



SKOOKUMEE

Fall 2023



SKOOKUMEE:

It's that beach and outpost across the lake that Kawanheens paddle to for lodge overnights. It's camp property, but you don't quite feel like you're "in" camp. Once the night comes and the fire starts, it becomes the perfect place to share... share scary stories, funny stories, ideas, fears, laughs, recommendations, appreciation, goals, and just whatever's on your mind. Since we can't be together in person every moon of every year, we wanted to create a space online for campers, staff and alumni to come together and keep sharing those wonderful ideas and memories.

Wherever you are reading this right now -- big city, small town, east coast, west coast, Columbus, España, Puerto Rico, Greater Manchester, and beyond -- Come join us around the fire.

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An Update from the Board

JON MORGAN

George and Raymond Frank Foundation Board President

The Frank Foundation is the non-profit organization that was formed in 1998 to operate Camp Kawanhee. The Foundation is managed by a group of 14 board members. We have three legends retiring from our board this year: John Estabrook, BA Altmaier and Graham Marvin. Both John and BA have served on the board since its inception in 1998, with John acting as President for 15 of those 25 years. John has been vital in moving the organization forward and working with Mark and Liz to make Kawanhee the place it is today. BA is the only current staff member on the board and has provided that invaluable perspective and his encyclopedic knowledge of all things Kawanhee during his tenure. Graham has served on the board since 2017 and in those six years has been a major force in our social media efforts, Skookumee, the Centennial and Kawanhee Nights Out. We will miss John, BA and Graham dearly. Fortunately, we are excited to have two new members on the board, Dan Alexander and Ben Hoffhine. Dan was a camper and counselor for many years (1997-2011) and now lives in Troy, OH with his wife, Kate. Ben was also a longtime camper and counselor (1986-1992) and his son James just completed his third season at Kawanhee. Ben and his wife, Zed, are living in New Canaan, CT. Please join me in thanking John, BA and Graham and welcoming Dan and Ben.



CAMP KAWANHEE *for Boys*

It might be helpful to give you a quick glimpse of what the FF board does. One of our most important workflows is collaborating with our Executive Directors to ensure the financial security of Camp. That means working with Mark and Liz on budgets and financial reporting. It also means that the Board leads the effort to raise money from our Kawanhee family every year to support our operating budget and fund the endowment. In the past year, we have brought management of the Kawanhee endowment and scholarship funds in-house with the formation of an Investment Committee, co-chaired by Jose Otero and Don Mykrantz. This has not been a small task and we are grateful to them and their team.

On the fundraising side, Will Ryan is leading our efforts with the introduction of a new touchpoint campaign this past June (“Gearing Up for Camp”) and the transition of our fundraising software to DonorPerfect. (If you are savvy in DonorPerfect and want to help with the onboarding, please raise your hand.) Speaking of finances, the Board also has a Scholarship Committee that makes awards to almost twenty campers every year to help defray the cost of tuition. This past year was a landmark year with the first grants from the Patrick Jeffrey Financial Aid Fund in memory of Pat by the Jeffrey’s family and their many friends. The Fund first supported a camper in 2022 and supported three campers this summer. Scholarship funds change lives – we know that.

An Update from the Board cont.

JON MORGAN

In addition to finding two standout new board members, the Foundation's Nominating and Governance Committee tackled updating our Bylaws in 2023 and creating a new Code of Conduct for Foundation board members. It's a testimony to how well written our bylaws were, that there hasn't been an urgent need to re-write them since they were originally created in 1998. But there have been some developments since then (email, for starters) that made updating them a good idea. The new Code of Conduct helps the foundation navigate potential conflicts when board members may have multiple connections to camp (as parent, staff members or friends of people involved in Camp.) Many thanks to Will Fleming and his team for their great work.

Finally, there is the Events and Communications team led by Graham Marvin and Jo Doherty. You would think after our Centennial that the E&C team would take a breather. But they have been full bore with additional editions of Skookumee (like this one), a record seven Kawanhee Night Out events (including new ones in cities like Albuquerque, Miami and Chicago) and a steady diet of social media posts on Facebook and Instagram. The E&C Committee welcomed two non-board members to its group this year, Macy Davis and Cam Kubris, who have made important contributions.

Many thanks to all the people in the Kawanhee family that have helped the Frank Foundation in the past year. And we close with an invitation. We are always looking for people to help. If you would like to get more involved in Camp, please let me or any other board member know.



A Thousand Summers

STEVE YALE

Board Member Emeritus

If you are reading this then you have probably been touched by Kawanhee in some important way. Either you have been a camper, counselor, parent or have some other relationship to the Kawanhee family. You have experienced, either directly or indirectly, the feeling of waking up to a Polar Bear swim, going to a new activity, hiking a local mountain or just hanging out with your lodge mates. These combined experiences culminate in a summer that can be transformative and change the trajectory of your life.



A summer at Kawanhee is a life changing event for any boy, especially a boy that never dreamed they would have this opportunity. A Thousand Summers (formerly known as the John Austin Cheley Foundation) is a youth development organization based in Denver, Colorado. For over thirty years they have been sponsoring boys and girls to attend summer camps around the country. A Thousand Summers has agreements with ten of the best summer camps in the country, including Kawanhee.

