

## Camp in 2020: The Summer in Review

*Camps reflected MSC's ultimate goal and mission — to serve children*

Last spring, with the 2020 camp season approaching and COVID-19's unpredictable impact, camp owners and directors across Maine may have been certain of only one thing: uncertainty.

Camp professionals faced the challenges of assessing CDC and state COVID-19 guidelines, the daunting task of evaluating their programmatic and physical capacities in light of the virus, and the difficult reality of financial ramifications posed by the pandemic. Camp directors wanted to open, no doubt, but above all they wanted to keep their communities safe and healthy. Uncertainty may be an understatement.

**About 20 Maine camps hosted campers—with excellent outcomes all around. And for some camps that chose to suspend their programs and turn to supporting their local communities and connecting with campers virtually, the season brought a different version of success.**

Yet from the accounts of many camp directors statewide, whether they chose to open or to suspend, this unprecedented summer brought rewards in many forms. About 20 Maine camps hosted campers—with excellent outcomes all around. And for some camps that chose to suspend their programs and turn to supporting their local communities and connecting with campers virtually, the season brought a different version of success.

### Camps that Opened: Health and Safety Measures, Insights, Joyful Camp Communities

In late June, most camps have typically greeted campers from across the U.S. and worldwide for their traditional summer seasons. This June, camps that chose to open were still in preparation mode. Leadership had only a few weeks after CDC and State guidelines were issued to plan significant program modifications, find staff for essential unfilled positions, and strategize to strictly follow health and safety protocols.

For example, Camp Wawenock in Raymond hosted fewer than half of their standard number of campers in their two 17-day sessions, one which served younger girls, and the other their



**The Hidden Valley camp wood-fired pizza was a key to the camp's summer 2020 outreach.**

older age group. Many staff members who committed to their positions pre-pandemic came on board with the camp honoring those work agreements. Campers and staff alike undertook 14-day quarantines prior to arrival, and when staff arrived for preseason training, they began weeks in the camp "bubble" that lasted until the close of camp. Cabin groups cohorted into "households" of between two and four cabins; in those communities, masks could come off. Dining hall arrangements were changed. And, of course, handwashing, frequent cleaning, and distancing outside households, were the norm.

"We changed how Wawenock does things," said Catriona Logan Sangster, "but we still did everything we [typically] do."

The season now over, she acknowledged "it is hard to distill it down. Everyone felt very empowered by what we had done. Kids and staff alike."

"It felt like we sort of defeated the odds, by doing something that was groundbreaking," she said.

Undoubtedly, this was new terrain for every camp that weighed the factors and chose to open. And to make it work, to have a fun, safe, healthy season, Logan Sangster said the entire camp

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT FALL 2020

*I recently received an email that stated, "It's been quite a past 6 months, eh!?" I could not believe it has been over six months since our lives got turned around and consumed by uncertainty.*



*As we walk this path together, trying to navigate and choose the best direction for our camps and camp communities, I want to congratulate all the summer camps that operated this summer and commend them for their courage and ability to adjust so rapidly in an environment that was changing by the moment. They truly exemplified the strength of problem solving and adaptability.*

*I would also like to recognize those camps that pivoted and offered something completely different than they normally would. These actions demonstrated a core camp ability: thinking outside the box and adjusting to the climate.*

*As we all look towards planning for next summer, I believe we will need to rely on our resilience and draw on our ability to withstand and move forward through these difficult times. We will all need to come together and support each other to help our camps and our camping industry to bounce back stronger than ever.*

*Each and every member is important in our organization and I know so many of you have acknowledged the important and integral role MSC and MYCA play in advocating and educating our membership.*

*As we come together over the coming months, learning from each other, the strength of Maine Summer Camps has never been more important. As camp professionals we are committed to positive youth development; we have helped shape the lives of thousands of children. Now is the time for us to embrace the lessons we have taught over the years and show our resilience.*

*We have a lot of work to do planning and preparing for an incredible summer 2021. Let us unite and help each other through this journey.*

*Warmly, Beigette*

## 2020 MYCA/MSC Annual Membership Meeting

A year of firsts! Last year the MSC Board of Directors voted to move the Annual Membership Meeting from June to September, combining the meeting with our fall workshop and end-of-season cookout at Migis Lodge. The COVID-19 pandemic will prevent the meeting from taking place at Migis. Instead, this year's Annual Meeting will be a virtual event.

On September 23 at 1 pm we will celebrate two firsts: a fall Annual Meeting and a virtual Annual Meeting. We hope everyone will plan to attend and help us make history!



**Click here to register for the Zoom Annual Meeting.**

## Camp in 2020 *continued from page 1*

community needed to fully “buy-in” to every modification and every health and safety protocol. From parents to staff to children, an essential ingredient to success was embracing that layered system of safety protocols to best ensure a healthy summer, she said.

