



CAMP
KAWANHEE
for Boys

SKOOKUMEE



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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The Power of Tradition

KENLEY PERRY



The holidays are a time filled with traditions. These traditions are precious rituals or routines that connect us to the past, present and hopefully the future. They fill us with a sense of nostalgia, fond memories, and warm feelings about our lives, families, and friends. When I first started dating my now wife, Kristen, I went to her house for Thanksgiving. My future mother-in-law prepared the traditional Thanksgiving meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green bean casserole and so on. However, there was one dish that was new to me, one I had never seen or heard of before, called strawberry pretzel salad. The name is quite misleading as there isn't a leafy green in sight, so it's far from a salad. There are strawberries in strawberry jello on top, a layer of white stuff, and a base of crushed pretzel. I thought to myself, what in the world is this thing? What an odd

combination of ingredients. Again, thinking of my future relationship with my in-laws and wife, I of course did not want to be rude by passing on this strange concoction. So I took a piece to save for the end of the meal. And that was when I started what would become a big Perry family tradition.

I loved it! That strange thing called 'salad'. It is actually a sweet, salty, and savory dessert and I made sure to go back for seconds later that night. According to my wife, my mother in-law noticed and kindly made sure to make it for me every Thanksgiving. I have been having strawberry pretzel salad every Thanksgiving for more than 30 years now. And it's not just me. My wife loves it, my kids fight over who got a bigger piece, and anyone who attends a Thanksgiving dinner with the Perrys gets an extra big piece. It is in every sense of the word, a family tradition. Kawanhee is a family overflowing with traditions. It's one of the things that drew me to Camp Kawanhee and unifies alumni throughout the past 104 summers. As the 'new guy' I'm so excited to take part in these traditions. The very first tradition I get to do is the Walk to Bass Rock.

Did you know that this tradition is older than I am? The first walk to Bass Rock was in January of 1974 when beloved BA Altmaier and 4 other Kawanhee friends walked to Bass Rock on a frozen Lake Webb. Since then it has been an annual tradition which was eventually moved to President's Day weekend in February. I can't wait to bundle up, complete my first Bass Rock walk and gather around with my new Kawanhee family. I hope to see many of you there!

Bass Rock Walk 2025 - Sunday, February 16th

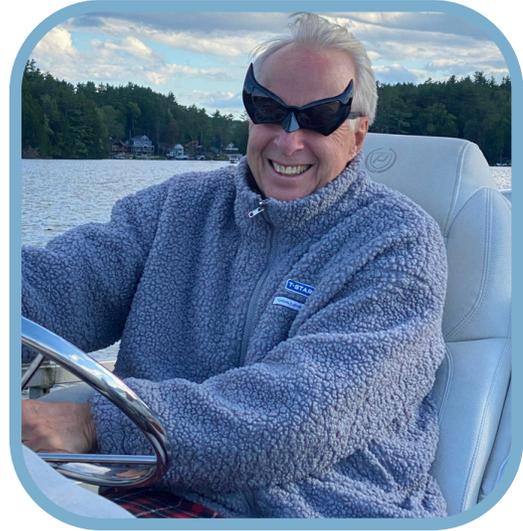
Kawanhee Responds

Enjoy catching up with Kawanheens across the decades!



GRAHAM MARVIN Queens, NY

- **My favorite place in camp** is the waterfront
- **One thing that's new for me this year** is that I started work on a new season of the TV show "Dexter". I was a huge fan when I was younger, so excited to be a part of the crew!
- **One time I've thought about camp in the last year:** The soundtrack to "Tumbledown" popped up on my Apple Music and I went down a Weld rabbit hole
- **Shoutout** to Ben Smith because he just got married to Colleen Quinlan Smith this past October, and I was lucky enough to be his Best Man!
- **Other things going on in my life:** I'm no longer helping create the very newsletter you're reading, and I miss it but am honored that the great Macy Davis (and her team) are keeping it up!