For the past thirteen years, Kawanhee has hosted boys from A Thousand Summers, and this past summer we welcomed fourteen more, bringing our total to 105. These campers bring with them a different perspective and help us diversify our community to be more inclusive and welcoming. Many of these boys return to camp for multiple summers, and several have grown into leadership positions as counselors.

I can personally attest to the joy and excitement these boys experience at camp. While the first few days can be an adjustment period, most quickly adapt and thrive in the new camp environment. This past summer I was talking with one new boy and asked him if he would like to go fishing. He jumped at the chance and said, "How soon can we go?" I told him to meet me at the dock at free time and we would go out fishing in my boat. When he arrived at the dock, he told me that not only had he never been fishing, but he had never been in a boat! We had a memorable experience, he caught several fish, and had me send a picture to his parents!

Stories like this are common with the campers that come to us through the generosity of A Thousand Summers. We look forward to our continued relationship with ATS and cherish the opportunity to change kids' lives through the magic of summer camp.

If you would like more information on ATS please visit their website at:

www.athousandsummers.org

Scenes and Sayings from the Season



**“I DON'T KNOW WHAT MY FAVORITE PART ABOUT CAMP IS. I LOVE HANGING OUT WITH MY FRIENDS I HAVEN'T SEEN SINCE LAST YEAR.”
-SILAS HUBBELL**



**“MY FAVORITE COUNSELORS ARE THE FOUR TRIPPING COUNSELORS MARCOS, MAX, WYATT AND RYAN”
-SILA GRIFFIN**



**“I LIKE SPENDING MY TIME IN CAMP SHOOTING AT THE RANGE BECAUSE I'M PRETTY GOOD AT IT.”
-MAGNUS BONASERA**



A Parent's Perspective

JACQUELINE TELGHEDER Camp Parent and Frank Foundation Board Member

I assume I wasn't alone with the mixed emotions that filled me as I pulled up to camp that first morning. Excitement, worry and tenderness swirled inside as I stepped onto the rustic, earthy ground of Kawanhee. Friendly faces greeted me and my son upon arrival. We moved from check-in to the nurse's station to the lodge with ease thanks to the highly organized and helpful staff. Although my son was returning for his third summer, Covid had kept me on the outskirts. It was my first time in camp and it was everything I had dreamed of: picturesque lodges overlooking the lake, facilities built honorably into the landscape, a wide-open central path that serves as the mainstage, abundant activities, and boys, boys, boys!

One by one, parents rolled in with their sons. Both positive anticipation and weariness were drawn across their faces. Will their child like camp? Will they make friends? Will they be safe? Behave? Contribute in a positive way? Will Camp Kawanhee love them?



As a board member and current parent, I helped greet incoming families. Many parents were long-ago campers at Kawanhee - even counselors! They felt comfortable being back in one of their favorite places, and they were overjoyed to offer this life-enhancing experience to their own boys. There were plenty of new parents, too. Moms and dads who were told that Kawanhee is a great place for their boys, but a twinge of nerves had them unsettled as first-timers. I met other folks who were multi-generation families, dropping their kids with such comfort and ease - like it was a second home. They were relaxed and delighted as they said their goodbyes.

I fell somewhere in between. I have no long-term ties to Kawanhee, and although I am immersing myself into the community as a board member, dropping my son doesn't feel simple. He is a child who needs extra support, so leaving him can feel uneasy. I reminded myself how my love for Kawanhee has grown as I've witnessed the care and consideration that goes into running the camp and the positive changes in my son. By the time he is done with his seven weeks, my son is bursting with confidence and competence. His can-do attitude permeates; his sense of self is strong. At Kawanhee he feels loved and accepted for who he is, and the results are extraordinary. Though I started the day with some apprehension, my level of trust in my son and the camp grew tremendously as I spent time with other families and counselors. By the time I said my own goodbye, I knew without a doubt that my son and every other boy there were in the best of hands.

A Parent's Perspective cont.

JACQUELINE TELGHEDER

As camp got underway, I spent my days wondering how my son was doing. To be honest, I worried more than wondered. I had asked the leadership team for some regular updates, and they delivered. Their communication was honest and considerate. It became clear that this group had the expertise and determination to support each boy in their optimal development. Robby, Rohan, Danny, Liz and Mark are smart, skilled, sincere, supportive adults who have the best interest of each boy in mind within the context of upholding the cardinal values of Kawanhee. What more could a parent want for their child?! With their endless problem-solving, activity-planning, safety-regulating, parent-communicating, memory-making days, they bring it all, and I will be forever grateful.

I returned midway through the season to drop my youngest son for the final three weeks. Greeted with open arms, warm smiles and helpful hands, the transition felt seamless. Camp was clearly running like a well-oiled machine. Boys hung arms around each other like great friends do. There were endless high fives, special handshakes, big smiles and an easy-going summer vibe. I felt comforted by the palpable confidence and competence with which the staff carried themselves. I thought to myself, "How do they do it? How do they take care of this many boys all summer...and do it so well?" It has to be immensely tiring and rewarding all at once, and I am beyond thankful for their tireless effort and love.

As I said goodbye to my two boys, tears filled my eyes. I grappled with sad and anxious feelings that fill most parents when they won't see their child for many weeks, but I am convinced there is no better place for my boys to spend their summers. Thank you, Camp Kawanhee, for all that you are and all that you do.



