

ALUMNI WIGWAM

• CAMP KAWANHEE FOR BOYS •

OCTOBER 2018



Making History

by Macy Davis

The Kawanhee History Museum contains nearly 100 years of history, and this summer campers engaged with camp history at a higher level than ever before. As the summer history curator, I made it my focus to get campers into the history museum and interested in the history around them, especially since I imagine not too many summer camps have their own history museum. I learned in the dining hall that if you hype something up enough the campers will come. So, with that in mind, I came to announcements—armed with a loud voice and some bad humor—promoting the

history museum as a place to spend free time before meals. Campers participated in activities like mapmaking, history scavenger hunts, and searching the lake in front of the dining hall for materials that may have ended up there following the 1977 fire. Field trips were taken to the Kawanhee Inn, up the old entrance of camp, and to the location of the former horse barn. When campers started asking me, Blaise, and JP if they could sign into history as an activity, we gave them what they wanted. For the last two weeks of camp, 4th period was designated as a time where campers had the option of signing into history. A level system and points were even put on the line for those campers that were most interested. Exploration and creation of history at Camp Kawanhee are allowing campers to truly understand the saying “May there always be a Kawanhee” as we approach the 100th anniversary of the founding of Camp Kawanhee! •

Macy Davis is a senior at Kansas State University and served as the 2018 History Museum Intern

Save the Date:
Camp Kawanhee
Centennial Celebration!
 Tuesday, August 11 - Sunday,
 August 16, 2020

Plans are still in the early stages, but programming on Tuesday and Wednesday will likely focus on out-of-camp opportunities for hiking, fishing, canoeing, etc. On those days, there will be minimum creature comforts at Camp other than lodging and plumbing. Food and a range of on-sight offerings will swing into gear on Thursday, August 13 through Sunday, August 16. The Kawanhee website and Facebook page will be the primary sources of information about our celebration of 100 Years of Camp Kawanhee—we hope to see you there!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

For more, go to kawanheehistory.com



Camp founders Raymond Frank (L) and George Frank (R)



Kim Merchant and B.A. Altmaier, early 1970s



The First Wigwam was published on July 12, 1935

• CAMP KAWANHEE FOR BOYS •



Diving Tower Crib Repair *By Ferd Schoedinger III*

As many of you know, people at Kawanhee have worked in recent years to keep the crib that supports our signature diving tower from falling apart. The crib is a “Lincoln Log” container of rocks 15 feet on a side in 8-to-12 feet of water, the top of which is 4 feet under water. The corners are spiked together and are designed to withstand winter ice as well as support the diving tower. There are timbers added and removed each season to bring the diving tower base above the water and to support the tower for the high dive.

A little history: back in the 1970s, I helped put the diving tower on the crib. There were steel eyebolts on the crib corners, which were all under water. Threaded rods with hooks connected the four eyebolts in the corners. Six or so timbers were stacked in “Lincoln Log” fashion on the rods. This created a base from the top of the crib to the bottom of the diving platform. The platform was put on top of the base timbers and nuts were cinched down holding the platform tightly to the crib.

Sometime in the 1980s or 1990s, one of the crib spikes rusted and broke. This caused the platform to float and heave in the waves of a three-day blow. At that point, the fix was easy. We used chains to hold the timbers to one another. As time progressed, more and more

chain and cables were used to keep the timbers from falling apart. The metal eyes in the corners of the crib have rusted away and the base has been chained to the crib. A few years ago, Wallis Tyler created a new base from 8” x 8” timbers with corners held together with large threaded rods. The new base was then floated over the crib and lashed down with chains.

Recently the crib’s corners, where the timbers meet, started to slide apart and the rocks started to settle. This made the corners splay apart. The risk now was that the rocks would pour out of the crib and the timbers could not be put back in place. This could lead to a full failure of the crib. My understanding is that the current environmental regulations would not allow us to construct a new one.

