



SKOOKUMEE

PRE-CAMP 2026

The Sophomore Summer

As my second summer at Kawanhee approaches, I can't help but think about how I was feeling going into my first summer. I was a ball of excitement and anxiety. I could not wait for the summer to begin after almost 10 long months of preparation. I was overjoyed to be joining the incredible Kawanhee family and back camping in over a decade. Yet my head was spinning with worries. What have I forgotten to do? Did I remember to call the tennis court company? Will the Abbott Lodge renovations get done in time? (more on that later in this issue). What will it be like and will they like me?

In many ways, I was going through the same emotions of a first year camper who shares the same worries about fitting in, finding their place, and being able to be themselves. Over-riding those concerns, is the anticipation of going to this magical place I'd heard so much about. A place which holds such great promise for building friendships, developing skills, and making a lifetime of memories in just a few weeks. As I reflect on my own thoughts and emotions from last year, a wide smile comes across my face as I remember how much Camp Kawanhee delivered, for me and for all those other first-year campers, on all that promise.

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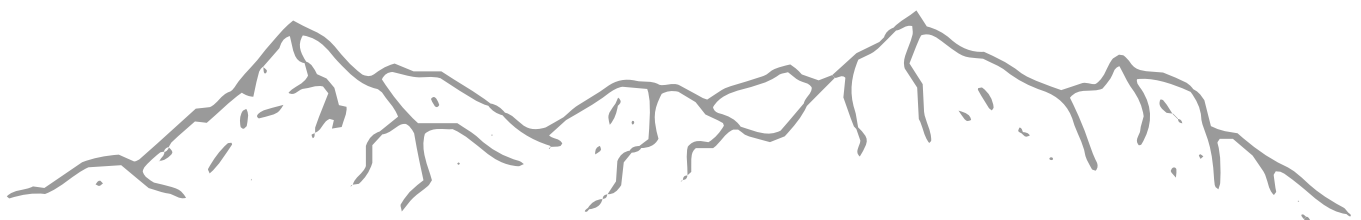
Summer 2025 was a phenomenal first Kawanhee summer for me. An incredible team of leadership staff, veteran activity leaders, department heads, and counselors allowed me to have simply ‘the best’ first summer. The weather was perfect, the staff were great and the campers were a joy. Now on the eve of my second Kawanhee summer, it’s plain to see that I’m not the only one that felt that last summer was pretty great. Since the summer 2026 registration went live, the Kawanhee campers have shown how eager they are to return to our little corner of Webb Lake.



The lodges have been filling up faster than ever before and with just a few spots left, waiting lists are all that remain for most last minute campers. The staff from last summer have also been enthusiastic about coming back to the western mountains of Maine. From our 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year counselors, to the veteran activity leaders, or to our beloved scorekeeper and store manager entering his 60th summer (you all know who I’m talking about) the excitement about the approaching season is palpable in every zoom meeting, email, or text message. The excitement is contagious.

Now, as I enter my sophomore summer, I’m much less anxious than I was a year ago. Rather than worry, I’m filled with anticipation of seeing my camp family and the prospect of another Kawanhee summer gives me joy. I can’t wait to see Bailey, Tina, and their team in the renovated kitchen complete with new appliances, counter tops, flooring, and exhaust fans. Or to see baseball using the new wiffle ball field where home runs will become as ubiquitous as bullseyes on the range. To hear the stories from campers at breakfast about their lodge overnight campouts; returning after a summer off. To witness the passion of our campers, from all corners of the world, cheer on their nation’s team in the world cup and then take that energy onto Camp Kawanhee’s own beloved pitch. And to work with our returning JC’s in our new internship program as we prepare them to transition into Kawanhee counselors for next summer and beyond. Yes, there’s just so much to look forward to. I wish it would just hurry up and get here already. Probably a sentiment I share with all my fellow second-year Kawanhee campers. See you in just one moon!

KENLEY PERRY



The Bass Rock Walk

TOM PEARS

It may have taken me 80 years, but I finally made a winter Bass Rock Walk on Sunday Feb 15, 2026!

I drove up from New Hampshire, on Saturday afternoon. Kenley had emailed to move that evening's dinner to Rumford where I got to see Bailey, Kenley, and a couple of his sons. My eyes prevent me from driving at night, so I was not able to stay for dinner. I checked into the Comfort Inn and Suites in Wilton. It was full of families participating in sporting events in the area, loving the chance to use an indoor pool!