FERD SCHOEDINGER Weare, NH

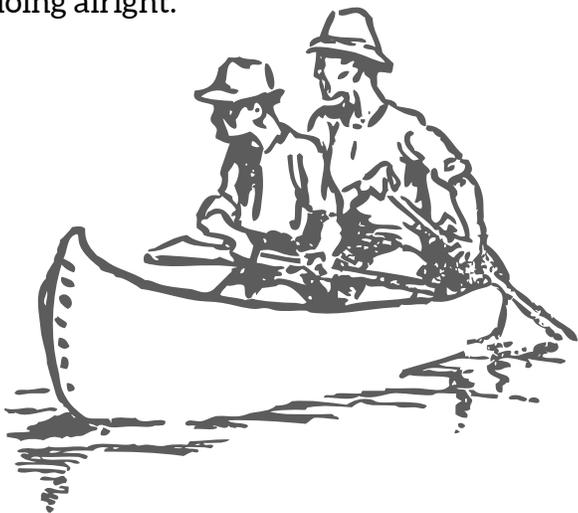
- **My favorite place in camp** is working in the Shop and working under Sailing and being in the Boat running Skiing. There are so many great places in camp. I like all of them.
- **A perfect day at Kawnhee** is Chocolate chip pancakes, a day in the boat with activities and free ski at 11 and 4. A swim after dinner and enjoying evening activities is a perfect day. On Repeat!
- **One thing that's new for me this year** is having Ralph Tice come back to camp as CC counselor.
- **One time I've thought about camp in the last year:** Keeping my eyes open for equipment that would be great for camp at yard sales!
- **Shoutout** to Ralph Tice because I hope he is coming back for 2025 season!!
- **Other things going on in my life:** Heading into snow skiing season and enjoying all the outdoor fun that brings.





CHRIS DIZON Norwalk, CT

- **My favorite place in camp is** Just one? I love the whole place.
- **A perfect day at Kawnahnee is** wake up, jump in for Polar Bear, help the kids in their favorite activities, spend time with my friends, watch the sunset, and go sleep.
- **One thing that's new for me this year is** I began a new job as a ski instructor.
- **One time I've thought about camp in the last year:** nearly everyday, the memories are what keep me happy in hard times.
- **Shoutout to** Zac LaGrutta because I'll never forget all of the time we spent together as close friends and partners leading the Greys
- **Other things going on in my life:** I'm currently a Senior in High School going through the college application process. I'm doing alright.



KEVIN MITCHELL Scotch Plains, NJ

- **My favorite place in camp is** the ski dock
- **A perfect day at Kawnahnee is** having a lot of fun!
- **One thing that's new for me this year is** the JMG experience
- **One time I've thought about camp in the last year:** All the time!
- **Shoutout to** Grant Moravec, because he is a great JMG leader
- **Other things going on in my life:** started high school, made the swim team!



SIMON SCHRAGA New York, NY

- **My favorite place in camp is** Council Point and the Sunday service place, super peaceful. Also Cradger lodge.
- **A perfect day at Kawnahnee is** no wind water skiing, or alternatively hyper windy sailing. Or maybe a night just doing a bunch of things with lodgemates
- **One time I've thought about camp in the last year:** Only one? I think about it at least once a week
- **Shoutout to** Grant Moravec, don't have much reason I just wanted to.
- **Other things going on in my life:** Started doing animation, hopefully I can launch a trailer for a series by April.

DAVID FUNG

Belmont, MA

- My favorite place in camp is the campfire circle
- A perfect day at Kawnahsee is swimming Lake Webb
- Shoutout to The Frank Brothers



JEFFREY MONROE

East Lansing, MI

- My favorite place in camp is Crows Nest
- A perfect day at Kawnahsee is swimming to Bass Rock
- One thing that's new for me this year Marriage
- One time I've thought about camp in the last year: Hiking last week
- Shoutout to my brother Fritz Monroe
- Other things going on in my life: Fully Retired married to the new Dean of the college of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University