Plans for a metal floating diving tower were discussed. As the de facto “Keeper of the Crib,” this was unacceptable to me. I have a background in Ocean Technology and I SCUBA dive, so I came up with a plan to reinforce the crib corners. The Standens trusted me enough to support my idea. I purchased four pieces ~9’ long of 2”304 stainless steel angle iron 3/16” thick and fifty 5-1/2” x 1/2” stainless steel lag bolts with washers. The idea was to put the angle iron in the “V” of the end of the intersection of the timbers and install the lag bolts into each

timber (see photos). This required us (my son and me) to hold each of the four angle irons in place and mark the center of each timber with a crayon. We then moved to the Shop and drilled about thirteen holes per corner angle iron. It took several hours to drill fifty-two 1/2” holes. Stainless steel 3/16” thick is tough stuff. My thanks to Counselor Adam Bruder, because we took over his Shop for awhile.

Now we could get down (literally) to business. We borrowed Wallis’s big air compressor. We hooked up 100+ feet of airline to feed a drill and impact wrench to the off shore crib. The air drill was to pre-drill a hole in each timber under the angle iron. The impact wrench was used to drive the lag bolts in these holes to secure them all to the angle iron, thus securing each corner (see photos). All of this was to be done underwater with SCUBA gear. That was the easy part. The hard part was moving the rocks that had shifted, splaying the corners, and preventing the timbers from lining up. Once we moved the rocks to the center of the crib, Ferd and I used a come-along winch to pull the timbers back into alignment. After that was done we could drill and put a lag bolt through each hole in the angle iron. I could only liken it to two astronauts working on the space station but with the staccato thundering of the impact wrench felt through our bodies. We worked on the deeper two lakeside corners first, taking four or five hours on three dives in chilly water. We were informed that the two shore side corners and a new timber would have to wait till the end of camp because we had run out of time before the 2018 camp season started. We did the same thing after camp ended, spending another four to five hours and three dives to complete.

This was pretty exhausting work. Fortunately, the timbers are in remarkably good shape and I believe our fix will last another fifty years. I want to thank all involved: Liz and Mark Standen for their support, Adam Bruder for letting us disrupt his Shop, Wallis Tyler for the timber and use of his air compressor, and several others who helped us along the way. And special thanks to my son, Ferd, for all his help in some exhausting and uncomfortable conditions. May There Always Be a Kawanhee (and its Diving Tower)! •

Ferd Schoedinger III is a master waterskier and Kawanhee’s Keeper of the Crib.

• CAMP KAWANHEE FOR BOYS •

Back to Kawanhee After an 8-Year Hiatus *by Alex Palmer*

The Summer of 2018 was my seventh year at Kawanhee after an extended break, my last year being 2010. I started at Kawanhee in 2005 as a camper, working my way up through Falcon, Pine Tree, Birch (when it was a camper lodge between Deer and Beaver), Moose, and Wildcat before returning as a Junior Counselor in Lynx. I was very excited to finally become part of the staff this summer and served as a lodge counselor in Bear. Camp has changed a lot in the time that I've been away: The soccer and baseball fields have been moved, the History Museum was built and now has history of its own, and campers, whom I once saw running around eager for activities, are now awesome counselors who I'm proud to call my colleagues. What hasn't changed, though, is the indelible Kawanhee community and family that sustains us all.

While the setting may have changed somewhat, when I returned this year and set foot on the beautiful camp property, I felt as if the past eight years had been merely the blink of an eye. We're encouraged as both campers and counselors to take advantage of the time given to us in this remarkable place, but I think that it's only the staff who are actually able to appreciate the enormity of that statement. Compared to the 10 moons between each camp season, the two months here go by so very quickly; in the waning weeks of the camp season we start to realize that it's not very long at all until we'll be saying our goodbyes and waiting patiently for the next summer to roll around. For many staff, your colleagues are the friends that you made while you were a camper, just starting out in a brand new and exciting place, and in many cases, they'll continue to be your friends for decades to come, if not a lifetime. We have so much to do while we enjoy our time here, and unfortunately, not much time to do it. Yet somehow, the Kawanhee magic, as it's so often described, does seem to have the power to collapse time and space. I so often hear alumni describe camp as a place they return to in order to recharge during the hectic year, or as a place of fond memories that the current campers emulate simply by enjoying their summer to the fullest. Perhaps the true magic of Kawanhee isn't the time that we get to spend with each other, it's the spirit of the family that we take home with us that sustains us for the months



or years to come until we return. Here's hoping that I have the privilege to come back sooner rather than later next time. •

Alex was a Swimming Instructor in 2018, counselor in Bear Lodge and was a camper from 2005 until 2010, with his last year as a Junior Counselor.