Wawenock did not undertake any onsite testing. Its expense and other logistical concerns, as well as confidence in their multi-faceted plan for addressing virus risk contributed to that choice, Logan Sangster said. Their season was not only COVID-free, but also healthier than typical summers, she said.

At other camps, varied but similar approaches had equally good results: trust, strict adherence to protocols, and flexibility all contributed to what one director describes as an “extraordinary” summer.



*Camp Susan Curtis 2020 Leaders in Training*

### The Value of Essential Systems

**Andy Lilienthal**, owner and director of Fayette boys’ Camp Winnebago, said their healthy season, start to finish, worked thanks to well-planned systems “that followed guidelines based on science.” Staff members, 55 in all, were asked to quarantine pre-camp and were tested upon arrival. Training at camp took place in small groups for more than a week, and staff were tested a second time.

Toward the end of their training period, staff members could enjoy looser restrictions. “They got to see the carrot,” Lilienthal said, “what the community could be like if we held strictly to protocols.”

When campers arrived (after at-home quarantine and pre-camp testing), they were initially cohorted, and tested five days after arrival. A couple of weeks in, restrictions were relaxed, Lilienthal says, including masking requirements. But the camp never gathered in large groups indoors, and adherence to public health protocols continued in full force, including daily symptom and temperature checks.

**Laura Blaisdell**, Lilienthal’s wife and Winnebago’s medical director is both a physician and public health expert. She was

instrumental in developing the camp’s systems and shared her expertise throughout the camping community. At summer’s end, Lilienthal says, Blaisdell was “pleased and relieved.”

“We understand with systems and process and adherence to guidelines and science, we can do this,” he says.

At Camp Wigwam, a boys’ camp in Waterford, reliance on its thorough health and safety approach, where preparation, adaptation, and compliance were key, led to an equally successful summer, said Director **Bob Strauss**. Staff quarantined during training, were tested, and “knew there was light at the end of the tunnel” if they followed protocols. The 145 campers initially cohorted, and the entire camp community—“Wigwam nation,”—was tested for COVID-19. “It was a very emotional day when we got that [negative] test,” he said.

The camp dropped masking requirements after two weeks, but campers still went to activities in their age groups each morning, Strauss said. Each layer of safety measures was followed through the five-week session.

“Spirit, energy, and enthusiasm for Camp Wigwam is at fever pitch,” he said at the mid-session point. That included participating in the “International Wigwam Athletic League,” in-camp competitions that took part in place of typical inter-camp games.

“So much of our programming will remain for future season,” he wrote in a recent email. “There was much more focus on ‘in-camp’ activities as opposed to trips and events outside of the camp environment.”

### How Other Camps Adapted and Opened for a Successful Summer

In Belgrade, girls’ Camp Runoia created an entirely new program, a three-week session they called “Harmonyville,” said director **Alex Jackson**. “The mindset was a big piece of it, not expecting it to be the same.”

Staff members were re-interviewed, for example. And just like other camps, Runoia required its staff to stay on-site for the duration of training and camp. Campers moved in cohort groups for the first two weeks and did activities in cabin groups. “Neighborhoods,” similar to Camp Wawenock’s “households,” enabled interaction in larger groups. Runoia also conducted COVID testing camp-wide about five days in, in addition to requiring campers to have a negative test result pre-camp. Like other camps, the Runoia community was healthier than ever, Jackson said.

Handwashing and sanitizing—dozens of times a day—had benefits beyond fighting the pandemic. Indeed, the Association of Camp Nurses has quipped that the pandemic alone has accomplished the same task as a century of camp nurses’ efforts to promote handwashing.

*Camp in 2020, continues on page 4*



## The Vital Element of Connection

In Stoneham, Camp Susan Curtis modified its traditional four 12-day sessions to three 10-day sessions. Like Camp Wawenock, Camp Susan Curtis conducted no COVID-19 testing of staff or campers, in large part due to its expense and as well as camp families' own circumstances. The tuition-free camp, which serves economically disadvantaged Maine children referred by school personnel, welcomed 92 campers on-site, as opposed to the several hundred campers it typically hosts. The camp also modified its program by hosting only campers in grades eight through 12.

Director **Terri Mulks** says that choice was partly motivated by the hope of “keeping [that age group] on track” for joining the staff in the future. In addition, “we knew there were so many rules and regulations we had to be sure we had kids who could comprehend and follow through.”

Decisions around if and how to open camp were entirely mission driven, Mulks says. “We decided we wouldn’t open if we had to mask,” she says. “Our campers wouldn’t be able to do that.” In addition, each session included only about 30 youngsters, enabling the full camp to operate as a single cohort. The typically “touchy feely” camp had to adjust to air hugs and air high-fives, she says, but campers shared their care for one another nonetheless.