MANUEL RIVERA

Puerto Rico

- My favorite place in camp is the soccer field
- A perfect day at Kawnahsee is good food, good activities and good sleep.
- One thing that's new for me this year is I began a new job as a ski instructor.
- One time I've thought about camp in the last year: while playing volleyball
- Shoutout to Zac LaGrutta because he was the Grey Captain



HARRY BOURNE

Banff, Alberta, Canada

- My favorite place in camp is the docks
- Shoutout to Donnie Corbett for introducing me to camp

ANDY TRAYNER

Lutz, FL

- My favorite place in camp is the range
- A perfect day at Kawnahsee is enjoying my favorite activities
- One thing that's new for me this year is I took a trip to Africa
- One time I've thought about camp in the last year: While working on my farm
- Shoutout to my brother Chip!

RACHEL LAWSON

Illinois

- My favorite place in camp is this history museum obviously

A Life of Adventure

DON CASTO



I was a camper at Kawanhee for five years from age 9 – 13 (1954 – 1958). It was a wonderful experience and I followed it with attendance at a canoe tripping camp on Lake Temagami in Ontario and graduated into a trip leader role for my final two years there. During my time at Kawanhee, campers 12 or older had an opportunity to “check out” and camp out at Skookumee or Sunday Beach. I vividly remember the sense of freedom that that gave a young camper (mindful that we were never too far away). I believe it was my experience at Kawanhee – and also thanks to Campcraft and Nature activities – that allowed me to develop a lifelong passion for wilderness travel. This passion had to take a back seat to education, career, marriage and children for many years. Still, during that time (and it was wonderful) I was able to indulge a desire to spend time in the wilderness. I owned a small off the grid cottage on the north shore of Georgian Bay and that was the site of many kayak and grouse hunting trips in the area. But there was still something missing – a sense of challenge and a deeper dive into what my wife likes to call “the blank spots on the map”.

It all started out at age 40 with a conversation at a community function with a close friend who mentioned that he had always wanted to climb the Matterhorn. That seemed like a good idea and over the years it morphed into a quest to climb some of the highest and most remote mountains in the world. We started in 1985 with the Matterhorn and learned quickly that failure was part of the equation (heavy snow and ice on summit day). Just the same, we had fun and returned a few years later to summit.



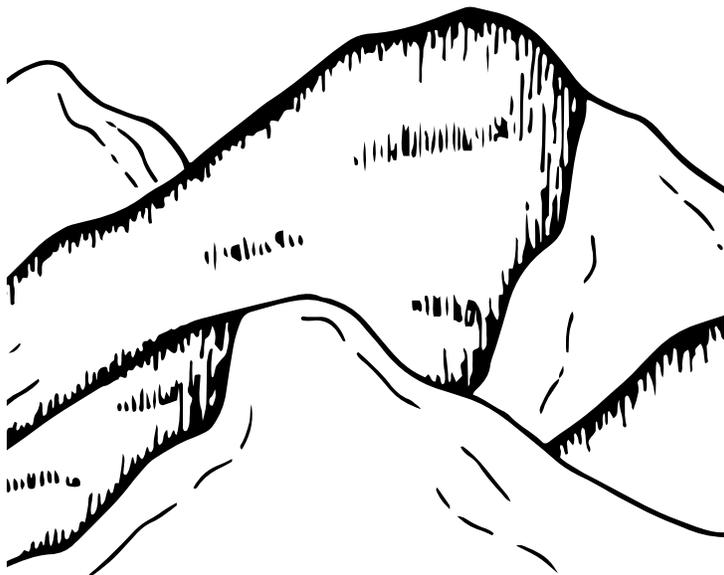
A Life of Adventure

DON CASTO

Every year thereafter I, together with various climbing friends, would select a different mountain to visit. I learned quickly that the act of summiting was incidental to the more important part of being outdoors with friends in unique and remote locations. More often than not we succeeded but occasionally we were weathered out and failed. Over the years we climbed in the Alps, the Caucasus, the Rockies, the Himalayas, Micronesia and other locations. The most memorable and interesting were also the most remote. We were only the third group to ever be able to reach the Carstenz Pyramid in western New Guinea and spent several weeks living with stone age tribesmen who also served as our guides to the mountain. It was a remarkable cross-cultural experience to which the actual technical climb became secondary. Equally remote was our climb of Mt. Vinson in Antarctica – again only the third group ever to be able to get to the mountain.