Returning to Kawanhee...as a Parent

AL "BABY" FUSTER Camper and Counselor '78-'84 and Camp Parent

Hello Skookumee readers!,

This is Al 'baby' Fuster , camper & counselor from '78-'84. I would have loved to continue those summers of my life but my mandatory military service in '85 in Spain prevented it.

I got married in 2012 and I am a father of 3, one boy (10) and two girls (9 and 7). And this article is to tell you of my return to Kawanhee this past summer to drop off my son Al 'baby' Jr. As soon as we were blessed with a boy, my first goal for his development was to send him to Kawanhee to experience what were clearly my best childhood summers ever.

As time went by and the maturity of my son permitted, we decided it was time to send him over, but of course, there is always that fear as a parent of... first time away from home , abroad, and for several weeks ...will he be OK, will he be homesick, will he have fun?, and also, how would Kawanhee have changed after all these years??

It has been almost 40 years since my last summer at Kawanhee, so obviously the camp must have changed a lot....right? , WRONG!. Amazingly enough, the camp magic was still intact, the directors acting as parents, the Sr and Jr counselors as older brothers, making the atmosphere feel like a family to the campers...just like 40 years ago!

Nevertheless, still in my mind was the fact that kids nowadays have a huge tech and digital exposure, unlike us in the 70's and 80's, and would he be missing those dreadful screensbut luckily, the healthy reset that Kawanhee represents, going back to the true impact of sports and outdoor activities was a blessing!.



Returning to Kawanhee...as a Parent cont.

AL "BABY" FUSTER

Alvaro had a fabulous time, did not miss at all the digital screens and can't wait to go back to Kawanhee in 2024 . He even has already convinced some of his buddies to go to camp with him next year!

When we dropped him off at camp, we stayed that overnight at Kawanhee INN, just to make sure his first day at camp went all according to plan, and the following morning we went to say goodbye and get confirmation he was already enjoying his time and fully integrated. He brushed us off as he was playing with his new lodge friends and did not care much for our farewell...No tears or long hugs were displayed at all! LOL!, just a cold 'see you ' hand wave while he kept throwing hoops at the basketball court!

As with all first-time children we were concerned he was too attached to his parents, but that fear of their kid crying for us to not leave or to take him back home, etc...was completely off the table with a cold 'see you'!



To finalize this recap of my feelings coming back to Kawanhee 40 years later, I must confess that the main reason for my fear of my kid not enjoying camp and not wanting to return next year was the fact that I would not have the excuse to come back myself to drop him off and relive some of the best moments of my childhood .

So, God willing , the Fústers will be back next year and I'll get to see again our old good friends, such as the Flemings, Yales, Altmaiers and the Standens!. Who we feel are part of our family.

MAY THERE ALWAYS BE A KAWANHEE!!

**Al 'Baby' Fúster -
Grey Captain '84**

Scenes and Sayings from the Season



**"I WANT TO BE THE BEST
PITCHER IN CAMP AND GET
BETTER AT BASEBALL."
-WILL TELGHEDDER**

**"I WANT TO DO THE
SHEEPSHOT AGAIN. I WAS
ABLE TO ACTUALLY SURF
THE WAVES THIS YEAR AND
IT WAS SO MUCH FUN."
-SEBASTIAN OYAGA**



**"AT FIRST I DIDN'T KNOW
IF I WANTED TO BE AT
CAMP THIS SEASON, BUT
NOW I'M SAD I AM LEAVING
BECAUSE IT WAS SUCH A
GREAT YEAR."
-JOAQUIN FERNANDEZ**

Thank you for your donation

KATE ESTABROOK SCHOEDINGER

Frank Foundation Board Member

When a person takes the time to make a donation to the Frank Foundation, I want to extend our gratitude and appreciation. For me, that means lovingly hand writing a note that is personalized. When I address the envelope and use the stationery with the ubiquitous Maine pine bough and board members' names listed on the left, I am honoring my parents for their work. I am reaching back in time honoring their memory as much as reaching forward to thank a person for their thoughtfulness so Camp Kawanhee can continue making a difference in the lives of young boys and men. In the days of automation and form letters, handwritten notes are something of an antiquated past that I would like to keep alive.

My dad, Walter Estabrook, was an English major. As a Kawanhee camper and counselor in the 1930's and 1940's, he never thought that at his Connecticut Wesleyan graduation he would become the second director of Kawanhee where his writing skills would come into use. As a kid, I remember my parents working year round on all the tasks that go with managing a boys camp from recruiting, to marketing, to hiring, to getting a catalog printed and mailed each year.



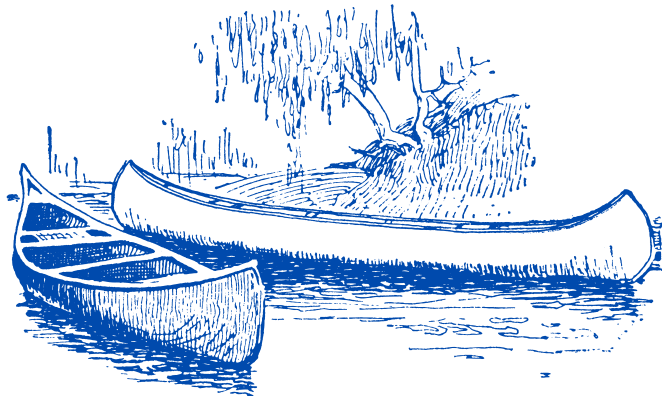
Each fall was marked by letter writing. Back then, Dad would craft a personalized letter to each parent detailing their son's accomplishments and adjustment to camp in the lodge, activities and the CK community based on counselors' reports submitted in August. I marveled at his ability to strike the right note, championing a boy or gently explaining a tough situation a boy tackled. Long before computers were around, these letters were dictated into a tape recorder and my mother or my best friend from next door hired on to help, would type each letter. These letters took months to write and were a constant source of conversation; what lodge they were on (they went in order from Eagle to Crow's Nest), how many were written and how many were left to write.