Off to Weld in the morning. The roads were fine, even the Burma Road into camp was not too harrowing. I parked by the barracks and walked into camp. There were a number of people already there and the crowd swelled. We headed off about 10am. I had brought all the equipment with me (snow shoes and skis) but opted just for hiking boots and had no problems. It was cool but my heaviest heavy layers were not needed.

I walked out to Bailey's father. I loved getting to hear his stories about the area. We took the requisite pictures and headed back. A woman on a snow mobile came by as we reached camp. Kenley and others provided a large spread of food for the tired walkers! We even had a nice fire!

The highlight of the trip for me was reconnecting with an old friend from 1967, Dick Morton. Dick was talking to Liz Standen and she pointed us out to each other. Dick and I have a colorful history, even camping out after the close of camp at Parc Westmont in Montreal to attend the 1967 World's Fair.



May There Always Be a Kitchen At Kawanhee

BAILEY SCOTT

This has been a very busy and exciting off-season for the Kawanhee Kitchen! Thanks to an incredibly generous donation from Jeff and Pam Rice, we were able to complete a major and much-needed kitchen upgrade.

Our previous appliances dated back to the late 1970s, when they were acquired from the old hospital in Farmington after the dining hall fire. They served us well for nearly 50 years, but it was definitely time for an upgrade.

As soon as the 2025 camp season ended, the renovation project began. The old equipment was removed, and new flooring was installed in both the kitchen and bakery. From there, we carefully researched new equipment to improve functionality and efficiency throughout the space.

During Thanksgiving break, Wallis, Lisa, and I visited C. Caprara Food Service Equipment in Winthrop, where we worked with their team to select the new appliances. For the kitchen, we chose a new griddle, stove, and fryer. We also upgraded to stainless steel countertops and added a new island.

The bakery saw major improvements as well, including a new mixer, refrigerator, island, sink, baker's rack, and stainless steel countertops and serving window. Additional upgrades included improved handwashing sinks in the kitchen, a new mop sink in the dining hall, a new outdoor grill for cookouts, a new ice cream freezer for the camp store, and added exhaust fans in both the kitchen and dining hall. It was especially helpful to see the equipment in person to ensure it met our needs.



Tina and I have also begun brainstorming ideas for an herb garden near the dining hall, along with other exciting additions we hope to bring to the camp kitchen this summer. We're looking forward to sharing all of these improvements with everyone.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Rice family for their support—this project would not have been possible without them. This renovation has truly brightened the kitchen and will have a lasting impact on our food service program.

While it was no small undertaking, it was an essential one. Having safe, reliable equipment is critical, and we are excited for what's ahead.

I'm looking forward to another fantastic summer in the Kawanhee Kitchen.



Abbot Lodge: A New Era

KENLEY PERRY

In the first week starting as the new executive director of Camp Kawanhee, Bill Dargusch gave me a call to make sure the planned renovation of Abbott Lodge moved forward. Bill was stepping off the board after a long tenure and wanted to make sure the project got handed off to me, and got off the ground, in order to be finished in time for the 2025 season. The renovation had become a top priority with my addition to the Kawanhee family. With me occupying the Directors Cabin in the summer, Kawanhee was losing housing for leadership staff and department heads that it could ill afford to lose. So in that first week of September, Bill made sure to help get the ball rolling.

The Abbott Lodge expansion was made possible through the extraordinary generosity of John Abbott. John made the original Abbott Lodge possible, and was excited to see the housing named in honor of his brother, updated for the next generation of committed Kawanhee leaders. The Lodge was significantly expanded and greatly improved as a living space for camp staff. Camp Kawanhee is so grateful to John for his commitment to strengthening the camp community and supporting the people who make each summer so meaningful.

The renovation dramatically increased the lodge’s capacity and functionality. In 2024, Abbott Lodge housed just four staff members. Following the 2025 expansion and renovation, the lodge now comfortably accommodates ten staff members, creating much-needed housing for key leadership staff, department heads, and other essential non-lodge team members. The original design offered four bedrooms and a bit of loft space that was hard to access and essentially non-functional for additional sleeping space. The renovation not only added 3 second story bedrooms, but also a 3rd bathroom upstairs, an additional main floor bedroom, and a galley kitchen. Finally, the porch was screened in to create more common space for the staff to enjoy after long days on the lake or in the woods.

Camp Kawanhee would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the project. As usual, Wallis led the way, with help from BA Altmaier, Lisa Ravis, Mason Tyler, and many of the Summer 2025 camp staff, whose effort, teamwork, and willingness to pitch in helped bring the vision for Abbott Lodge to life.