Career-Building: Summer Internship or Camp Counselor? *by Graham Marvin*

I started my time at Kawanhee as a 10-year-old Falcon lodger in 2000. I fell in love with it immediately and carried on as a camper and then as a JC until 2007. After that, I worked as an SC for six more summers. I never wanted to leave. What other summer program allows you to play sports, hike, and hang with your best friends in the most beautiful place on Earth, while you train and inspire young men in the hope of making the world a better place?

If someone had told me it gets better than that, I'm not sure I would have believed them. While I felt myself learning and thriving there, I wasn't sure just how much that growth would help me, especially in my field of choice – Film. Luckily, Executive Directors Mark and Liz Standen had been trying to find ways to use more multimedia at camp and became aware of my burgeoning passion. In 2008, my first year as an SC, they asked me to create a camp video. I enthusiastically agreed to it.

Having sole ownership of something so new and potentially affecting was a daunting, thrilling assignment. I not only could feel myself developing artistically, but mentally as well. I would spend huge chunks of the day documenting camp life and choreographing montages, then spend nights editing. On the last night of camp, I anxiously presented my video to 150 pairs of eager eyes. After putting probably 200+ hours of work into a product that was extremely personal to me, I was terrified. Sharing it and experiencing it through my peers', past counselors', and campers' eyes, and feeling their thunderous reaction at the end was a defining moment in my young adulthood. I will never forget that night; my motivation, self-confidence and self-esteem were changed forever. Looking back, it was that experience that really propelled me into my young adulthood, socially and professionally.

Ten years later, I find myself living in New York, working in film/TV production. Even though I consider myself far from having "made it," I am conscious enough to realize how fortunate I have been thus far. And while I was also lucky enough to grow up in a nurturing family, receive a solid high school education, and be able to attend film school, I cannot help but believe the secret sauce is Camp Kawanhee. For starters, a few of my employers have literally told me my summer camp experience was why they chose me. Sure, internships and entry-level positions

• CAMP KAWANHEE FOR BOYS •

in one's particular field show initiative and direct applicable experience. But, as I've been told now many times, amongst a sea of media internships and TV job applicants, "camp counselor" shows versatility, responsibility, and most of all, resourcefulness.

I wanted to make films for a living so how could I work towards that while being at camp? By making camp videos on a shoestring budget. Even though it wasn't originally my idea, "That showed me that you knew how to accomplish things yourself in a creative and low budget way," my former boss told me. He followed up by asking me to direct a few scenes of the TV show we were working on.

Receiving incredible opportunities because of camp is one thing. Incorporating the skills I learned at camp to undertake something I thought I was under-qualified for is a whole other sensation. And while the technical

and artistic lessons I learned from creating camp videos were beneficial, I was surprised and delighted to learn that the real value came from the counselor work itself. The organizational skills I developed running activities and delegating responsibilities help me coordinate with departments and prep my scenes. The communication skills I cultivated instructing campers and teaming up with co-counselors inform my interactions with the cinematographer, sound mixer, and assistant director. The leadership skills I picked up after running Polar Bear, coaching soccer teams, etc., allow me to confidently direct experienced and talented cast and crew instead of crumbling under pressure. The list of applicable camp experiences I used at that same job performing various roles could go on and on; consoling campers, hyping up campers, disciplining campers, training campers, being ready to jump into action around the clock, comforting parents, creating bonds with co-counselors,

living in close quarters, etc. And what is so fantastic about it all is that many of these skills are relevant in any workplace.

I still am discovering different ways Camp Kawanhee has influenced and improved my life as an adult. On a regular basis I find myself tracing back small moments and accomplishments to my time at Camp Kawanhee. While spending all summer working at a camp may not initially appear to coincide with "resume booster" or "worthwhile professional experience," it does for me now. And I heartily believe it could for many more. •

Graham Marvin, a 2012 graduate of NYU, is a freelance director and production manager in New York City. He serves on the Kawanhee Board of Directors and spent a few wonderful weeks at Kawanhee this summer.