Thank you for your donation cont.

KATE ESTABROOK SCHOEDINGER

When the George and Raymond Frank Foundation was established in 1998, former camper and counselor Nick Gill became Secretary of the Board until 2003. My oldest brother, John Estabrook, took over as secretary in 2003. John began his tenure as President of the board in 2007 and I stepped into the secretary position. Part of the duties as secretary is to send a letter whenever a donation was made for tax purposes. People donate for projects like upgrading the Athletic Field, moving the basketball court, building Abbott Lodge, building the Director's Cabin, rebuilding the Rec Hall, adding the Dining Hall porch with a gabled end, even purchasing new toilets for the Fort. The most recent project was building the Katahdin Pavilion made possible by generous donations. People also can donate in memory of a person or in honor of a person. Donations are made for Scholarships and Endowments. Undoubtedly these letters are written for tax purposes, but to me, they are so much more.



I do have a favorite letter that my father wrote. He writes "For Patrick's first season he adjusted well and made an excellent record. He was friendly, warm, and his loving personality was well liked by everyone. His favorite activities were Hiking and Running but it was difficult to get him interested in Swimming although he did make some progress. He was not included among High Point Winners, but he had good attendance at most activities. He got along well with most of his peers, although there was an occasional inclination towards fighting. Patrick was never the instigator but was ready to defend himself and take the criticism. He needs to improve his personal cleanliness and we would recommend baths on a more regular basis. He is an early riser and had very good attendance at Polar Bear. He rarely dove in with the rest of the Polar Bears but invariably joined in with the singing of "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning." In summary, Patrick contributed greatly to the total spirit of Camp Kawanhee and by popular demand is invited to return for a second season."

Patrick was my brother Richard's dog that came to stay the season at Kawanhee because my father loved that dog so much. It is my father's sense of humor and love of life, especially life at Kawanhee, that I hold close to my heart. May There Always Be a Kawanhee.

If you decide to make a donation to the George and Raymond Frank Foundation, it will be my honor to write a thank you note.

Kawanhee in the Real World

How might Kawanhee impact us as we carry out our adult lives?

What ways might it affect our college, career and personal experiences in the "real world"?

Last fall, 3 passionate Kawanhees -- Jo Doherty, Graham Marvin, and Will Ryan -- set off on a mission to explore these questions. They reached out to a range of past & present Kawanhees, each at different stages of their lives. This is PART THREE in an ongoing series featuring the responses they received.

COLIN HOLSTEIN
2007-2019

Sales Account Manager
Columbus, OH

- *What one way do you believe day-to-day life at Kawanhee positively affected your college life?*
 - Polar Bear! In Badger 2011 my entire lodge did 100% Polar Bear for the entire summer. Waking up every single day with a group of 12 people for 7 weeks was an incredible achievement. If you would have told me when I was in Deer Lodge in 2007, that I would run the Polar Bear Swim one day, I would have laughed!
 - Starting every morning with a cold plunge in the freezing waters of Webb Lake prepared me for college more than I could have ever imagined. I always had a go-getter mindset once I entered the dorms, and waking up for class every morning was never a problem. Polar Bear allowed me to have a goal and stick to it, to embrace determination, and to embody the excitement of every new day. I was able to surround myself with people who were goal-oriented & driven once I got to college. I learned that surrounding myself with individuals with a similar mindset can lead to greater support and larger achievements. Having this continued support through my chosen Kawanhee Family over the years gave me the confidence to excel in college and to do so in the professional world!
- *Is there a passion or hobby that you believe was positively influenced by your time at Kawanhee?*
 - Hiking, white water kayaking, and anything outdoors! I am forever thankful that I grew up white water kayaking & hiking every summer. I look forward to new adventures, and seeing new, amazing places in nature and embracing all that it has to offer. In the spring, I will be venturing to Yosemite National Park, and I hope to move out west in the future to get closer to the white water, and have more exposure to scenic adventures.



BADGER

BAILLIE STEIN
2010-2019

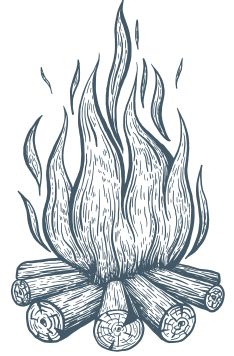
Project Coordinator at a Sustainable Agriculture Consulting Firm
Madison, WI



- *What is one thing that you suspect that the average person – young or old – does not realize about the impact of your time at Kawanhee?*
 - Kawanhee taught me where to draw my own line in terms of how I expect the people I surround myself with to behave and what values I expect to be upheld by my community.
- *What are the top 2 ways you believe being a counselor impacted your college life?*
 - Working as a counselor gave me confidence and a sense of responsibility that I took to college with me. A big part of my later college life was leading first years on outdoor trips, which I wouldn't have had the confidence to do without my experience being responsible for campers at camp. I remember back to when I was a JC, one of my campers in Eagle lodge had an allergic reaction and I was the only one with him at the time. I helped him to the nurse to get the help he needed. That gave me confidence to be cool in hard situations when you are responsible for someone else.

