the priesthood in September of 2022 at Holy Trinity in Orlando. He has been involved in camp ministry for the past 15 years at St. Stephens Orthodox Camp in South Carolina, where he met and became friends with his wife. He has never been to Ionian Village and is incredibly excited to experience this heaven on Earth!



FR. MICHAEL PREVAS

Father Michael Prevas was born and raised in Chicago, IL and has been living in California for the last 19 years with his wife (Matia) and four children (Kosta, Niko, Yioryia and Yianni). He currently serves at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Northridge, CA.

Father was blessed to attend and serve as a counselor at Ionian Village in 1999. This transformative experience has always been a guiding light in his ministry and he looks forward to giving back this summer as a Clergyman. Father has extensive experience serving at summer church camps, working with youth at his parish and also guiding young people at his church's robust Parochial School in Southern California. He looks forward to meeting you all this summer. Ionian Village is the greatest and most rewarding camping ministry in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America!



FR. SIMON THOMAS

Father Simon Thomas is originally from California, where he was born, raised, and served as a parish priest, before moving to Memphis to serve the Annunciation. He has been a camper, counselor, and priest at multiple camps throughout the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, including Ionian Village in 1998.





session two clergy 2023

FR. PANAGIOTIS PAPAZAFIROPOULOS

Father Panagiotis was born and raised in Queens, New York. He is a graduate of New York University where he received his bachelors degree. He later graduated from the University of Athens School of Theology and St. Vladimir's School of Theology. Since 2014, he has worked at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in a variety of roles including as Archdiocesan District Youth Director and Assistant Chancellor. He currently serves as the Chief of Staff to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and as the Presiding Priest of St. Gerasimos Greek Orthodox Church in Manhattan. Father Panagiotis will be joined at camp by Presvytera Christina along with Marianna and Demetri.



FR. MICHAEL SERGAKIS

Fr. Michael is the parish priest at Saints Constantine and Helen in Cheyenne, WY. Having attended IV in '04 and '08, as well as having served as a staff member in '11, he is an IV super-fan who couldn't be more excited about returning this year as Clergy. When you catch him hanging out in the Trap playing tavli, challenge him to a game... or feel free to pick his brain about the amazing saints and iconography in the chapel!

IV'23 is going to be EPIC. He can't wait to meet you at the chapel!



FR. PETER THORNBERG

I am Fr. Peter Thornberg and serve the Parish of St Sophia, Ss Faith, Hope, and Agape in the Philadelphia suburbs. This will be my first time as a clergyman at IV. I'm looking forward to spending this summer with our staff and campers growing in our faith and having fun doing it.

We have such amazing faith centered on Jesus Christ and a culture that is worth celebrating!

camp leadership 2023



MARINA FLORATOS *Director*

Marina Floratos is excited for her 6th summer at Ionian Village and her FIRST as Director. Flo, as she is lovingly referred to, originally hails from Philadelphia where she grew up attending Camp Good Shepherd in the Metropolis of New Jersey as a camper and counselor. She was an IV camper in 2009 and on staff in 2014, before holding multiple positions in the office from 2015-2018. Her love for blazing hot temperatures, and ability to actually physically be in multiple places at once allows Marina to thrive at camp.

With deep family roots in Kefalonia, also known as Greece's most beautiful and most impressive island, Marina feels lucky to be able to share her passion of Greek culture and history with campers and staff again this year. Some of her other favorite things include Disney World, when they get her name right at Starbucks, and running around in the 100+ degree Grecian heat. She LIVES for the summer and is thrilled to return to the best place EVER!!



KONSTANTINE SALMAS *Assistant Director*

Konstantine's experience of Ionian Village began when he and his parents visited the camp just after his first birthday. He reconnected with IV as a staff member in 1997. He has served under all of the Directors since then and is excited to help all those involved make memories that last a lifetime.



FR. ELIAS PAPPAS *Spiritual Advisor*

Fr. Elias Pappas was raised in Cliffside Park, New Jersey, at the parish of the Church of the Ascension in Fairview, NJ where his father has been the presiding priest since 2001. Fr. Elias studied at Hellenic College Holy Cross where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies with a minor in Classics in 2019 and his Masters of Divinity Degree in 2021. One of the most important experiences he had was being selected as a steward of the Great and Holy Council which took place in Crete, Greece in 2016. He spent two months preparing for the Synod and he was involved with the logistics and security details of the Council. Fr. Elias currently serves as the Assistant Priest at the Cathedral of St Paul in Hempstead, New York.