Mulks says campers experienced a “hugely vulnerable time” this spring and it was a top priority to provide the opportunity for them to be together. Watching campers interact was evidence of how important that connection was, she says.

When campers had choices of activities, she said, “All the kids ended up where they could stand around and talk. That’s what they wanted to do.” At the waterfront, staff saw them simply “standing in the shallow section.”

“It was hilarious,” she said. “We were saying ‘why is no one doing anything?’”

“They were just feeling good. They really bonded with one another,” she said. “They’re always making strong connections, but this was so visible.”

Like other camps that opened, Camp Susan Curtis’s on-site protocols started with drop-offs at which only campers left vehicles. A three-step check-in including screening questions and temperature-taking, waiver signatures, and unloading luggage.

Once sessions were underway staff conducted modified screenings daily, including temperature recording, and “scrub in, scrub out”—using hand sanitizer upon every entrance and every exit.

“Every decision was based on what’s best for kids,” Mulks said, and that focus and direction did not waver. From campers relaxing and chatting on floats in the lake to dancing on the beach, “it was such a wonderful time,” she said.

“It was all just kind of like ‘this is the very reason why we are here.’ These kids need respite. We can provide that. Honestly, they do not have anyplace else.”

That acute awareness of children’s needs was also the impetus for Camp Susan Curtis’s summer outreach effort—the creation and distribution of hundreds of “activity kits” at summer food service programs. Five staff members worked on the project.

“The assembly was hard, but they loved traveling,” Mulks said.

A team of three made those road trips, including camping for a week while providing outreach to the Presque Isle and Calais region. That team also rode food delivery busses to food service sites to hand out the kits, all of which contained a STEM and craft activity. Destinations included eight Portland Public School locations, Farmington, Waterville, and a collaboration with Easton Parks and Recreation, Mulks said.

“When we started talking about doing that, and let sites know about enrichment activities, I asked staff to make 300 [kits],” she said. “We don’t do more than 300.”

“Now we’ve almost tripled what I said,” she said. Among those hundreds of kits, more than 700 went to children who are not Camp Susan Curtis campers.



**Camper and counselor on opening day at Camp Wawenock. Their season was not only COVID-free, but also healthier than typical summers.**

## Gratitude Across the Board

Camp directors say their communities expressed enormous appreciation for the unique opportunity for youngsters to learn and play at camp. “It would have been so awful,” not to be able to come to camp, says Camp Runoia’s **Alex Jackson**. From watching the sunset on the lake to eating popsicles with friends, gratitude was for the simple things, she says. “It was just that human connection, in a beautiful place, outside.”

The Camp Wigwam community was also particularly thankful, says Bob Strauss. “There was a true sense of appreciation summer long, from every member of the Wigwam community, of the wonder of ‘normal’ camp life amid this pandemic,” he wrote in a recent email.

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## Camp in 2020 *continued from page 4*

"The kids and the staff really get it," Catriona Logan Sangster said. "They all have to have gratitude for this opportunity."

The gratitude among Wawenock staff stemmed partly from a shift in mindset, she said. Camp preseason brought together staff members who were "feeling so intensely." In addition to processing George Floyd's brutal death and the ongoing outcry about systemic racism, staff members had spent time during their months of isolation considering economic inequality, LGBTQ issues, and other concerns and anxieties, she said. [See article on page 12 on how clinician **Bob Ditter** helped.]

Coming to camp, including sharing their fears and worries, allowed them to "shift themselves to gratitude and action and making a difference here," she said. In addition, modifications to how counselors typically work with each other provided a "silver lining," of sorts, she says. "The whole staff has been more closely bonded."

Parents, too, have expressed gratitude, directors said. For example, some families have taken for granted their children's camp attendance. This summer, parents acknowledged camp's tremendous benefits, Andy Lilienthal said.

Similarly, Logan Sangster said that at camper pick-up parents expressed thanks for the lessons camp provided in resilience and "acceptance things can still be good. Parents feel the power of that modeling for kids," she said.

## Camper Gratitude, Camper Behavior

Lilienthal said campers' appreciation for their experience also helped influence behavior and attitudes. When two Winnebago youngsters were treated poorly by peers, Lilienthal said he told those peers to consider the good fortune of being at camp.

"If you're not going to take advantage of being kind to each other and building people up, that's a shame." He told them. "They turned on a dime."

"I've never seen a group respond so quickly," he said: "You're right. We're going to be extra kind," the youngsters told him.

Campers also valued the opportunities to express themselves and be heard, he said. "I've said for a long time, the kids are the ones who've been suffering. It's the adult voices we've been hearing."

Like Lilienthal, Logan Sangster said campers were "more open to direction."