GRAHAM MARVIN
2000-2015

Freelance Film Production -
Producer/Director and Location Scout
New York, NY



- *What are the top 2 ways you believe being a counselor impacted your career?*
 - 1) Kawanhee taught me how to work with and lead a group! Those social and organizational skills allowed me to command respect on film sets. I grew a keen awareness on how to create a collaborative, positive, fun vibe. And I'm not alone! I've heard a couple directors (among them, The Daniels, who won Oscars for directing EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE) specifically cite how directing is like being a camp counselor on set.
 - 2) Approaching strangers! When I location scout part of my job description is knocking on a random door -- completely cold -- and asking people if we can film inside their property. Even though it's still a bit terrifying, I thank camp for giving me the experience and confidence meeting strangers when I do this.
- *Do you believe that your time at Kawanhee may have impacted your employer's decision to hire you?*
 - Yes. I was literally told on two separate jobs that including my camp experience (both as a counselor and camp videographer) on my resume was the kicker to being hired. One employer said that the amount of responsibility, organization, communication and leadership you need to be a camp counselor was very important to him. The other cited my camp videography work saying that that proved I was a self-starter that could work within a budget.

Scenes and Sayings from the Season

“OUT OF EVERYTHING THIS SUMMER I AM GOING TO MISS HECTOR THE MOST. SITTING WITH HIM AT THE TABLE AND HANGING OUT HAS BEEN AMAZING. I DON'T KNOW IF I WILL BE BACK NEXT SUMMER, BUT THANK YOU. OH AND ONE MORE THING... I LOVE CAMP.”
-ALFREDO MARTINEZ



“I LOVE JUST CHILLING IN MY LODGE WITH THE HOMIES.”
-DARIO CASTRO



“EVERY YEAR I LEARN SOMETHING NEW AND I JUST LOVE THIS PLACE SO MUCH AND ALL THE PEOPLE IN IT.”
-SAM ROSBERGER



Social Awareness Committee

LIZ STANDEN Executive Director

In the fall of 2020, the Frank Foundation Board established an ad hoc Committee, the Social Awareness Committee, to review Kawanhee’s practices and culture with regards to camper and counselor support. It was noted at the time that Kawanhee had been and remained committed to the values of being a welcoming community that supported all campers and staff regardless of differences. The Social Awareness committee had representatives from the current staff, the Board, alumni and “friends” of Kawanhee who were interested in this initiative and who had perspectives and experience to bring to it. We spent time reviewing current practices, goal setting and then discussing and figuring out how to implement practices we felt would best support our objectives. We all agreed that Kawanhee should be a community where the dignity of every human is affirmed. Our challenge then and will always be to work to sustain a culture that supports this commitment. The questions that were given to the committee and also evolved out of their work are summarized as follows:

- How can we help all of us be objective in how we are/or not reaching the goal of an inclusive camp culture?
- How we can we better support campers who come from economically diverse and varying cultures and races?
- How we can increase our understanding of individual differences and maintain our respect for these aspects of a person?
- How can we better identify what obstacles there are in our current camp culture that get in our way or distract us when trying to meet these goals?
- How can we better identify what obstacles there are in our current camp traditions that get in our way or distract us when trying to meet these goals?
- How can we examine current practices and replace or improve them with an eye towards increasing respect for all?



Social Awareness Committee cont.

LIZ STANDEN

Flash-forward to three years later, and while there will always be improvements to be made, we are proud of how far we've come. Some of the work that has emerged includes a commitment to self-reflection both as individuals and as an institution. During staff training week and throughout the season during staff meetings, we had multiple presentations and discussion to support many of the above objectives. These included, but were not limited to, creating a safe culture at camp, both physically and emotionally, building and maintaining trust in lodge groups, setting appropriate goals, identifying bullying and other exclusive behaviors, supporting positive resolution and appropriately supporting varying camper identities.

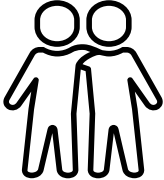
The US Surgeon General's recent warnings cite social media and social isolation as major risk factors for children and their development. We recognize and appreciate Kawanhee's commitment to provide a safe and communal environment for children. We are proud to finish our first season with the inaugural role and installation of two mental health professionals on staff to support campers and staff. These professionals are referred to as Camper Support Counselors, offering individual and program support for the social and emotional needs of today's camper. They are Rohan Doherty, former camper, counselor and now Rangeley Public Schools therapist, and Karen Mitchell, parent and therapist. Adding this layer of expertise to our talented Leadership Team and Camp Mom proved essential in preserving a positive camper and staff experience.

We all recognize the life changing experience that Kawanhee represents and the fact that many boys are not financially able to afford the camp experience. We have attempted to broaden our reach through our scholarship program, through A Thousand Summers, New Jersey Seeds and other agencies/foundations and avenues to help us attract and maintain a community that is representative of economic diversity and the many cultures/ races and people in our world. Kawanhee is committed to establishing and maintaining an environment of belonging and acceptance of all. These initiatives help assure that these values remain in place.