MARIA CONSTANTINIDES

Program Director

Maria is deeply in love with everything Greece, and is especially inspired by the intimate details of our art, faith, and traditions. Driven by an irresistible urge inherited from her Yiayia to share her passion for our heritage, Maria has been involved in Ionian Village almost her entire adult life. Her mission each summer at IV is to create endless opportunities for joy and discovery; her hope is that campers and staff walk away with the fullest experience of Greece, and love and passion of their own.

Maria and her husband Father Evagoras along with their two boys, Christopher and Yianni, are members of the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Brooklyn. During the year, Maria is an artist and designer, always dreaming of Greece.

STEPH LILLY

Camp Life Coordinator

Steph is BEYOND excited to be serving as Camp Life Coordinator for IV2023! After attending Ionian Village as a camper in 2015 and having the opportunity to serve as a staff member in 2019, she could not pass up the chance to experience another #BestSummerOfYourLife again this year. Steph lives in Atlanta, Georgia working as an individual and family therapist with children and adolescents. In her free time, she loves cheering on UGA football (back-to-back natty champs thank you very much – go dawgs), listening to every Taylor Swift song, or rewatching the same sitcoms for the 87th time in a row. With a love of Marvel, Tiktok, and all things youth work Steph can't wait to help campers and staff experience the magic of Ionian Village this summer!

CRISSY SICOLI

Program Coordinator

Crissy loves Ionian Village. A LOT. She was a camper in 2008, a staff member in 2014 and 2015, and cannot wait to return as Program Coordinator this summer. When she's not at IV, Crissy lives in Maine with her husband Ben and dog Cannoli. There, she spends her days working as a speech-language pathologist, walking at the beach (whether there's snow or sun), reading the latest thriller, trying to recreate her yiayia's recipes, and dreaming of all of the fun she's going to have this summer at IV23.



MARISSA GAROUFALIS

Wellness Coordinator

Marissa is no stranger to Ionian Village as she is back for her 6th summer! She loves IV and the impact this ministry has on campers and staff. Each experience at IV has been unique and eye opening as she has seen IV through many different lenses: as a camper in 2013, a staff member in 2016 and as a member of the admin team in 2019, 2021 and 2022 as the Wellness Coordinator. For the past five years Marissa has worked as a school social worker at an elementary school in Chicago. One of the many perks of her job is having summers off and being able to come back to Ionian Village! Marissa is known as the “energizer bunny” around camp as she has endless amounts of energy and can be found awake all hours of the night. She enjoys ferry rides, showing campers her favorite monasteries & jewelry shops, and can frequently be found with gyros in hand! She is looking forward to seeing you this summer!

PETER KAOURIS

Program Coordinator

Back after winning the Kefi Cup in 2015 and 2019, Peter is absolutely pumped to return to IV! Born on Long Island but raised in small-town Redding, CT, he found a home at St. Barbara’s parish in Orange. When he’s not spending time studying for his masters in social work, he loves playing piano, losing games of League of Legends, and caring for his pet axolotl named Gizmo who, unfortunately, will not be able to travel to camp with him. Peter would like to use the rest of his bio to provide everyone with some hot takes he will defend if asked about: all foods can be categorized as a salad, Sasuke is the best Naruto character, stick shift cars are more fun than automatics, and water is wet.

KOSTA PREVAS

Logistics Coordinator

All the way from Northridge, California, Kosta Prevas is looking to help provide the best summer ever for the campers of Ionian Village. As the Logistics Coordinator this summer, he is beyond excited for the opportunity to serve all of you. Kosta has played basketball since he was eight years old and brings a sense of enthusiasm and elation to Ionian Village. He is eager to continue sharing the great faith of the Orthodox Church as well as the opportunity to learn more about it. June cannot come quick enough and he is excited to get to work for all of you!