An Update from Tabonuco *by Rosaura Rodríguez-Muñoz and Ginna Malley Campos*

This has been a year of incredible struggles and growth for everyone in Puerto Rico. We face individual and collective hardships in our daily lives, still today. Nonetheless, in these times of need, friends and family from all over have come together to support our projects and dreams.

The George and Raymond Frank Foundation has helped Tabonuco grow and evolve since day one. Their donation, along with gifts from many in the Kawanhee community, has contributed to the rebuilding of our main activity area that

was destroyed during the hurricane. We have been able to buy the materials needed to create a learning and gathering space that is bigger and more hurricane resistant. We have also improved and updated the cabins and our solar energy and water recollection systems. But also, the Foundation's mentoring and support has inspired us to continue working for what we believe in: access to educational experiences in nature for everyone.

These past months we've focused on developing relationships with kids and neighbors from the immediate community of Mameyes, Jayuya. Since hurricane María, we've successfully organized two overnight experiential nature camps with students from diverse backgrounds. Recently we hosted and offered the space for

free community karate classes and we've been distributing book donations to kids. Despite hardships, we continue to offer specialized art workshops, botanic/nature immersion experiences, and sustainable living practices, like teaching how to set up your own solar energy system.

We'd like to introduce you to Genesis, one of the children who is benefitting directly from the work we do at Tabonuco. She is a close neighbor, unofficial Tabonuco intern and all around awesome 11-year-old girl who has helped us clean, paint and organize camp. Her presence and genuine involvement in Tabonuco is an inspiration to continue developing programs for girls in Jayuya who have little or no access to art, books and creative experiences around them.

Thanks to the support of many volunteers, donors and foundations like the George &

• CAMP KAWANHEE FOR BOYS •

Raymond Frank Foundation, we were able to quickly gather the strength and motivation to continue nurturing the Tabonuco seed in Puerto Rico. We envision a future of much needed environmental conscience and education through community building and resilience. Thank you Kawanhee family for all your support to Tabonuco and Puerto Rico relief efforts! •

Rosaura Rodríguez-Muñoz and Ginna Malley Campos are both former Activities Counselors at Kawanhee and have been involved with Tabonuco from the very beginning.

Environmental Stewardship at Camp Kawanhee

by *Baillie Stein and Camille Tulloss*

For decades, summer camps such as Kawanhee have served as safe havens where young children can learn in a safe and healthy environment. As it stands, tucked away in a cove on beautiful Lake Webb, surrounded by awe-inspiring mountains, Kawanhee has a unique ability to teach the upcoming generation of young men about something that has inextricably become a part of the rest of their lives: environmental stewardship. So what is Camp Kawanhee doing to prepare young men to become protectors of the planet they will soon inherit? Of the eighteen activities that Kawanhee offers to its campers, three of them are dedicated to teaching campers about natural living: the Tripping Department, Campcraft, and Nature.

For years, the Tripping Department has sought to bring boys out into the Maine wilderness, introducing them to the wonders that are hidden away in the natural world. On their hikes up nearby Tumbledown or famous Katahdin, the tripping department has always emphasized the importance of respecting trails and campgrounds by encouraging campers to adhere to the principles of “Leave No Trace”.

Campcraft seeks to teach campers that there is a way to live off of the land, and to become more self-reliant for things like food and shelter, by teaching the basics of axemanship, fire making, and cooking. And through Campcraft, young men fourteen years or older are able to participate in the Junior Maine Guide program, which teaches participants all the basics that they need to know in order to bring a group of people out into the Maine wilderness, and survive on the land. This program also teaches

about the current environmental issues specific to Maine and different ways to approach addressing them.

More recently, the Nature program has instituted a new system of achievement levels. Each of these new levels involves a set of activities devoted to environmental stewardship (along with activities focused on observation and interaction with nature). These activities involve picking up trash around camp, helping to collect food scraps after meals for composting, working in the camp garden, advocating for nature in the lodge or in the larger camp community, and completing a stewardship-based project for themselves or for camp (such as trying a vegetarian diet for a week, or building a recycling center).