One year, again searching for remote locations, we decided not to climb and arranged a winter dogsled effort to go the last degree to the North Pole. It was a very interesting expedition to fly to and land on an ice floe a degree south of the pole and then begin our journey. But that effort was a failure. Too many leads had opened up and there was no direct route from the ice floe to the pole. Still we had a wonderful adventure. The final “failure” was the intervention of COVID which compromised travel. My last climb was a return visit to Mt. Blanc in 2020 and I haven’t climbed since. I’m not willing to throw in the towel and am now planning a return visit to the Atacama desert in northern Chile to climb some large volcanos. It should be fun! Thanks, Kawanhee, for putting me on a path to a life of wilderness adventure.



Thank you to our donors!

The Frank Foundation's Board of Directors would like to thank and acknowledge our donors from 2024. Due to the generosity of our alumni, parents, family, and friends we are able to ensure that Camp Kawanhee will continue on as a character building force for boys.

May There Always Be A Kawanhee!

- John Abbott
- Dan and Kate Alexander
- David and Patty Alexander
- Jorge Alicea Brito
- Robert Altmaier
- Ryan Barrett
- Thomas Barrett
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- Caleb Tulloss
- Lance Valk
- Mark Ward
- Bill Williams
- John Willis
- Benjamin Zambito



Kawanhee in the Wild

I have always said that Kawanhee in one word is TIMING. One of the most fun aspects of lifelong Kawanheefriendships is knowing that somewhere, sometime, somehow there is a 100% chance that you will bump into a Kawanhee pal unexpectedly.

Ferd and I were delighted we could travel from New Hampshire to Michigan for the wedding of my college roommate’s son. I was especially happy that the wedding was late August and Ferd finished the waterskiing season. Imagine our surprise when we arrived for Friday evening festivities and BEN SMITH was officiating the wedding! BEN SMITH! Ferd and I burst into the BEN SMITH song and nearly tackled him.

As luck would have it, the brilliant, beautiful bride’s best friend from high school in Massachusetts is BEN SMITH. The BEN SMITH!

It was a memorable weekend for many reasons and one of them is seeing BEN SMITH again. Keep your eyes open. You never know which Kawanhee person you will see out in the wild. Share your story in the next Skookumee issue!

THANKS TO KATE SCHOEDINGER FOR INTRODUCING OUR NEW FEATURE!
SUBMIT YOUR KAWANHEE IN THE WILD ENCOUNTERS TO SKOOKUMEE@GMAIL.COM TO BE FEATURED IN AN UPCOMING ISSUE!

REGISTER FOR THE CK 105TH REUNION STARTING JANUARY 31

Online registration opens on January 31st for the Kawanhee 105th reunion to be held at camp from Friday August 15th to Sunday August 17th 2025.

Buy your ticket early to take advantage of our Centennial pricing commitment AND to get your reunion t-shirt included with your ticket!

A link to the online portal will feature on the Camp Kawanhee website.

AUGUST 15-17 2025

To receive all CK communications please make sure you are registered in our alumni directory linked below: <https://www.kawanhee.com/alumni-directory/>

Or follow us on social media:



A Glimpse into Kawanhee History

This article is edited information from the best selling book "Among the Pines :A History of Camp Kawanhee" by Michael Altmaier

The Oldest Building at Camp Kawanhee

In the year 1920, soon after the land for Camp Kawanhee was purchased , George and Raymond Frank and their father Charles-often referred to as "Pop" Frank-began to build the first three buildings of Camp Kawanhee. These buildings included the original dining hall and the original Eagle and Falcon lodges. The Frank's were joined by a group of workers from Weld. These workers were led by Fezz (Wildcat) Skofield. By the summer of 1921 these three buildings were ready for the first campers in the history of Camp Kawanhee.