"They were so flexible and understanding about having to wear masks at certain times," she said. "They were just very joyful and resilient."

Lilienthal called seeing campers' happiness and delight "more rewarding than I've ever experienced at camp."

"I've really never felt this," he said. "I've never felt the power of our mission this extraordinarily."

*Camp in 2020, continues on page 6*

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## Camp in 2020 *continued from page 4*

Camp directors also lauded their staff members' commitment. Willingness to quarantine, to work with campers in modified programs, and to be onsite in camp "bubbles," 24/7, were key. That sort of sacrifice, energy, and attitude that were vital to the camps' day-to-day operations, and campers' wonderful—and healthy—experiences, they said.

### Camp, quite simply, worked

"Nothing of what is important couldn't happen," said Logan Sangster. "And kids are a great reminder: we all need to have flexible mindsets."

### Camps that Did Not Open: Continuing Connections to Campers and Communities

While many camps that chose to open are grateful for their seasons, most Maine camps made a different choice. Although campers didn't fill their cabins, camps' good work was ongoing. From helping to address food insecurity to connecting virtually with campers to making weekly pizza for their local communities, a number of camp directors and crews of staff continued to do vital work.

Several camps used their resources, including kitchens, vehicles, and strong and committed staff, to support ongoing efforts addressing hunger in Maine.

*...while campers didn't fill their cabins, camps' good work was ongoing. From helping to address food insecurity to connecting virtually with campers to making weekly pizza for their local communities, a number of camp directors and crews of staff continued to do vital work.*

At Kieve Wavus, director of education and operations **Charlie Richardson** said efforts this summer stemmed from seeking "another way to satisfy our mission." The result since March 23 has been the preparation, packaging, and delivery to 40 households a week's worth of meals. Dropping off 12 meals on Fridays, and nine on Tuesdays, the initiative "enabled us to give back to the community, and keep a couple of our people employed," he said. "It's been very rewarding; we couldn't serve children in traditional ways."

Richardson said food donations supporting their efforts come from a variety of programs, including Farm to Families and Brunswick Hunger Prevention; Kieve Wavus provides the labor. That includes three cooks, plus a couple of delivery drivers, along with Richardson and his wife Annie's continued coordination role. To date, Kieve Wavus has prepared and delivered almost 1500 meals per week. "In some ways, we're looking for a silver lining here," he said. "There's a huge food insecurity issue" that both nonprofit and for-profit agencies can help to address.



**Camp Mechuwana staff members have helped prepare and deliver meals since March.**

Similarly, **Norman Thombs**, Executive Director of Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop, chose to suspend the 2020 camp season. But Thombs, along with a small group of his college-aged staff continued to put Mechuwana's mission into action by preparing thousands of meals for schoolchildren in their region.

When it comes to addressing food insecurity, Thombs is a pro. Camp Mechuwana has participated in the State's summer meals program for two decades by enrolling children who rely on state-provided meals. When schools shut their doors in March, Thombs jumped in. A group of the camp's staff members—experienced counselors—had landed back at Mechuwana after colleges closed. After self-quarantining, they got to work in the kitchen, making those meals for needy children.

Thombs collaborated with **Walter Beesley** (Maine Department of Education Child Nutrition Director) to set up as a kitchen and complete the paperwork. "Those guys were unbelievable at the State—and within 48 hours we were ready to go, handing out meals in Monmouth," Thombs said.

Camp Mechuwana's efforts expanded all summer. Volunteers delivered weekend meals to Mt. Blue schools, as well as Vienna. Mt. Abram, Phillips and Strong schoolchildren also received weekend meals. All told, Camp Mechuwana's efforts have exceeded 1000 meals per week.

Although state reimbursement covers a large percentage of the camp's expenses, Thombs is grateful for the donations he has received. For example, **Tracy St. Onge**, director of The Summer Camp, in Washington, supplied Thombs with nonperishables that she had ordered prior to making the choice to suspend their season.

Food donations must meet strict school lunch program guidelines, Thombs said. "And although snack expenses are not reimbursed, the camp 'goes overboard' in ensuring youngsters' meals include snacks. Another unreimbursed expense is the cost of transporting meals. "We're beating our camp vehicles into the ground," Thombs said.

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## Camp in 2020 *continued from page 6*

Camp Mechuwana is fulfilling its specific mission, to be sure, but their work is representative of camps' missions statewide: above all, youngsters need health and safety and community.

Bryant Pond 4-H Learning Center and Camp also pivoted to help address food insecurity, as well as providing other efforts to help Maine children get outside this summer.

Director **Ron Fournier** says that at the same time he and his staff were considering how they could help, representatives of the Bethel Area Food Bank and Maine West contacted him.