Kawanhee 2023 by the Numbers

85 First-time campers 

82 Campers joined by one or more brothers in camp 

23 States and U.S. territories represented by campers

10 Staff members from New Mexico 

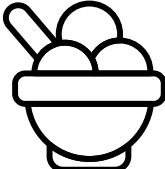
18 Lodge counselors who were Kawanhee Campers

14 Campers co-sponsored by A Thousand Summers and the Frank Foundation

3 Toothbrushes sold in the camp store 

33 Grey pieces of clothing sold in the camp store

41 Maroon pieces of clothing sold in the camp store

330 Italian ices sold in the camp store 

How to Put Away Your Trunk

GRAHAM MARVIN Camper/Staff: 2000–2011, 2014; Board Member: 2017–2023

Teary-eyed assertions, overtly personal shares, and an abundance of long hugs...I was so struck by just how powerful the testimonial vespers were on the last night of this past camp season. A 33-year-old alumnus / board member / visitor, I stood there feeling thrilled that the CK spirit continues to be so alive. I was inspired by this passionate, articulate, vulnerable generation of Kawanhees, and I'm inspired enough to be vulnerable here myself.

I wrote the following piece ("K-Wan Trunk Essay" as it was saved on my computer) two days after I arrived home from the 2014 camp season. No one has ever read it or knows it exists. I was 24-years-old and days away from moving back into my NYC apartment and starting a job on NBC's *The Blacklist*. That job would later propel me further into the film/tv industry, and make all my future summers spoken for. I still remember sitting on the floor to write this...like I was in a stream-of-consciousness trance and needed to emote and digest so many fleeting thoughts. I had honestly never done something like that, and haven't since. I was possessed. While what I wrote registers to me now as a bit dramatic, I also admire it a lot, and am reminded of the heart & purity that I witnessed from those brave campers & counselors at testimonial vespers. Like them, I was fully IN IT. And there's no better feeling!

So as I wrap up my time on the George & Raymond Frank Foundation Board — which has been a true honor — I'd prefer to hand the mic over to 24-year-old Graham, whose wisdom & heart were raw, electric, and IN IT. I had just had one of the best summers of my life, and like right now, I was coming to terms with my future at Camp Kawanhee. I share it with you all here as a way to say "goodbye" and to reflect on what a goodbye at Camp Kawanhee really means...

My empty camp trunk sits at the top of the basement stairs in my childhood home. It's all been unpacked: Kawanhee Nalgens, smelly shin guards, muddy sneakers, hiking boots that have summited Katahdin, mustache tshirts and more. It's time.



Trout 2014

K-Wan Trunk Essay

GRAHAM MARVIN

It's 2 days after the last day of my 13th summer at Camp Kawanhee and it's time for the very last step of any Kawanhee summer: shelving the trunk back in the basement. It's like putting it to sleep after 7 weeks of fun so I can wake it up in 10 moons.

But this is different. This isn't a "see you later" or a "see you in ten moons." That "wake up" moment when I'd excitedly go down the basement steps to lift it out of its state of rest, suddenly has no timeline. The following June? Maybe. The June after that? Maybe. The one after that? Definitely a chance, right? But I know better. And that scares me.

Is this final moment, this last step, how I not only put to sleep my last 8 weeks, but my entire 13 summer experience? How do you put to sleep something like that? Is there any way you don't actually have to?



My eyes start to well up, as they have every summer when I sing Jet Plane with my second family. Is this the ending to the greatest time, place, group of people, THING I've ever experienced?

No.

The trunk can remain still and untouched in its spot in the basement while I play President with my roommate Dan Alexander, share quesadillas at Anna's Taqueria with Ben Smith, Evan Jones, Ned Carson, and the Helgasons, visit JP and John Fritz in Puerto Rico, Ben and Will in Columbus, Victor Martinez and the Lasso de la Vegas in Madrid, have snowball fights outside the Rec Hall during New Years', and vacation to Weld on 4th of July weekend to see which lodges and activities my campers are working in.

Hell - the trunk can remain in its spot when I treat my first day of work like the first day of camp, treat the employees at my favorite restaurant how I treat Sean Minear after he makes buffalo chicken wraps, and try to treat every person I interact with like I would treat a Kawanheean.

So when you find yourself putting that trunk away and not knowing when you'll see it again, breathe. Don't fret. A chapter in your life may be ending, but with your commitment, the story could get better and better. And before you know it, you may be lucky enough where the next time you see that trunk is when you're helping your son pack it for his first summer.

The greatest gift Kawanhee gives is not a feeling of devotion to 7 weeks out of the year, but tools to make your life and your world the most rich and wonderful it can be for all 52 weeks of every year.

Scenes and Sayings from the Season



“WORLD 5 USA 3.
THOSE GAMES WERE
MY FAVORITE PART
OF THE SUMMER,
WORLD IS THE
BEST.”
-CARLOS MASAVEU

“MY COUNSELORS
WERE VERY NICE, I
AM GOING TO MISS
THEM A LOT.”
-MIGUEL MASAVEU



“I THINK MY THE
KATAHDIN HIKE WAS
ONE OF MY FAVORITE
THINGS THIS YEAR.
NEXT YEAR I REALLY
WANT TO LEARN HOW
TO SLALOM SKI LIKE
FERD.”
-LEONIDAS OLIVER
JONASON

“16 YEARS... 16
YEARS TOO LONG
AND I'M FINALLY
BACK”
-ALEX DEVINE



Caution - Wet Paint

DANNY GRAY 2023 Lodge Counselor
and In-Season Social Media Coordinator

The inside scoop on paddle lore from the people who paint them, as well as a discussion of the sheer scale of the project each season.