After the first season of Camp Kawanhee George and Raymond Frank decided to construct two new buildings to be ready for the 1922 summer. In the fall of 1922, a two story building was constructed to house a manual training shop or as we call it today, shop or Industrial Arts in schools. George Frank was a manual arts teacher in Columbus, Ohio and wanted to get a similar program started at Kawanhee. George Frank taught school at Indianola Junior Hlgh-in Columbus ,the first Junior High School in America. And that made George Frank the first Junior High Manual Arts teacher in America. Something he would often mention to me! In the spring, the Frank brothers built a sleeping lodge which they named Panther. Today this sleeping lodge built in the spring of 1922 is Eagle lodge.

And when they started the 1922 camp season the new two story building was ready to go. The top floor would become the manual arts center and the bottom floor would become an automobile garage. As you can probably tell from my description this building in what we call the Crow/Badger/ Sailing building today. In the catalog of 1922, it was advertised that the bottom floor garage had room for eight cars ! Today this would be the ground floor that includes the current sailing department and Badger lodge. They must have been small cars.

The manual arts area was slightly different from today's Shop activity. They built small wooden projects but also built boats called Catboats. Some campers constructed "ham" radios . In the early days of Kawanhee this activity was called "Manual Arts and Radios " The ham radio activity didn't prove too successful because the surrounding mountains of Weld made it difficult to contact anybody with their radio.

A substantially built shingled Boat House, Garage and Manual Training Shop combined, (32 ft. x 34 ft.), erected last fall on one of the most beautiful spots in Camp, is a splendid permanent addition to the camp equipment. There is ample space for the storage of eight cars and sufficient room for all phases of shop work, including the construction of large sailing cat-boats.

From the 1922 Catalog

The Oldest Building at Camp cont.

The Manual Arts department was located in what is now Crow's Nest lodge. The Manual Arts department in the new building only lasted 6 years when another , bigger building was built in 1928. This is our Shop building today. But, the old manual arts department was turned into a sleeping lodge and has been called Crow's Nest ever since the late 1920s. The bottom floor of the new shop building became the parking garage and thus that meant the bottom floor of the new Crow's Nest lodge was empty and eventually it became the Sailing Department. At one time the Sailing Department occupied the entire bottom floor, but in 1955 Badger lodge was carved out of one side of the Sailing Department where it remains today.

In 1977, tragedy struck Camp Kawanhee when a fire destroyed four buildings. Three of these buildings were the first three original buildings- the original dining hall and the original Eagle and Falcon lodges. And because of that tragedy and the destruction of the first three buildings in our history- the Crow's Nest, Badger, Sailing Department building became the oldest building at Camp Kawanhee,



EAGLE AND FALCON LODGES



It's coming back!! The much-anticipated 5th (YES, 5TH!) installment of **Kawanhee Night Out** will launch in early 2025. This is a massive year with the lead-up to Camp's 105th Reunion. What started with only a few cities expanded to 7 locations last year! If you are interested in attending OR hosting, please get in touch with kawanhee.night.out@gmail.com

What's Kawanhee Night Out? This unique event is celebrated simultaneously, under the same moon, at various social gathering sites (local bars, homes, local events) in cities where fellow Camp Kawanhee campers and staff alumni reside worldwide. While typically hosted in the city at a local bar (the event is intended for 21+ alumni), some locations opted for a more intimate setting like a home or even a local event like a concert to accommodate more. Whatever the case, it's a night designed to bring members of the Kawanhee community together from near or far during the offseason. If you have some ideas or would like to be included in the planning, please reach out to the email provided above!