"We had the resources to help meet the growing demands," he said, including their dining hall, "able bodies," and a fleet of vans. The result? Bryant Pond has helped to coordinate large food pick-ups, "stage them, and break them down for packaging," Fournier said.

The food, including proteins, fresh produce, and other staples, is boxed at the camp, and delivered to eight different sites. As an example, Fournier said, in just half a day, the crew packed 300 boxes of food staples for "non-contact" delivery to Andover and Rumford.

***For all the children who benefited from use of kits, their parents learned as well, he says. "Summer can be so risky, and summer camp is a safe place for Maine kids. We know parents sometimes don't have tools, so when we did the kits, we helped parents, too."***

While Bryant Pond received a bit of funding support, "it's more a humanitarian thing. It's a way we can help."

Fournier and his team also found another way to help, reaching out to children whose days might include more screen time than outdoor play time. The crew "really quickly put together" adventure kits to encourage fun and learning outside. The themed kits were available for sign-out and included family fishing kits, wildlife and tracking kits, and both backyard birding and gardening kits.

"It's been wildly popular," he said. And the idea spread. RSU 10 and SAD 17 afterschool programs used grant funds to build 80 kits for their communities, and new themes have been added, including watershed ecology and amphibians and reptiles.

"There are over 100 kits circulating now, and it all started here," Fournier said, adding that other 4-H leaders across the state have joined in.

In addition, Bryant Pond established a partnership with Maine DHHS to reach older teenagers in the foster care system. Three virtual programs, focusing on wilderness survival, outdoor activities, and healthy habits and relationships are designed to both introduce and teach information particularly useful to this age group, Fournier said.



**Camp Winnebago campers fishing on Echo Lake. After COVID-19 testing and cohorting, the camp community relaxed masking requirements.**

A grant enabled the purchase of outdoor kits for each youngster, including backpacks, fishing and birding gear, base and thermal layers and AMC guides. The idea is to "get them outdoors, hopefully enjoying healthy activities," Fournier said.

"You can get out and be by yourself, and it's a good way to spend time with somebody else," he said.

The program required participants to sign up for and participate in educational sessions, he said. "The feedback from kids was awesome," he said. And now that participants have "nice gear," they can take advantage of ongoing contact with Fournier as a "residual resource for this group."

For all the children who benefited from use of kits, their parents learned as well, he says. "Summer can be so risky, and summer camp is a safe place for Maine kids. We know parents sometimes don't have tools, so when we did the kits, we helped parents, too."

At Hidden Valley Camp, staff members helped served the local community, as well as campers back home. The camp used its infamous outdoor wood-fired pizza oven to make and distribute pizza each Sunday night for eight weeks. Program Director **Aileen Rosen** says a group of about 10 staff members joined forces to bake an average of 45 pizzas each Sunday. Donations made at the pizza pick-up (at the top of the camp road) were matched by the camp and contributed to Waldo County Bounty.

The pizza was available to anyone who came by, and "there was no pressure on donations," Rosen said. "We let them know camp was matching their donations. We did really well with donations and with people loving the pizza."

While the operation served the local community in more ways than one, the staff benefited on those Sundays as well, Rosen said.

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## Camp in 2020 *continued from page 7*

"When 3 o'clock rolled around, we had t-shirts for staff and brought out our radios and used them. There was just a kind of buzz about the whole experience of getting into action, knowing we were doing something beneficial for the community," she said. "The staff really felt that. Although it was hard work, it was fun and rewarding."

Like the efforts of many other Maine camps, the staff onsite also harnessed their energy to reach campers virtually. Staff members produced videos to share with their campers, but the highlight was morning announcements on Instagram, Rosen said, where staff traveled to various parts of camp, "messaging around and being big kids."

"We got really good feedback to that portion of the summer. It was short and sweet and [viewers] got to see different areas of camp."

"We picked random places (such as the kitchen's walk-in fridge)" and shared weather reports, birthday announcements and "general silly stuff."

"That's really and truly what camp is like in the summer," she said.

"It was not the summer any of us expected, but there were a lot of silver linings. We had a lot of staff and campers come visit.

[Directors] Pete and Meg were all about that, despite COVID," Rosen said. The camp also hosted a "Maine Day" on August 1, inviting local camp families to participate in a variety of activities, including arts and crafts, an obstacle course, and even llama care. Families also beat the heat with time in the pool. "It was eye-opening for parents to see intricate details of camp," Rosen said.

Now, like scores of other Maine camps, Hidden Valley Camp has turned its attention to 2021. "We plan to have camp. We're really working on it," Rosen said. She is impressed by camps that did choose to open. "Many, many camps are wanting to talk to someone who did it successfully this summer," she said. "Other camps can learn from that."

"Way to go for them. What an accomplishment, to have successfully held camp. My hat goes off to them."