Campers aged sixteen and seventeen take part in the Leadership Training Program during which they will be expected to complete various projects around camp to better the community. In the past many of these have roots in environmental stewardship including creating pathways through the woods to limit the literal and metaphorical footstep of Kawanhee in the surrounding forest. Another recent project was the planting of red pine trees throughout the camp.

There are a myriad of ways in which Kawanhee excels in educating its campers about stewardship of the natural world, but there is still much to do. While camp preaches

the importance of limiting waste through composting and returning bottles and cans, we are two decades into the 21st century and Kawanhee has yet not found an efficient way to recycle cardboard and paper. While there has been a recent push for a better vegetarian menu, nearly every meal still consists heavily of red meat, which brings with it a high environmental price in greenhouse gas emissions.

The younger generations of our world will live in an age marked by the ceaseless struggle to quell environmental issues. We are leaving behind the age when it was, regarding the immediate survival of the human race, “okay” to live life unaware of the massive, negative roles that our industrial and post-industrial societies play in our ecosystems. We are living in the age in which it is an absolute necessity that we all take responsibility for the health of our world. We are living in the age in which it is vitally important that we teach people how to live as environmental stewards. And hopefully Kawanhee will continue to adapt so that it can remain an institution that brings hope to that world. •

Baillie Stein, a member of the Kawanhee community since 2010, is an Environmental Sciences major at Colby College. Camille Tulloss, who has been part of the Kawanhee community all her life, is a sophomore at Brown University. They served as the 2018 Nature Counselors.



• CAMP KAWANHEE FOR BOYS •

Ropes Carnival 2018 - A tasty, spirited success

By *Graham Marvin*

Nine years ago, the Ropes department rocked camp with a first – an after-dinner Climbing Party. As a Ropes SC that year, I fondly remember the evening as an energetic good time. Truth be told, I don't remember why we never brought it back in subsequent summers. Some camp events, whether they are hits or not, get lost in the shuffle of other, more time-honored activities. But lucky for Ropes fans, Kyle Russo, who went to the Climbing Party in 2009 as a 10-year-old camper, served as an SC in Ropes this past summer and had a vision to bring it back and make it better.

The Ropes Course staff came up with some good ideas the first week of camp. It didn't take much convincing. There are more belayers in camp this summer than ever, meaning less wait time for climbers. Several new elements had been added in recent years, meaning there were an insane amount of options. With camp director Danny Packer's blessing, we set our sights on Thursday July 5th for Ropes Carnival 2018!

What's a special event at Kawanhee without the proper preparation, whacky ideas, and collaboration? Senior Counselors took the reins with planning which elements to set up, and delegating who would be where. The Art SC created a huge, visually-charged Ropes Carnival sign. JCs helped spread out chips and salsa around the course. In between sporadic power outages, Sean Minear baked dozens of delicious lemon sugar cookies, which counselors would later bag and hide around the elements for campers to discover mid-climb. The cherry on top was department head Jared Stinson's dinnertime announcement to publicize the event. The legendary Ropes counselor was introduced by the SCs, and entered into the age-old "Jared chant." His announcement was met with one of the most enthusiastic responses I've heard in the dining hall in a long time. This was going to be big!

Right as the bell rang at 6:45pm, campers and counselors alike started spilling into the Ropes Course. Within 15 minutes, I remember thinking - this has got to be the most people I have ever seen here. And despite the waits to climb, the carnival kicked on with music, food, dancing, and repeat rounds of vintage camp game, Ninja). There was a moment around 8pm, just as we were hitting the sun's magic hour, where I took a breath and looked around. A tiny camper was jumping for the Pamper Pole for the first time. Older campers were cheering on a counselor as she attempted the Island Walk for her first time. An SC was landing a climber in a bucket of water as he let him down from the Cat Walk (which was met with much excitement and splashing, since it was 90 degrees!). A master camper was taking full advantage of the chips and salsa station on top of the Overhang Wall, after his intense climb. And those who weren't belaying, climbing, or shoving their faces with lemon sugar cookies or chips, were dancing to the pulsating music. This is how Kawanhee does Ropes!