Still not convinced? Here's a collection of pictures from last year's event:



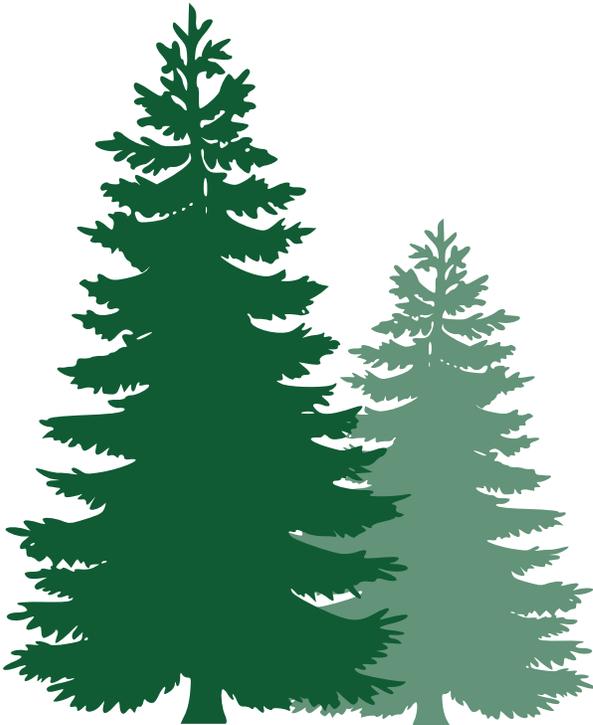
Kawanhee

Night Out

Kawanhee Polls

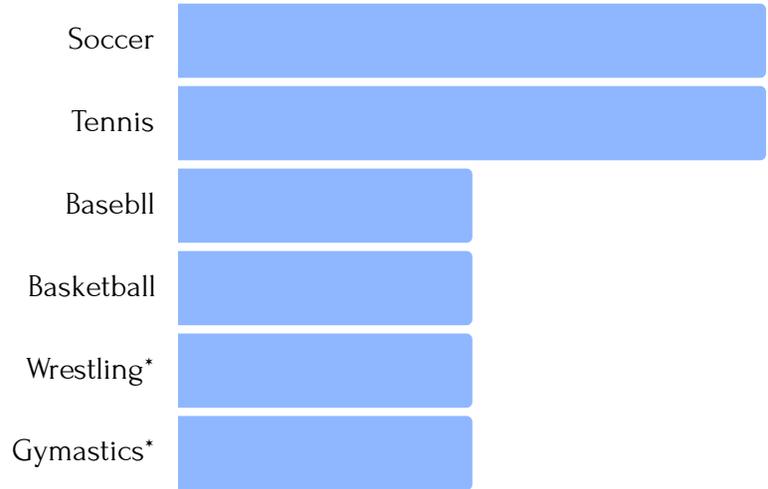
One Word to Describe Kawanhee:

awesome
fun
magic
forever
enjoyable
carefree
exhilarating



Favorite Activities

Athletics



Waterfront



Other Activities



*Wrestling and Gymnastics were activities once offered at camp

** We won't tell you how many times Ferd answered skiing

A Junior Counselor's Journey

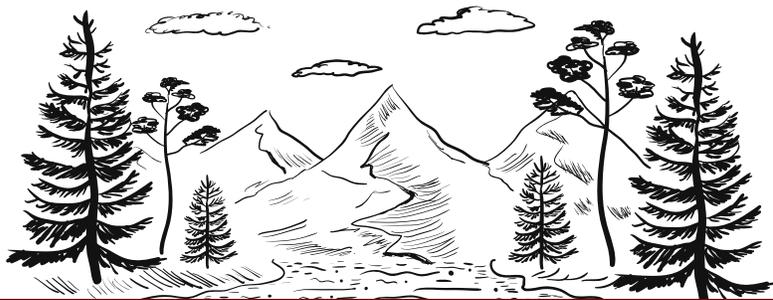
CHRIS DIZON

If you were to tell me in 2018 there was a place, where in the span of 30 weeks over 6 years, I would go from a shy little kid reading in the corner of the lodge to Co-Captain of Greys, multi-activity counselor, and (sometimes) the loudest in the room I would have asked two things: how you got into my house (I never left it back then); and if you were from the same planet as me. My time at Camp Kawanhee was a life-changing experience that I wouldn't have traded for anything in the world. It had challenging moments and times when I wanted to leave, but looking back on the years, I can't help but smile at how forcing myself out of my comfort zone unlocked who I really was.