**Hats off, indeed. But as directors say, each camp faced different challenges in making their decisions. And whether camps welcomed children in-person, reached into their lives virtually, or simply broadened their efforts to serve children in need across Maine, the look of Maine camps in 2020 still reflected their ultimate goals and missions: doing everything in their power to serve children.**

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## 2020-2021 Calendar

\* Tentative dates due to COVID-19

### September 8

1 pm MSC Special Board of Directors Meeting – Zoom

### September 23

1 pm MYCA/MSA Annual Meeting – Zoom

### September 30

1 pm Bob Ditter Webinar

### October 7

1 pm MSC Board of Directors Meeting – Zoom

### January 26, 2021

1 pm MSC Board of Directors Meeting

### January 27 \*

9 am-12:30 pm MSC Workshop, Portland

12:30-3 pm Lunch/Business Networking/Extravaganza

### February 2-5

ACA Conference, New Orleans, LA

### February 7 \*

1-3 pm MSC Camp Fair, Cheverus High School

### February 8 \*

11 am-1 pm MSC Job Fair at U of M, Farmington

### February 9 \*

11 am-1:30 pm MSC Job Fair at USM, Gorham

### March 9-11

Tri-State Camp Conference, Atlantic City, NJ

### March 10 \*

1-2 pm MSC Job Fair at Husson University

### March 18-19 \*

New England ACA Conference, Manchester, NH

### March 21 \*

1-3:30 pm MSC Camp Fair, East End Community School

### April 28

9 am Spring MSC Board of Directors Meeting

11 am MSC Spring Workshops

### July 10 \*

9 am-3:30 pm JMG Rendezvous Workshop

### July 13 \*

1:30-4 pm Chris Thurber Staff Training Workshop

### July 15 \*

15th Annual MYCF Spelling Bee

### July 26-30 \*

Junior Maine Guides Testing Camp

### September 22 \*

MYCF and MYCA Annual Meeting & Workshop  
Cookout

## American Camp Association, New England Selects New Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the American Camp Association, New England is pleased to announce that it has selected **Michele Rowcliffe** to serve as the Association's next Executive Director. After a comprehensive, national search process, Ms. Rowcliffe emerged as the search committee's unanimous selection from a talented, highly competitive pool of candidates.



**Michele Rowcliffe**

Ms. Rowcliffe joins the American Camp Association, New England from the YMCA of Greater Rochester, where she has served as Vice President of Camping Services since 2015 and was a member of the senior leadership team. An accomplished 25-year camping industry leader, Ms. Rowcliffe was responsible for the successful leadership of Camp Cory and Camp Gorham.

## 2021 MSC Camp Fairs

MSC hopes to host at least two camp fairs this winter, with the possibility of adding a third. The first fair would be held at **Cheverus High School on February 7 from 1 to 3 pm**. The second fair would happen at the **East End Community School on March 21, from 1 to 3:30 pm**. If there is enough interest MSC will consider hosting a camp fair in early April in the Bangor area.

Camps interested in participating in the Bangor fair should send an email to Ron Hall ([camps@mainecamps.org](mailto:camps@mainecamps.org)). The final decision whether to hold these fairs will be based in part upon state and school guidelines at the time. Look for updates in future *Hall Monitors*.

## Reminder: 2021 Camp Dates Needed for MSC Website

As soon as your calendar is finalized, please send Summer 2021 camp dates to Sue at [office@mainecamps.org](mailto:office@mainecamps.org). Fall is great time to review and update your listing on the Maine Summer Camps website. Parents and families really appreciate this quick reference. Camp listings can be previewed at [mainecamps.org/camp-members/camp-member-directory/](http://mainecamps.org/camp-members/camp-member-directory/). Send an email to Sue or call 207.518.9557 if you need your username and password.

This year we will spend more than \$30,000 to promote the "Find-A-Camp" search engine on our website, which last year had over a quarter-million page views. The enhanced listing (\$350) is the only way to view a camp's listing and click on a link to go directly to the camp's website. With this listing camps have the ability to include photos, videos and hotlinks.

## Maine Camp History

### A Look Back at Camp Kineo and Camp Zakelo

By Henry Johnson, Maine Camp Historian

**Camp Kineo** for Boys was founded in 1902 and by some accounts was known as the first summer camp of Harrison, Maine. Campers that attended Kineo came from multiple locations throughout United States and when they had arrived at the camp were classified into three groups according to size, ability and general development. Camp Kineo was founded by Irving G. McColl, a University of Michigan Alumnus. Records reflect that in 1907, Mr. McColl also operated Camp Kineo with a Girls after being granted possession of the camp from Irving G. Woodman.