So thank you to the Ropes Course staff for helping create and execute such a fun event. And thank you to everyone else, from Danny to Sean to JP, who offered their help. As a lifelong Kawanhee Ropes supporter, I was completely thrilled to be a part of this. All I have to say now is - Look out for Ropes Carnival 2019!

Kawanhee in the News...in Spain!

Thanks to Will Fleming for sharing an article that appeared in the July 8, 2018 edition of ABC: "Princess Leonor and Princess Sophia follow in the King's footsteps," which reported on Don Felipe's and Doña Letizia's decision this year to send their daughters to summer camp in the U.S. in order to "have an experience as enriching as [Felipe] had in July 1982. Far from Spain, the Crown Heir enjoyed a few weeks of anonymity in which he learned to be self-sufficient and work as part of a team. ... Doña Sofia took her son to Kawanhee and went to pick him up on the last day, and Don Felipe was accompanied during his stay by his cousins Pablo and Nicolás de Grecia and his friend and schoolmate Álvaro Fuster. The Prince and Pablo were assigned to the cabin "Bear," where the Heir signed his signature ('Felipe 82') on one of the wooden planks of the cabin, along with those of other companions. At Kawanhee the days began with the traditional raising of the flag before participating in various activities. Don Felipe only spent a summer there, but he liked the experience a lot because he was treated like a normal person."

July 1, 2018 Vespers Talk

By *Ferd Schoedinger IV*

All my life, I have highly respected the person giving the message. I never pictured myself standing here before in this sacred spot because of the pressure that comes with speaking in front of you all. But, here I am. Can you hear me in the back? I've always wanted to say that! With the opportunity to feel what it was like to miss a truly magical camp season last summer, the thought of not ever giving the message began to grow on me. I am someone who wants to push myself, do things I wouldn't ordinarily do, because I've found, thanks to Kawanhee, that when I have pushed myself, I have gained something much greater than if I just let that opportunity slip through my fingers.

So here I am. Standing before you all because I have found I am more afraid of lying in my bed some random night in January thinking to myself, "Why didn't I give the message?" or "Why didn't I finish my S plaque?" "Why didn't I get to my standing levels in Range?" "Why didn't I swim the head of the lake?" and "Why was I so fat when I was younger?" These are a few thoughts that weighed heavily on my shoulders over the off-season. But these are just a few examples of things I didn't push myself to do while I was at Kawanhee.

Most of my thoughts regarding camp circle around my friends and my accomplishments. Things I used to feel leery about doing or trying are things I now look back on proudly: Passing JMG. Climbing Katahdin. Making friends that I will have until the day I die and forever longer. Skiing on my paddle. Canoeing 60 miles on the Allagash River with incredible friends and counselors. Making an aircraft carrier in Shop. Learning the Eskimo roll. And successfully completing my 2/3 9/10 free throw shots out in basketball. (This one is especially important to me because, as many of you know, I am not that athletic.)

So what I am trying to say is that this is the first week of camp and we have many more to go. I want everyone listening to this message to go out of their own safe space and push yourself to go complete a goal this

• CAMP KAWANHEE FOR BOYS •

summer. I want to push you all to do this because I know first-hand that the feeling of regret some random night in the off-season completely juxtaposes the feeling you'll get when looking back on your accomplishments. Instead, you'll be thinking to yourself: Yeah, I did pass JMG; I did get my Robin Hood; I did climb Tumbledown; I made a best friend; I did become a life guard; I sailed a Catamaran; I did get up on skis; I learned my J stroke; I did complete the lake swim, along with so many other accomplishments.

But keep in mind that failing is also extremely important. No one here has accomplished all his goals on the first try. It is important to know that failing is as natural and an important part of life that should be cherished instead of despised. Because when you fail, you learn something from it, take note, and grow from it. My overall goal would be having you all go home knowing you did everything in your power to have an amazing summer so you don't lie awake late at night with regrets.

Now I would like to shift this message and attempt to do something I have struggled with my entire life. I would like to try to put into words the feeling of Camp Kawanhee. So, bear with me because this is no simple task. I have yet to find any other place that can even come close to the utopia that is found here. This is because of the atmosphere camp creates. This atmosphere can be broken into a few broad, main points: Friendship. Camp Structure. Traditions. Sports. Timing.