While generations of Dizons before me passed down the tradition of attending a camp in Maine, I heard about Kawanhee through a friend who heard it from another friend who heard about it from a person who went to our school, Jed Morgan. At the time I was only 11 and I found myself in Deer Lodge 2018 for the final 3 weeks of the camp season. That first year for me was a tough one; I remained shut in for a majority of the time and only really started to open up with just three days left in the season. This process repeated for the following year in 2019. Then 2020 brought COVID along and the world was forced into quarantine and isolation.

When camp reopened in 2021, I returned alongside two school friends and continued to have fun for the last three weeks. Then in 2022 things changed significantly. My two school friends, who were with me since 2018 in Deer, decided not to go back to camp while I took a leap and attended for the full seven weeks. Going into the summer I was worried, scared since I didn't really have any friends and I was adding on an additional four weeks. After the first day however, it was as if I had always been there. I was welcomed in, accepted without question, and made new friends. My year in Badger 2022 as a Master Camper is when I really opened my eyes to Kawanhee. I realized that camp wasn't just a place I had to go to in order to pass the summer. It was a place I didn't have to worry about things at home like school, social events, and other responsibilities.

Now we're here, the beginning of 2025 with six summers of memories on my paddle. From that original Deer 2018 crew of seven kids, I was the last one remaining at camp. Six years, 30 weeks, a little over 720 hours. Only around four months in total spent on the camp premises and it feels like I've lived another lifetime. Memories of watching the sunset on the dock alongside the other counselors, diving into the freezing waters of Coos Canyon, canoeing around the lake on a multi-day trip, giving speeches to the Greys as we prepared to play tug of war, conversations with friends on the ropes course no matter the weather, laughing with Devin on the archery range, and so many others.



A Junior Counselor's Journey cont.

CHRIS DIZON

My time at camp was short in hindsight. I'm 17 at the time of writing this with a birthday in April meaning that I've lived for around 212 months. Out of all that time on this earth, only around 14% of it was spent at Camp Kawanhee. Despite that small duration however, no amount of time will ever make me forget what I experienced. From a shy little kid in the corner of the lodge to contributing to a Camp record in the Grey-Maroon competition, I feel pride knowing that my story at camp is now complete.

To my friends still there: I'll be back someday, take care of the place while I'm gone. To the next generation of campers, counselors, and staff I leave this message: Your time in this world is long, but your time at camp is short. Never let your doubt stop you from doing what you love, want to do, or think is impossible. It's all about that leap of faith, and camp is a community that will make sure you land safely.



Six Word Stories

We challenged submitters to write a six word story about Kawanhee - such as Melody Wren's "Found a new mountain to scale." Here's what we received:

Can't wait to ski before breakfast.
-FERD SCHOEDINGER

From sunset, to sunrise, I'm home.
-CHRIS DIZON

Kawanhee: always sad when I am
gone.
-MANEUL RIVERA

Hiking mountains, sailing lakes,
canoeing rivers.
-ANDY TRAYNER

Monhegan Island trip with Mr Bates.
-DAVID FUNG

Failed JMG, darn , I'll try again.
-SIMON SCHRAGA

Growth, development, young
men having fun
-JEFFERY MONROE

I passed JMG my first year!
-KEVIN MITCHELL

Life Updates from the Kawanhee Community

OBITUARIES

Dr. Edward Lewis Hamblin

1930-2024

Dr. Edward Lewis “Ed” Hamblin passed away peacefully on November 5, 2024. Ed was born in Pittsburgh, PA. In 1932 the family moved to Bexley, OH. He graduated from Bexley H.S. in 1948 and from Ohio State University in 1952. He taught 7th grade at Bexley Junior High School from 1957-1962. In 1965 he received his PhD in American History from Ohio State.

On April 9, 1960 he married Mary Joan Schneider. In 1973, Ed began work as a professor at the University of Connecticut. While there, for 18 years, he developed many programs throughout the state promoting the understanding of economic issues facing individuals and our society. Following his retirement in 1991, he and Mary moved back to Bexley.