The renovated Abbott Lodge stands as more than just an upgraded building — it represents Camp Kawanhee’s ongoing commitment to investing in its people and creating a strong foundation for future summers. By expanding quality housing for leadership and support staff, the project strengthens the camp community and helps ensure that Kawanhee continues to provide an exceptional experience for campers and staff alike for years to come.



Development Committee Update

Dear Kawanhee Families, Alumni, and Friends,

As we look ahead to another transformative summer on Webb Lake, the Development Committee remains energized and focused on securing Kawanhee's future. Our fundraising work continues to emphasize a structured annual calendar—beginning with our spring scholarship campaign and building momentum through year-end giving. We are also planning ahead with long-term priorities, including facility improvements that will enhance camp life, all supported by ambitious and sustainable fundraising goals.

A special highlight: Legacy Giving. You'll be hearing more soon about meaningful ways to include Kawanhee in your will, helping provide enduring support for generations of boys to come.

Our Spring Scholarship Campaign is now underway, and it is a vital part of this effort. It ensures that no deserving boy misses out because of finances—funding sessions, adventures, and skill-building experiences like sailing and woodworking. Every gift strengthens our scholarship program, expands opportunity, and helps families plan confidently.

These initiatives thrive because of partners like you who have shaped my own son's Kawanhee story. Visit kawanhee.com/giving-back or reach out to learn more.

Gratefully,
Jacqueline Telgheder
Development Committee Chair
Camp Kawanhee
917-579-3742 | jtelgheder@optonline.net

Kawanhee Night Out VI: Half a Dozen

CAM KAUBRIS

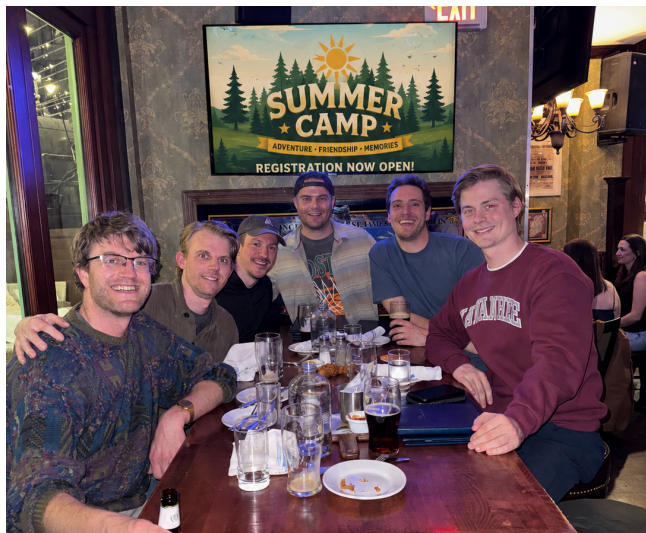
Hi, friends! My name is Cam Kaubris, and I've had the honor of organizing the last three Kawanhee Night Outs. For those keeping score at home, that's three more than I ever expected when Graham Marvin handed me the baton in a Davis Square dive bar back in 2023. What started as a slightly nerve-wracking act of volunteerism has turned into one of my favorite things I get to do each year. So here we are again -- half a dozen strong.

A First in Kawanhee Night Out History

Kawanhee Night Out VI didn't just happen -- it expanded. For the first time ever, the night out stretched across two separate weekends, six cities, and two coasts. Half a dozen cities. Two nights. One Kawanhee. On Friday, April 11th, Boston, New York City, and Miami kicked things off. Two weeks later, on Friday, April 25th, Columbus, Chicago, and Albuquerque closed it out. We've never done it quite like this before, and honestly, it felt right.

Why Two Weekends?

Fair question. The honest answer is that the Kawanhee network has simply gotten too big and too spread out to cram into one night. That's a good problem to have. Two weekends meant more people could host, more people could attend, and more cities could be part of the conversation. And to me, that's what camp is all about.



BOSTON



NEW YORK CITY



MIAMI

A Community That Keeps Growing

What strikes me most about doing this for the third year in a row is how little this thing needs me. The DONLAs (Directors of Nightlife Activities, for the uninitiated) in each city are the real reason any of this works. They find the bar, they wrangle the group chat, they make sure people actually show up. This year that list included; Sam Carson (Boston), Sam Reynolds (NYC), Adam Bowman (Miami), Cat Guffin and Forrest Weihe (Columbus), Ruby Packer (Albuquerque) and last but certainly not least, my old boss on the baseball diamond during the summer of 2013, Will Ryan (Chicago). And every single one of them deserves a round on the house and a round of applause from Kawanhee alum.