Friendship: No other place can create an atmosphere between young campers, their peers and their counselors. No other place can have people of all backgrounds and ages each come together to the shores of Lake Webb and all interact so perfectly with one another. It has to do with the way the younger kids look up to their older peers and counselors. They look up to them with such innocent love and admiration. They think to themselves about the personalities of the counselors and they even try acting like them because they are intrigued and impressed by them. And as a counselor, we can't help but to love the campers because of their current outlooks on life, the things they say, and the things they do to one another. They are hilarious, kind and compassionate.

Camp Structure: Camp offers boys of all ages the ability to attempt sports they may have never gotten the chance to do at home. Because of this, kids often discover new activities that they fall in love with. Free time offers campers the ability to do as they please. Campers can relax, pass levels, and interact with friends inside or outside the lodge. This freedom is greatly appreciated by all because campers get to customize their day as they see fit and counselors are there to help.

Traditions: Traditions are a large part of Kawanhee and we are fortunate to have so many. The main tradition of Grey and Maroon Teams is a healthy competition between the campers that pushes them to get out and score points for their respective teams. It is the cornerstone to camp and is the main reason why the activities are so well organized by levels, which makes them fun, exciting, and challenging. Captains began in 1938, Saturday night campfires have existed since the dawn of Kawanhee, as has clapping when a bench falls in the Dining Hall.

Sports: Again, I am not a big sports guy but it does play a huge part in the camp culture. Sports here are a great way to make campers feel more involved with camp. They provide a platform in which kids can show their skills in a healthy setting that also teaches kids about camaraderie. Sports also allow camp to come together to watch games. And as many

of you know from attending the Sea Dogs in Portland, a camp audience is an electrifying and contagious energy.

Timing: I don't have enough time to share the many good instances of Kawanhee and timing, but here are a few. Just this week, Dioni, Peter and I were chilling in the front of the Rec Hall at 7:00 and Peter mentions that he wanted to try skiing because he had never tried before. But we had activities at 7:30 and also needed a shower. So we walk out to Red Rosy, boat over to the ski shed, and pick up some skis. At 7:05, Peter gets up on his first ever try on two skis and shreds on the water like a surfing king. Then he tries getting up on one ski and at 7:11 he gets up on one ski on his first try! It was unbelievable and I was so happy that we three could share that moment together. At 7:20 we tied up, showered and were ready for the Coming of the Chief.

Another instance of Kawanhee and timing was when I was flying out of my local airport to visit my sister Liza at college in February. As I am waiting for my flight, JP walks off the plane. I take a step back in total disbelief thinking...is that really JP Rullan? Then Fritz steps off right behind JP with his own woven basket backpack and my mouth nearly hit the ground. I quickly ran over, still bewildered, and caught up with them.

The last part of my message will be thanking those who established Kawanhee and those who help to continue its unparalleled legacy. We have to thank George and Raymond Frank for creating Kawanhee. The early staff and campers from Columbus, Ohio and Tenafly, New Jersey who risked their summers to start this camp. My grandparents, Walter and Jane Estabrook, who saved Camp Kawanhee twice. Once when camp was almost sold and purchased by someone who would have surely ended Kawanhee as we knew it and once again on July 20, 1977 when the old Dining Hall burst into flames. People were worried this was the end of Kawanhee altogether. The Estabrooks finished the 1977 season and completed the current, existing Dining Hall in time for the opening days of the 1978 season.

I'd also like to thank veteran Kawanhees like BA and Mike Altmaier who helped make camp what it is today. BA for running Grey and Maroon teams, organizing the level system and directing athletics. And Mike for his Trivia at each meal, the Log at Campfire, card trading, organizing Sunday gatherings, and his accurate historical accounts of camp. Debi Sullivan, our amazing Camp Mother, who makes sure every boy has the best summer possible here. I'd also like to thank other long-term Kawanhees: Rees Tulloss, Dan Alexander, Andrew and Ben Altmaier, Ben Connelly, Ryan Albert, Mary Birch, Sandy Winkles, Ed Watson, Graham Marvin, Alex Standen, JP and Fritz Rullan, Spencer Davis, Blaise Mariner, Danny Packer and especially a huge thank you to Mark and Liz Standen for working year-round to keep camp filled with tons of Kawanhee loving faces both new and old.