Ed first attended Kawanhee in 1944 as a camper in Wildcat Lodge. He returned to Kawanhee yearly through 1950 and then periodically from 1954 through 1961. In his early years he developed especially close friendships with five other campers. They remained close friends for the many decades following. Each had a nickname. Ed was known as “Hambone”.

Ed began working on the Wigwam as a junior counselor in 1947. He was an assistant editor of the Wigwam for many years. In 1956 Ed joined the boating department and was Director of Boating for several years.

Although no longer attending summers after 1961, Ed remained actively involved with Kawanhee. Between 1986 and 2005 he conducted a number of recorded interviews with various members of the Kawanhee community. These remain available now on the Kawanhee website.

Wayne Ramsey

1949-2024

Wayne Ramsay passed away June 1, 2024 at home with his family by his side in Naples, Florida. Wayne is the beloved husband of Lucy Ramsay, a long-time Camp Kawanhee Nurse, father to camper, Adam Ramsay, and Amber Ramsay, who also worked at Kawanhee as a Nurse. Their grandsons also attended camp.

Wayne and Lucy’s love of camp and Weld was so strong that they bought a cabin at the Kawanhee Inn where Wayne loved to boat, fish, and fix and build anything that needed attending to. It has been asked to plant a tree in memory of Wayne.

OTHER LIFE EVENTS

Macy Davis is engaged to Jake Kinney, and recently took a new position as the children’s librarian in Marion, MA

Brandon Helgason is engaged to Katrina Marić



Life Updates Continued



MARRIAGES

Ethan and Alli Grove
September 2024

Cam Kaubris and Coco Murphy
September 2024

Travis and Melissa Frost
October 2024

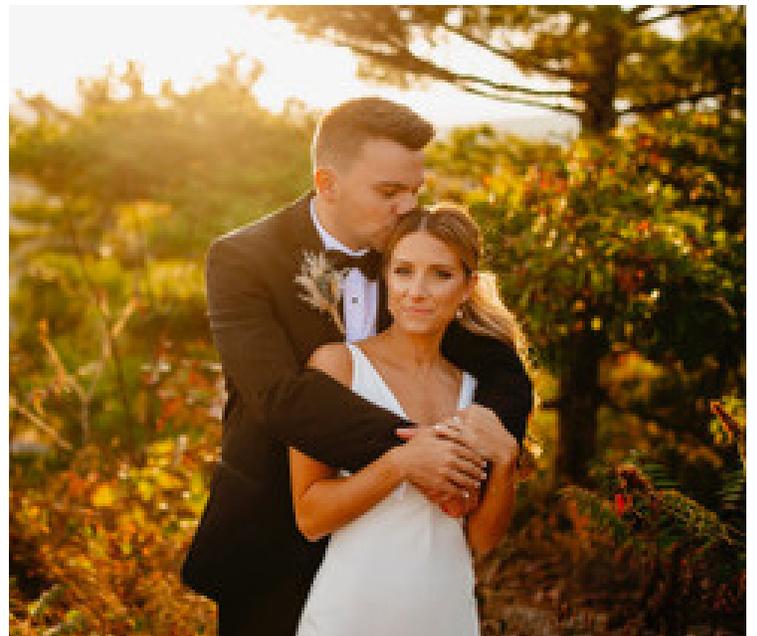
Ben Smith and Colleen Quinlan
Smith
October 2024



From left: Ben Zambito, Max Zambito, Cam Kaubris, Graham Marvin, Mac McReynolds, Chase McReynolds



From Left: Colin Grove, Baillie Stein, Sam Reynolds, Colin Holstein, Thomas Reynolds



Travis and Melissa Frost

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, new arrivals, obituaries, 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!

Views from Bass Rock in 2024



Donate to Camp Kawanhee

Gifts may be made online at:

<https://kawanhee.campintouch.com/ui/forms/donor/Form>

IF YOU PREFER TO MAKE A GIFT BY CHECK,
PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO:
GEORGE AND RAYMOND FRANK FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 789
YARMOUTH, ME 04096