As the last of the light from the sun began to fade from the late evening sky during the final days of the 2023 season, you could always count on the center of camp being lit up. Around the Dining Hall, the Rec Hall and the Fort, outdoor floodlamps on the corners of these buildings are almost always lit up after taps for safety when navigating camp at night. But when passing over the hill in the center of camp and through this corridor of imposing wooden structures, there's always one light source that's a little different than those floodlamps.

On the south side of the Rec Hall, where the library was in previous seasons, is where Art is set up currently, as work is being done on Kawanhee's Art Center. On any given night, one could find light (sometimes flickering slightly) pouring from the windows of this room. Inside, two figures would move about the room occasionally, usually painting, drawing, writing or typing at one of two long tables. Art Co-Counselors 'Enekai "Kai" Robles-Hails and Ellie Barth spent most of their nights working meticulously, painting achievement stripes and emblems onto each camper's canoe paddle.



Caution - Wet Paint cont.

DANNY GRAY

“Most days, I wake up for breakfast to be there for the boys, go and set up my activity, socialize, then I run my activities,” Robles said when asked about his daily routine. “Just, you know, teachin’ the youngins how to ‘do-the-do’. And then, basically, paddles. All day, every day, including the night.” Barth had a similar answer. “I’m always in the Art activity itself, and I’m always working free time, since music is a free time activity. So, my day gets pretty busy,” Barth said. “And then, also-paddles. Sometimes that means I’m up 24 hours.”

During the 2023 season, Barth doubled her work in art with co-directing Kawanhee’s new music program, alongside longtime Kawanhean Diana Yale. There were often times where she would go straight from playing the melodica and singing at campfire back to painting paddles into the night. “I came to do music, but I feel like I’ve done much better than I thought I would do in art, since I’m doing that as well,” Barth said. “I feel like music and art (as activities) are similar in a lot of ways... Getting to see things from a more visual perspective has been interesting as well.” Robles agreed with Barth about her taking things in-stride. “Nowadays, we’re trying to update our systems,” Robles said. “Ellie has been helping me a lot with turning old systems into new systems- trying to refine and trim the fat of some of the most complex systems in camp.”



Caution - Wet Paint cont.

DANNY GRAY



Thinking about the scale of the task that paddles presents is hard to put into perspective. Over the course of this past camp season, there were 48 days. Consider that across the 4 programs, there were 190 campers this season, along with many staff who have paddles as well. Collecting all the information for everyone's achievements is a tall task in-and-of itself, as Robles and Barth have to pull information from all of the achievement level boards in each activity in camp. That could all even just be for one paddle. Each stripe or emblem requires being painted on in multiple coats for both durability and aesthetic purposes. Many different stencils, tapes, and guidelines are used throughout the painting process of each paddle as well.

When finished, the name of the camper who it belongs to is documented as being finished. They are then left to dry on either the back porch of the Rec Hall right behind art, or in the Paddle Room, which is underneath the Dining Hall. Painting an average of about five paddles daily with activity curriculum on top of that is hard work, and these two know it.

"Kawanhee started off as a canoe camp," Robles said when asked about the lore around paddles. "That's why the canoe test (stripe) takes such a prominent place on the paddle. Obviously, it's a tracker now for your achievements here at camp." And he's right. For decades now, something at the center of Kawanhee's culture has been paddle stripes. Some kids find satisfaction in getting another year stripe down, while others, over the course of several seasons, rack up stripes and emblems of all different colors, shapes, and sizes. Some make it a competition among friends or family at Kawanhee to gain the most accolades on their paddle. "There have been updates to the achievement system, things that have been added or removed- it's a constantly dynamic process." Robles said when asked about what he calls "Paddle Theory", which is essentially the painting process, reading, and proper interpretations of a painted Kawanhee canoe paddle.

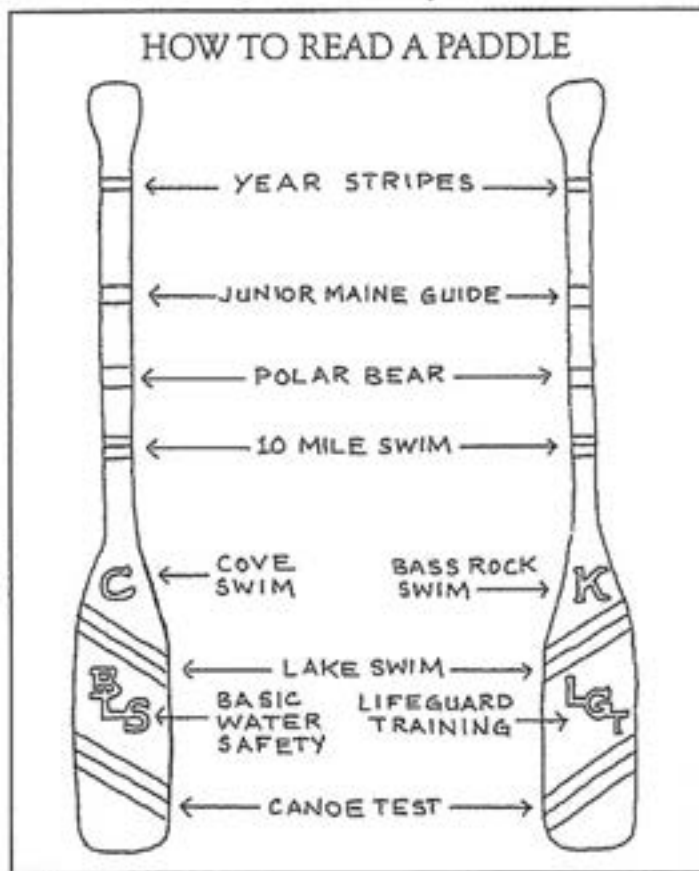


Caution - Wet Paint cont.