In 1928, Camp Kineo was acquired by Isadore Zarakov and from that date forward until its closure in the early 1970's was operated as **Camp Zakelo**. The original Camp Kineo as well as Camp Zakelo were located on Zakelo Island which is on the Northern end of Long Lake. Mr. Zarakov was the Director of Camp Zakelo for 43 years and with the able assistance of his wife, Lillian, created a strong healthy environment for an average of 125 boys per season between the ages of 6 and 15. Notably Mr. Zarakov was known for having a most distinguished undergraduate athletic career at Harvard.

Camp Zakelo offered typical land sports such as tennis and basketball and multiple water activities including swimming and sailing. Notably, Camp Zakelo boys had the opportunity to also choose from such diverse activities as orchestra, newspaper, the producing and performing plays in a theatre, learning astronomy, racing and in four and eight man skulls and learning such foreign languages such as Spanish and French. By all accounts, Zakelo Island (the camp site) was/is approximately 15 acres large and featured numerous buildings along with a dock.

This historian has found memories of the camper athletes from Camp Zakelo who throughout the late 1960s to the mid 1970s were known to participate in such athletic events as the Camp Powhatten Invitational Tennis Tournament and the Camp Cedar Invitational Basketball Tournament. Notably, Camp Zakelo is one of a small number of Maine summer camps whose name bares a direct relationship to the name of its Director.

***Editor's Note:** This article is written by noted author and Maine Summer Camp Historian, Henry Johnson who attended Camp Powhatan in Otisfield, Maine from 1966 through 1973 as a camper, counselor, and ultimately, program director. Mr. Johnson is the author of numerous articles and publications relating to the history of Maine summer camps. If you wish to submit information to Mr. Johnson relating to the history of any Maine summer camp, you may do so at the following email: [hjohnson@henryjohnsonaw.com](mailto:hjohnson@henryjohnsonaw.com).*

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## Outreach Update from Peter Hirsch

Thanks to all the camps that participated in the survey on COVID's economic impact on member camps. Ryan Wallace, the economist from USM, is finalizing his report on the results; this will provide us with critical information as we seek support for our industry from both the Mills Administration and the Legislature.

Ron is working on an insert summarizing the data to include in the MYCA "backpack" that will once again be sent to all candidates running in November for offices at the state and federal level. This information, along with updated talking points, will also be included in an upcoming issue of the *Hall Monitor*.

In the meantime, it is a perfect time to reach out to your State Representative and Senator, invite them to visit camp, meet for a cup of coffee or talk on the phone.

The more outreach we have this fall, the better chance we have for positive results in the months ahead.



[Click here for contact info for Maine Legislature members](#)

## 2020-21 MSC Webinars

The Education Committee is planning to offer at least one webinar each month this winter. Topics will include COVID-19 management, timely topics diversity & equity, fundraising, public relations, retention of campers and families, and more. Please get in touch if there are topics you would like to see covered, or if you have an idea for a great speaker.

We are excited to announce that Chalmers Insurance & Redwoods Group will sponsor our webinars this year, as well as contribute expertise for the content of some webinars. This support makes it possible for us to gather virtually and learn together.

We have scheduled our first two webinars. The presenter for both webinars will be Bob Demont. Look for more information in the special *Hall Monitor* sent on Monday, September 13.

► **Thursday September 17 at 10 am**

Fundraising for nonprofit camps

► **Wednesday September 23 at 10 am**

Fundraising for private for-profit camps



[Click here for more information about Bob Demont](#)

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# Bob Ditter's MSC Webinars: Providing Wisdom, Support, and Guidance

## Ditter addressed the importance of open communication among directors, staff, and camp

**M**aine camps have all benefited from the guidance and expertise **Bob Ditter, M.Ed, LCSW**, has offered over the years. During the vast uncertainty of COVID-19 pandemic past months, Ditter once again supported MSC camps. In another nod to our Zoom-filled lives, he provided three online webinars to the MSC membership.



**Bob Ditter**

Ditter presented the first, *Keeping Courage in Times of Uncertainty*, in April, as camps continued to wrestle with COVID's potential impact on summer 2020 camp operations. Losses from the pandemic were happening in all realms of life, he said, posing the challenge of being strong amidst such uncertainty and fear. Facing these times demands connection and community, he said. "Relationship is the most important aspect of our lives."

**Facing these times demands connection and community. Relationship is the most important aspect of our lives.**

In his second webinar, *Dealing with Loss and Disappointment: If You Suspend Your 2020 Season*, Ditter first acknowledged that all camp professionals are child advocates, regardless of their choices in the face of COVID-19. Camps can "control their response and how they practice respect for themselves and others," around their choices, he said, emphasizing the importance of resisting judgment.

Equally important is acknowledging others' experiences, he said. Campers feel a variety of losses at the same time they look forward to camp, particularly its nurturing environment. Plus, campers' experiences help build their sense of self. It is crucial to acknowledge the totality of their loss, he advised.