And lastly, thanks to the George and Raymond Frank board members – to each board member: thank you for working year-round to make each season of Kawanhee a successful one and to allow each camper and counselor the chance to have the most spectacular summer each and every year. May there always be a Kawanhee. Thank you. •

Ferd Schoedinger IV was one of the Counselors in Waterskiing. He is a senior at the University of Dayton, a third-generation Kawanheean, and an amazing waterskier who successfully launched from the high-dive this summer.

Ways to Stay Connected and Give Back

There are so many ways to stay connected and to give back to Kawanhee to help ensure that the experience will be there for the next generation of campers. Kawanhee's website (www.kawanhee.com) and our Facebook page are the two primary ways to keep abreast of all that is happening. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram: campkawanhee. Other ways to help:

- **Refer a camper.** A successful season at Kawanhee depends on having a full complement of campers.
- **Host a recruitment event in your community.** Helping to spread the word about Kawanhee and talking with potential campers and their families will help keep the Kawanhee community growing! Our active recruitment season runs from September to April. Please contact Liz Standen (liz@kawanhee.com) if you would like to host an event.
- Looking for an excuse to spend time at Kawanhee? Join the growing group of Kawanhee Community members who join us for the annual **Bass Rock Walk**. Held every year on the Sunday immediately preceding President's Day in February. If a snowy walk isn't your thing, consider helping us get ready for the next camp season by attending our **Memorial Day Work Weekend**. Work gets underway on the Saturday morning of Memorial Day Weekend. FMI for either event, contact **Liz Standen at liz@kawanhee.com**.
- **Spread the word about the Centennial!** We have lost touch with some of our alumni but know that many of you remain connected, so please help make sure that as many alumni as possible know about the Centennial!

Make a Gift!

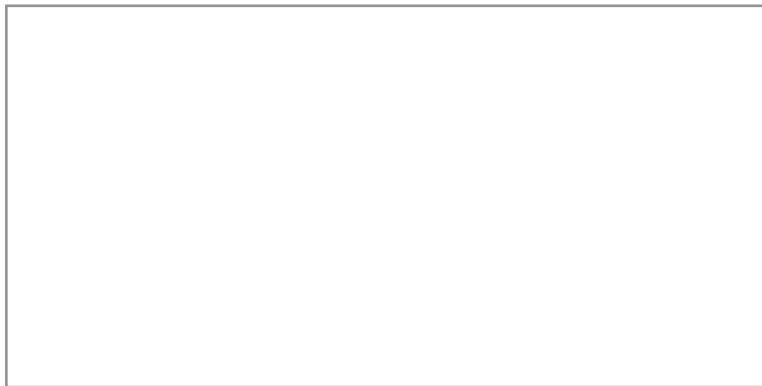
We are constantly reminded that Kawanhee has endured because of the timelessness of its mission and because of the loyalty and devotion of the broad Kawanhee community. Many of our alumni attended Camp when it was privately owned—first by the Franks and then the Estabrook Family. In 1998, Kawanhee's owners created the George and Raymond Frank Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation that owns and operates Camp Kawanhee as a 501(c)(3) corporation. That means that we all have the opportunity—and the responsibility—for ensuring Kawanhee's continued success.

Gifts to the Frank Foundation help support the Kawanhee experience for today's generation of campers. Your gift will

- help keep Kawanhee's tuition affordable and provide scholarships to campers whose families would otherwise not be able to afford it;
- ensure that Kawanhee can continue to hire dedicated counselors and other staff members;
- support the maintenance of Camp's iconic buildings; and
- provide Kawanhee with the flexibility to respond to opportunities to enrich the Camp experience—such as adding trips to the Tripping schedule when the demand is unexpectedly high or hiring a History Museum intern to organize the growing collection and make portions of it available online—a particularly exciting project in advance of Kawanhee's Centennial in 2020.

You can make a gift using the enclosed envelope or give online at www.kawanhee.com/give. *Thank you!*

Like us on our Facebook Page and follow us on Instagram



PRRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, ME
PERMIT #64

CAMP KAWANHEE
P.O. Box 789
Yarmouth, Maine 04096