NICK STAVISKI

Logistics Coordinator, IV Next

The Staviski family originates from Skopelos (better known as the Mama Mia island). Having adventured to the Great Pyramids, Great Wall of China and Taj Ma Hal, his favorite place in the world is the eighth Great Wonder of the World - Ionian Village!!! This is where some of his fondest memories exist, and this November he will be the best man for one his bunkmates when he was a camper. There’s just something magical about the relationships you build while at IV that you carry throughout your life.

Only 114,168 more minutes until Ionian Village 2023 - can’t wait to help make this the BEST SUMMER EVER!!!





Photos: Campers learn about the tradition of iconography from Dimitrios Mourlas, an Athens-based iconographer who is completing the iconography inside of the Ionian Village Chapel; A camper follows a Chapel Service inside of The Dormition of the Theotokos Church in Bartholomio; Staff Members lead campers into the Monastery of Osios Loukas.

Why are Orthodox Christian Summer Camps So Important?

By Eva Konstantakos

*“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”
(Matthew 18:20)*

Whether it is the beloved Ionian Village program in Greece or one of the 20 Metropolis and parish camps throughout the U.S., Orthodox Christian summer camps are undoubtedly some of the most impactful ministries for youth across the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. Of course, summer camps are enticing because they are filled with fun and exciting activities. But those who have never experienced an Orthodox Christian summer camp program might ask why *Orthodox Christian* summer camps are different and so important. Here are just a couple of the many reasons why our Orthodox Christian summer camps are more important than ever.

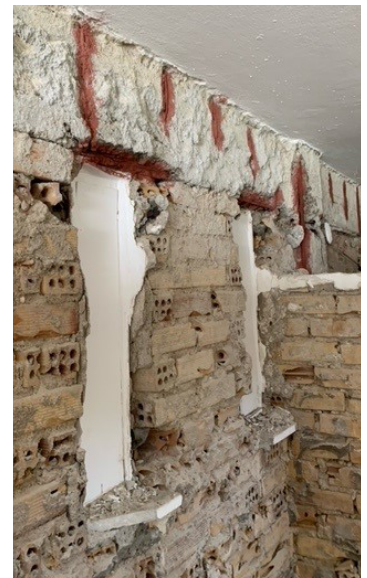
Summer Camp offers a meaningful community. One challenge young people face today is loneliness. Exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, young people have fewer meaningful relationships which leaves them feeling more disconnected and alone. Orthodox Christian summer camps provide young people with a Christ-centered community of their peers. Campers are not passive observers, but active participants and members of their camp family. Guided by clergy and lay staff, campers chant and read at services, they serve one another at mealtimes, they encourage one another during difficult moments, and they rejoice in the successes of other campers. The friendships and connections made at camp truly last a lifetime because they live, learn, worship, serve, and grow *together* as one body of Christ.

Summer Camp offers a place to learn about and experience God. The most important aspect of Orthodox Christian summer camps is that they address a fundamental need of young people - to learn about God and to experience Him in a real, tangible way. Our world is filled with distractions, stressors, confusion, and frustration that pull young people away from God. But summer camps provide them with designated, uninterrupted time with God. Campers learn how to be still with God, they learn how to form a basic rule of prayer, they learn about God through the Scriptures and lives of the Saints, and they encounter God through the Holy Sacraments. Orthodox Christian summer camps bring young people to the feet of Christ so they may listen, learn, and feel His real and active presence in their lives.

The truth is that an article could never fully articulate the real, transformative impact of a summer camp on the lives of campers and staff members. So, I offer you a challenge:

Reach out to those “camp people” in your parishes – clergy, current and former campers, current and former staff – and ask them why they love camp. I guarantee that their personal testimony or witness will make it even more evident why Orthodox Christian summer camps are so important. If you are still on the fence about sending your children to camp or being a staff member, talk to your parish priest or the camp director to get more information. Attending an Orthodox Christian summer camp will certainly make for a transformative summer centered in Christ and will have a long-term, positive impact on the lives of those who attend.

Eva Konstantakos is the National Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM) and Office of Camping Ministries for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. For more information about Orthodox Christian Summer Camps throughout the Archdiocese, email y2am@goarch.org.