ALBUQUERQUE



CHICAGO



COLUMBUS

Why Keep Going?

Whether it's the Bass Rock swim, summiting one of the many mountains with the tripping crew, or any strenuous camp activity, that one question - "Why Keep Going?" - enters the mind of nearly every camper at one point during the summer. The answer is simply "that's the spirit of Kawanhee." Give it all you got. For yourself, for your fellow campers and counselors, for Kawanhee. Even the Half a dozen years in, Kawanhee Night Out keeps growing because the community keeps caring. That's really it. No big budgets, no sponsors, no algorithms. Just people who went to a camp on a beautiful lake in Western Maine and apparently can't stop talking about it, even decades later, even across six cities, even on a random Friday night in April.

What's Next?

We'll announce KNO VII sometime after the holidays in early 2027 (Yikes! Is that year date right?), as has become tradition. If you're interested in hosting a city or joining an existing one, reach out to kawanhee.night.out@gmail.com. The only rule, as always, is that you need at least two Kawanhee alumni in the same place on the same night. That's it. That's the whole bar.

Until then -- May there always be a Kawanhee.

“The time I spend at camp feels full and rewarding”

Camille Tulloss talks 11 years at Kawanhee

When thinking of returning staffers to interview for this pre-camp issue, Camille Tulloss rose to the top of the list. I was lucky to work with Camille during my time at Kawanhee and enjoyed catching up with her for this interview.

INTERVIEW BY MACY KINNEY

Introduce yourself please!

My name is Camille Tulloss, and I am from Massachusetts. I've been working at camp for many years, with time spent in the Sailing, Nature, and Art Departments and as Director of Activities. This summer will be my 11th summer working at camp.

What is your earliest memory of Kawanhee

My earliest memories of Kawanhee itself are probably when I was 9 years old or so, dropping my brother off for his first summers at camp. But, I have been coming up to Maine for my whole life, and I have many early and fond memories of Webb lake and Weld. When I was little, Kawanhee felt exciting, but also big and intimidating; it has been a joy to grow into my work at camp and into the Kawanhee family.

What is your favorite role you've held at camp and why?

That's a tough one - three stand out. The two summers I spent as DoA were the most challenging, but also the most rewarding summers I've had at camp. I don't know that "favorite" is the right word, but I am particularly proud of the work that Robby Ray and I put in as DoAs in 2021 to have a successful camp season coming out of covid. I have also consistently loved all of my summers spent working in the sailing department, and I don't know if anything can really beat staying out on the water every day. Finally I do enjoy helping to manage the chicken buckets and make sure that the dining hall gets cleaned up after each meal; that can be frustrating, but it's also a lot of fun.





What keeps bringing you back to CK?

I value the close friendships that I've been able to maintain over many summers of work. We get to know the people we're close with at camp in such a beautiful, intense, and somewhat eclectic context, and I think that's a special experience that is worth maintaining. The other thing that keeps bringing me back is the life and energy that fills every day at camp. There are many moments at camp that are wonderful, and probably equally as many that are frustrating, but there are very few dull ones, and therefore the time I spend at camp feels full and rewarding.

What are you going to be doing this summer?

This summer, I'll be back working in the sailing department again. I have worked in sailing for the vast majority of my time at camp, but the complexities of the activity and variety of different experiences that campers get excited about make each year just as fun as the last (if not more). I've been lucky to be able to work with family, new friends, and former campers in sailing, and I'm very much looking forward to another summer.

What do you do in the off-season

This coming year, I'll be pursuing a Master's degree in biodiversity and conservation, but over the past few years, I have been working as a high school biology teacher during the off-season. For anyone weighing the costs and benefits of summers spent attending or working at camp as a young adult, my experiences at camp were undoubtedly the best preparation I had for my professional life. That may be a logical conclusion for people ending up in the education world, but I think it holds true across many, many professions.

What would your perfect day at camp look like?

Highlights of my perfect day include: 1) A quiet cup of coffee on the dining hall porch before breakfast (sorry, no Polar Bear), 2) For the morning periods, I would want the perfect amount of wind (yes, there can be too much) to practice rigging boats, sailing out, capsizing, sailing back in, and de-rigging, 3) Chicken patties, 4) A strong head-of-the-lake breeze in the afternoon to take a few big boats out and sail around center reef, 5) A paddle-board after dinner, and 6) One of our most spectacular Webb Lake sunsets.