DANNY GRAY

Formerly made by L.L. Bean, the paddles Kawanhee currently supplies campers with are crafted out of ash wood by Shaw & Tenney in Orono, Maine. Robles pointed out that as of last year, the paddles are sent from factory with a different finish on the woodgrain. Enamel paint, which was used in paddle painting before this development, is not as durable when painted over this new kind of finish. This meant that he had to do an entire “revamp” on the paints used in the process, as well as the mixing of some stripe colors, all while now using exterior finish, which according to Robles is still “very, very durable.”

For years, Robles had always heard the same lines about how difficult it is to read a paddle. This season, he decided that he would solve that problem. There is a large whiteboard in the art room, one side of which was not being used for anything but doodles. Robles wrote down, drew out, and diagrammed different sections of a Kawanhee paddle, describing the stripes and emblems, their colors, what they mean and how to achieve them. He took multiple days to curate the knowledge for the piece and create it, and he dubbed it “Paddle Theory.” No one dared to smudge or erase it, as it stayed up from right after the 3-weekers arrived through to the end of the camp season.



“The colors on the paddle- you said maroon and grey. The other colors on the paddle are the classic JMG green, which is a very recurring color, the blue used for the stripes for the Ten-Mile and Head-of-the-Lake Swims, as well as Blue Star (riflery expert),” Robles said about the color scheme, “another one is white, which is probably one of my favorite accent colors on a paddle. I wish it was used more. Polar Bear, the Bass Rock Walk, Head-of-the-Lake, fly fishing, but I want something more. Gimme more white!” One of the rarest colors you will ever find on a paddle, though, is purple. It is only used for one stripe, and that is acquired by waterskiing on your paddle and completing a handful of tricks. Robles said he mixed a “very specific” purple this year, even though it was only used on one paddle.

Caution - Wet Paint cont.

DANNY GRAY

Robles took great joy in simplifying Kawanhee paddles with Barth this season. It was hard work, but at the end of it all, Robles is still grateful for the opportunities he's continued to get at Kawanhee for several years now. "Art is just so expansive- it's super broad. So, getting people in touch with something they can wrap their heads around, instead of just being an abstract, broad concept- I find that really interesting and intriguing," Robles said when asked about why he has stuck with art into his counselor years. "I love doing that, and in my mind, there's no better place to do that than Kawanhee."



Scenes and Sayings from the Season



**"I LOVE THE SAILING
EXTENDED PERIODS.
IT'S ONE OF THE
BEST THINGS TO
DO."
-LAITH DIOURI**



**"HAVE YOU EVER WORN A PERSONAL
FLOATION DIAPER? IT'S WHEN YOU PUT
YOUR FEET THROUGH THE ARMHOLES OF A
PFD AND THEN BUCKLE IT DOWN. YOU SHOULD
TRY IT SOMETIME, IT'S REALLY FUN!"
-WALKER GILLIGAN**

**"I LOVE SHOP AND RANGE THE MOST! I MADE
A MINI PADDLE IN SHOP, DO YOU WANT TO
SEE IT? OH, AND I LOVE CAMPFIRE, THEY ARE
REALLY FUN. I LOVED SINGING THE CAN YOU
CANOE SONG AS LOUD AS WE COULD."
-FRANCISCO NAVEDO**



**"I GOT THE HIGH
POINT! I WAS REALLY
HAPPY WHEN THEY
ANNOUNCED MY NAME
FOR THE AWARD"
-EDUARDO GARCIA-
LOSTAL DE LA LASTRA**



Life Updates From the Kawanhee Community

BIRTHS



Will and Jen Ryan welcomed Billy Ryan (pictured to the left in a CK bib) on June 12, 2023 in Chicago Illinois. Billy weighed 6 pounds 14 oz

Abby and Ben Altmaier welcomed Amelia Sophia Altmaier to their family on May 19, 2023

Ben and Alison Zambito welcomed Zoe Ann Zambito on August 4 2023

Dan and Kate Alexander welcomed Will Mideli Alexander on August 27, 2023. Torrey has a little brother!

Katie Estabrook and Harsha Krovi welcomed Meera Ann Krovi, born on September 7, 2023

Share news with us!

Share your life updates (or the life updates of your friends & family members!) with the camp community by emailing us at skookumee@gmail.com and we'll include them in a future issue of Skookumee. Jobs, births, deaths, graduations, publications, and more. We want to hear it all and share it!

If you send your address with your birth announcement we'll send you a Kawanhee onesie for your new arrival!



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open now!

2024 Camp Season:
June 23rd - August 10th

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NEXT ISSUE:
NEW YEARS' 2024

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