Photos: Paulette Poulos, Executive Director of Leadership 100 and Marina Floratos, Director of Ionian Village, look forward to continuing the longstanding relationship between Ionian Village and Leadership 100; A delivery of materials for bathroom upgrades; At work on the Ionian Village bathroom renovations to get ready for the summer camping season



Leadership 100 Grant Funds Significant Improvements across Ionian Village Campgrounds over Two Years

When Ionian Village was first built in the 1960s and 1970s, every aspect of the camp's physical presence was thoroughly modern and state-of-the-art. Ionian Village was constructed as a beautiful, brand new oasis - with incredible intentionality. Each structure had a purpose, the layout carefully reflected functionality, and at its heart, of course was the Chapel. Built in a time when there was hardly running water in Glyfa, no electricity, and little infrastructure, the construction of the facilities at Ionian Village was an enormously impressive project - a miracle.

As time goes on, and as more and more campers pass through our beautiful home at Ionian Village, the campgrounds have naturally required updates and renovations to respond to normal wear and tear, programmatic development, and even natural disasters. In 2016, after the devastating tornado destroyed much of the campus infrastructure, Leadership 100 responded immediately with a \$250,000 emergency grant, the largest single donation made to the rebuilding effort.

Yet ongoing renovations are still a huge necessity to bring Ionian Village fully into the 21st century so that it may once again exist as a modern, avant-garde facility - the best of the best. Thanks to generous funding across two years provided by Leadership 100, Ionian Village is making progress towards this goal of once again existing as an exemplary campground in Greece.

In 2022, the grant from Leadership 100 allowed Ionian Village to replace the dated sleeping accommodations across the entire camp. This huge project furnished the cabins and bungalows with over 300 new beds, mattresses and pillows so that all campers and staff members can literally sleep better during their stay at IV. Additionally, bathrooms in the Bungalows were renovated and updated. In 2023, the grant will allow us to update the camper bathrooms to include new fixtures, water efficient showers, new floors, and clean tiles throughout. Many of the bathroom fixtures had not been replaced since 1970 when the camp first opened! Simultaneously, the laundry facilities will be improved so that the operations staff at camp can work more efficiently to keep the camp clean throughout the summer. Finally, and significantly Ionian Village was equipped with fire safety pipes as required by the Greek Government to ensure safe operation throughout the summer.

The Leadership 100 Grant is a huge step in not only modernizing Ionian Village for our successful summer programs, but also improving the facility so that it may potentially be used beyond the summer as a destination for ministry in Greece. Many of these improvements are necessary to maximize the safety and accessibility of the camp.

As Archbishop Iakovos saw the potential in Ionian Village as a "bridge" for the young people in our Greek American Community to come in touch with Greece, now His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros sees the potential of Ionian Village to expand its use beyond the summer months. Through the generosity of Leadership 100 and the renovations this grant is able to sponsor, Ionian Village is nearing this historic goal.

Thank you, Leadership 100, for your generosity and support!



Since 2018, Ionian Village has operated “IV Next,” the next iteration of the young adult travel program previously called “Spiritual Odyssey.” While Spiritual Odyssey was a valuable and, at the time, one of the only young adult travel opportunities to Greece, IV Next offers an expanded program that intentionally engages with our motivated and inspired young adult community of today in a deeply meaningful and impactful way.

Dozens of colleges and universities offer study abroad programs in Greece, and many programs of our own diaspora offer similar opportunities for young adults to travel to Greece and see the sights. However, IV Next is the only travel based program for young adults that has our Greek Orthodox faith as a core tenet of the program. Only IV Next combines professional development, international travel, and the Orthodox Faith into one all-inclusive program.

The twelve-day itinerary includes time at the historic Ionian Village campgrounds, as well as excursions to the cornerstones of the travel program. Throughout the program, participants will engage in discussions about career goals, the financial realities of being a millennial, and how to successfully incorporate our Orthodox Faith into everyday business life. These conversations and sessions will provide not only a more solid understanding of vocation, but also serve as an excellent inter-community networking opportunity.

Through a varied schedule that includes churches and monasteries, meetings with political and religious figures, and museums and archaeological sites, IV Next participants will become intimately familiar with all aspects of Greece, her culture and people.

IV Next is for participants who have completed one year (Freshman Year) at college or vocational school and up to 24 years old. Participants of the IV Next program are selected via an online application. The registration cost is all-inclusive (flight to and from Greece, meals, travel, accommodations) and is partially subsidized through a generous grant from Leadership 100.