Monhegan Island Memories

and the Hermit of Manana Island

JOHN ABBOTT

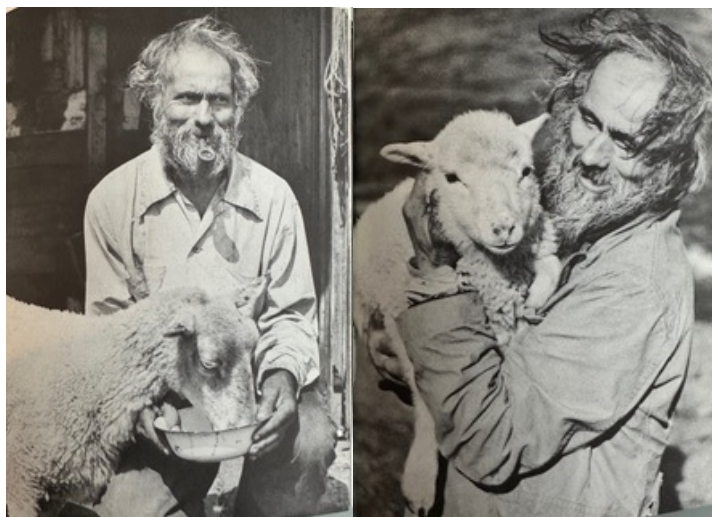
My favorite camping trip, and for many other campers and counselors at Camp Kawanhee, was Monhegan Island. We would start off early in the morning riding in Bates's "bouncing buggy." We would drive to Boothbay Harbor and then get on board the Balmy Days cruise boat.

Once we landed at the island pier, we hiked up to the top of the island where we would set up our camp site on a baseball field. I think Camp Kawanhee was either the only or one of the very few camps that would be allowed by the Monhegan Associates to camp on the island. One of our activities when we were on the island would be to hike to and see the shipwreck of the D.T. Sheridan at Lobster Point. We would also go on hikes on the island trails, like White Head Trail to the White Head cliffs. And toured the Lighthouse and swam at Pebble Beach. We would also go out in a fishing boat and do some deep sea fishing, catching cod and haddock.

But my favorite part of the trip was visiting the Hermit of Manana, also known as the Island Shepherd. Manana Island is a small island close to and just west of Monhegan. We took a short rowboat ride to reach the island. Ray Phillips, the hermit who lived on the island, was a very interesting character and extremely friendly. We would bring him candy and chewing tobacco as gifts and he would show us his house, other buildings and his herd of sheep. He lived off his veteran's benefits, social security and the sale of wool. He passed away on the island in 1975.

I still have great memories of Monhegan Island and the Hermit of Manana Island.

**John Abbott, camper and counselor
1958-1963 & 1968**



KAWANHEE LIFE UPDATES

Births

William and Lindsay Dargusch welcomed Callan in 2025

Deaths

James Sanders

September 5, 1937 - April 6, 2026

James (Jay) Sanders Jr. passed away peacefully on April 6, 2026, in Gaithersburg, MD surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his loving wife Carol as well as their two children and four grandchildren. Born on September 5, 1937, in Boston, MA, he was raised in Rye, NH. He earned an electrical engineering degree at Tufts University.

Jay had a lifelong interest in outdoor adventures with his family. He was a longtime member of the National Ski Patrol. He also enjoyed sailing. This interest extended back to his days at Kawanhee. He was a camper for three years beginning in 1950 at age 12. In 1951, he won the Junior A "Greatest Improvement" in sailing ribbon. He was a junior counselor in 1953 and 1954 and a senior counselor in 1955 and 1956. As a counselor he worked all four years teaching in the Sailing Department.

Noting his long term attachment to Kawanhee, the family requests that memorial contributions can be made to the G&R Frank Foundation.

Deaths

Nancy Van den Honert

April, 4, 1950 - July 24, 2025.

Nancy Van den Honert was married to the Director of Swimming and Waterfront, Peter Van den Honert, for 51 years. Nancy began her career at Kawanhee in the Bakery and eventually moved to Chef. She shifted from the kitchen and stayed in Archery becoming Co-Director, organizing levels, games, and competitions where Kawanhee even won a state championship. She was active in the Kawanhee Choir, that Peter directed. She was always up at 6 am to run to town, and never missed a Polar Bear swim.

Barbara Compher

March 10, 1950 - January 29, 2026

Barbara Compher was a wonderful addition to camp. She married Kawanheean Chuck Compher, and they hailed from Texas. They got out of the Texas heat to Weld for 21 summers where Chuck taught Archery and Barb worked in the Camp Office. Their three sons, Chuck, Robert, and Michael were long time Kawanhee campers and counselors. Her boys were by her side when she passed on January 29, 2026.

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!