The 2023 IV Next program is completely sold out. Registration details for IV Next 2024 will be shared in the Fall.



FR. ANASTASIOS & PRESVYTERA NICOLETTA BOURANTAS

IV Next 2023 Trip Leaders

Fr. Anastasios and Presvytera Nicoletta serve the Cathedral of the Annunciation of Baltimore, Maryland.

Fr. Anastasios first became a part of Ionian Village in 1980 where he attended as a camper. Fr. and Presvytera have served on staff when their three daughters were campers in past summers. They enjoy camping ministry and proclaiming the faith to the youth of our Orthodox Church.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MENTORS

Our professional development sessions are a cornerstone of the IV Next program, allowing the participants to contemplate their personal and professional growth alongside their cultural and spiritual experience in Greece. We are honored that the following individuals will join us virtually to share their knowledge with our IV Next participants:

KATHERINE RELLE

Director, Private Equity Program
Management Leadership for Tomorrow

DIMITRA MANIS

Executive Vice President, Chief Purpose Officer
S&P Global

FR. JIM KORDARIS

Director of Stewardship and Outreach
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

DREW BAKER

Educational Specialist, Henrico Schools
Adjust Professor of Education, University of Richmond



Photos: IV Next 2019 at the Ionian Village Chapel (left, top); IV Next 2021 at the Acropolis (above, left); IV Next 2022 at Saint Andrew's in Patras (above, right)



ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

HOLY FRIDAY AT SAINT MARINA'S IN GLYFA

We visit the churches and monasteries connected to Ionian Village in the summer months, for brief moments, and we only occasionally have the opportunity to experience a liturgy in these holy places. Our relationship is different from our relationship with our home parishes. And yet, our Ionian Village spiritual destinations are celebrating the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and the feasts of our Church throughout the year, just as we do here in America. Although we are separated by miles and years - many years, for some of us - it is inspiring to think that across the ocean, in these places that hold such a big space in our hearts, the same hymns are being chanted. These faraway churches, too, were filled with flowers on Holy Friday. The people there cooked and baked and dyed eggs. The little kids played with their candles and struggled to keep their eyes open.

And then, somehow, across space and time we all sang with one miraculous voice, "Χριστός Ανέστη - Christ is Risen."

Photos are from Holy Friday in Saint Marina's in Glyfa, a short walk from Ionian Village. Many campers and staff members have visited this church during their time at IV. Saint Marina's Feast Day falls in July and some summers, the dates of the Ionian Village programs fall so that staff members can visit to celebrate the Glyfa Panigiri.

Saint Marina is currently in the middle of an iconography project. If you visited, you may remember an all white interior. Slowly, the church is being filled with beautiful icons - a few can be seen behind the altar in the photos above.

Alumni Connections

Earlier this month on Instagram, we invited IV alumni from all years to share life updates, exciting moments, or proud achievements with us. Here are some of the submissions!

"I have been living in Athens this past year working as a preschool teaching assistant helping the kids learn English! I've been able to travel through Europe and experience so much of Greece.

Just this past week, my friend and fellow former staff member, Kat Katsikas, came and spent Holy Week with me. We visited Saint Spyridon on Corfu, the third walking Saint! IV has made us appreciate the beautiful traditions of Holy Week in Greece and I'm so grateful to have met her through IV!"

- *Becca Skedros, Sanbury, MA*
IV 2016 (Camper)
IV 2022 (Staff)

"This May, I'll be graduating from The University of Tulsa with a degree in Biological Science on the Pre-Med track. Upon graduation, I'll be moving to North Carolina to work as a Neurodiagnostic Technologist at Duke University Hospital while applying to medical school!"

I look forward to continuing to grow my faith and being a part of a new church family but will definitely miss my church, Holy Trinity, here in Tulsa."

- *Nick Tsahiridis*
IV 2019 (Camper)

"Some things that I've been up to: I am graduating from the University of New Haven with a Bachelors' Degree in Accounting. I have finished my tax internship with PwC and got a full time offer from them. I will be doing an audit internship with RSM in the summer. I became President of Alpha Phi Delta Fraternity at my school. I will become a member of Beta Alpha Psi which is an Accounting Honor Society. I am currently looking for Grad Schools for Accounting and after will get my CPA."

- *Nik Affronti*
IV 2019 (Camper)

Since her time at IV, Kyra helped found and now serves as the COO of Orthodox Volunteer Corps, a new ministry for Orthodox young adults ages 21-29 to spend 10 months immersed in service, formation, community and church.
<https://orthodoxvolunteercorps.org>

- *Kyra Limberakis*
IV 2009 - Olympia (Camper)
IV 2013 (Staff Member)

To be included in the next Golden Bridge, email us your story or update at ionianvillage@goarch.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!



IV 2022 Reunion

150 campers and staff from summer 2022 came together for Reunion Weekend at St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, New Hampshire. It was a beautiful weekend filled with faith, fun, and catching up with old and new friends.

To see all the photos from the weekend, visit the [Ionian Village Flickr album](#).



**“ the magic of Ionian Village — a place
where you can . . . be encouraged to be your best self ”**

A Reflection by Alexa Fotinos of Belmont, California

Ionian Village was my home for two summers. As both a camper and a staff member, I walked away from each experience with much more than just memories that would last me a lifetime. I gained genuine friendships, a new sense of pride for my heritage and a deeper connection with my community. Under the picturesque backdrop of the Ionian Sea, the campground serves as an oasis that allows all of its visitors to become their most authentic selves. IV cultivates a unique community by bringing together Orthodox Christians from all over the world to experience the beauty of our faith and the richness of our cultural traditions. It bonds the staff, campers, clergy and volunteers into a family each session.

When I went back to serve as a staff member in 2019, I was able to witness the profound impact that this program has on the campers. I clearly remember the first evening of camp with one of my cabins. It can be scary to be so far from home, surrounded by strangers, not to mention being apprehensive of new people and a new place. It was clear that my cabin was hesitant to participate in our activities and seemed unamused by staff's eager encouragement to take part.

As the days passed, I saw a shift in their attitudes. Each day, my campers began to show their true colors and embraced the opportunities around them. Fast forward through three weeks of incredible trips around Greece, the beautiful evolution of my cabin was so apparent. We shared stories, reflected on our challenges, learned from one another, but most importantly uplifted and supported our newfound friends. By the end of our time together, the same girls who seemed uninterested, now didn't want to leave. That's the magic of Ionian Village — a place where you can build genuine connections, belong to a community beyond the gates of camp, and be encouraged to be your best self by your new IV family.



Name These Alumni!

An IV alum sent us this photo hoping to reconnect and jog his memory.
Can you help?

Photograph is from Ionian Village 1981,
Session Two, Cabin Epiros.

*Email us at ionianvillage@goarch.org
with your vintage IV photo memories
to be featured in a future Golden Bridge!*

CONNECT TO IONIAN VILLAGE

A collection of ways to include Ionian Village in your life

- Follow Ionian Village on social media:
Instagram / Facebook / TikTok
 - Launch a local alumni group
- Sponsor an Ionian Village scholarship
- Make an online donation to Ionian Village at www.ionianvillage.org/donate
 - Schedule an IV On-the-Go for your community
 - Visit Ionian Village destinations while you are in Greece
- Officially join our online alumni network at www.ionianvillage.org/alumni

LOCAL ALUMNI EVENTS

Locally hosted events for Ionian Village alumni and friends

Save the Date: Liturgy for Saint Dionysios in New York City

December 17, 2023

Location to be determined



IV On-the-Go is the traveling retreat program of the Office of Ionian Village that promises to give the young people of your home parish a taste of our unique and interactive approach to youth ministry. Ionian Village has always been a travel program. While we can't possibly transport the entire country of Greece, we realized that we can travel with our enthusiasm, our energy, and our crazy ideas to bring the Ionian Village experience to as many young people as possible. IV On-the-Go provides the opportunity for even more young people to interact with the amazing Ionian Village ministry right here in America. Just like at camp, participants will encounter our Orthodox faith in an up close and unforgettable way. IV On-the-Go is a fun and engaging ministry for the youth of our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, and is open to every parish and youth group in the U.S. running from September to April annually.

The Office of Ionian Village is currently scheduling IV On-the-Go retreats for the 2023-2024 school year. To schedule a retreat, visit ionianvillage.org/iv-on-the-go and follow the steps that are listed.



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

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