Ditter also addressed the importance of clear communication among camp directors, their staff, and camp families. Camps can help their communities by emphasizing a spirit of hope, he said.

Camps can also help parents by suggesting ways to talk to their children about the loss of camp, he said. Similar approaches are essential with staff, he said. Attention to issues of loss is vital, particularly given the depth of those losses stemming from their academic and social situations.

In June, Ditter presented *For Camp Counselors: Working with the Mental-Emotional-Social Health (MESH) of Campers*, addressing the potential issues arising in summer 2020.

"You can't say hello (fully engage with campers) until you say good-bye," Ditter reminded camp staff. To serve campers best, staff must first address their own feelings of loss. Universal losses can create a variety of responses, he said; moving toward acceptance can allow forward motion, he said.

Ditter's "Overall Prescription" included: "connect before you redirect," that is, validate and normalize campers' feelings; foster "flow activities" along with quiet time to connect and reflect; encourage mutual respect among one another; acknowledge that nothing about this pandemic is normal; and encourage campers to talk about their feelings.

### Zooming with Camp Wawenock

Ditter also gave a talk to Camp Wawenock's staff during their preseason. The virtual conversation proved enormously helpful, said Director Catriona Logan Sangster.

Political unrest nationwide proved an essential issue to address as camp preparation began, she said. Focusing on staff members' emotions around George Floyd's death and Black Lives Matter, and other issues, led Logan Sangster to reach out to Ditter.

Ditter emphasized giving staff "permission to feel and express," Logan Sangster said. "Bob's biggest approach was, approach everyone with curiosity," she continued.

The concept of making "generous assumptions" rather than shutting people down is vital, she said, as is openness to being wrong. Ditter also reminded staff of behaviors campers might display given their previous stay-at-home time.

His support helped frame for the staff some key reminders around recognition of their ability to control only what they can control, and recognizing gratitude for being at camp and "the opportunity to create a special experience for kids who are so desperately needing it," Logan Sangster said.

"Bob helped me feel good and then he gave me the tools I needed to work with staff best in this unique summer," she said. The Zoom session extended that value, she said. "He really has a way of being vulnerable with people and encouraging others to be vulnerable."

## 2021 MSC-Sponsored Job Fairs

We have tentatively scheduled three MSC Job Fairs for this coming winter/spring. The final decision to hold these camp fairs is contingent upon COVID-19 guidelines issued by both the state and the universities.

**Monday, February 8 at UMF Campus Center**

**Tuesday, February 9 at USM Portland Campus Center**

**Thursday, March 10 at Husson U Campus Center**

## MSC Book Club Meets Virtually on Wednesday, October 28

Fall book selection: *How to be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi

The MSC Book Club is pleased to announce our fall book selection: *How to be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi. The group will meet virtually on Wednesday, October 28 at 9 am.

In addition to negotiating the COVID-19 pandemic this year, we must raise our personal and collective awareness of systemic racism and the inequities within our justice system.



This book selection gives the Maine Summer Camps community the opportunity to build on the discussion of diversity and inclusion with Niambi Jaha-Echols in 2018 helping us to engage in conversations of race and racism and continue to examine the impact of “whiteness” on camp norms.



[Click here for an Amazon.com link to order the book.](#)

### Synopsis of *How to be an Anti-Racist*:

Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America-- but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In *How to be an Antiracist*, Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it.

In this book, Kendi weaves together an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science, bringing it all together with an engaging personal narrative of his own awakening to antiracism. *How to Be an Antiracist* is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond an awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a truly just and equitable society. – Goodreads

You can also preview the book through Brene Brown's podcast *Unlocking Us*, in which author and Professor Ibram X. Kendi is her guest.

– Karen Malm, Camp Agawam

## YOU ADAPTED TO COVID-19 *So We Adapted, Too*

From virtual camps to new hygiene protocols, you had to change how you work fast. So we did the same. Between April to July, The Redwoods Group - in collaboration with Chalmers here in the Northeast - have supported camps and other youth-serving organizations with:

- 37 COVID-specific webinars
- 2953 virtual check-ins, Zoom calls and other customer engagements
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## Welcome New Camp Members!

### Acting Manitou, Oakland

Since 2003, Acting Manitou Theater Camp has offered high-caliber theater training, design, and performance opportunities in the beautiful foothills of Oakland, Maine. With a focus on ensemble building, a summer at Acting Manitou is about more than putting on a show; it is about creating a community of friends who will be with you for life.

Lesley Levy, 207.358.0641, [info@actingmanitou.com](mailto:info@actingmanitou.com)  
[www.actingmanitou.com/](http://www.actingmanitou.com/)

### Camp Knickerbocker, Boothbay

With the goal of fostering increased independence, each camper will be empowered to choose activities that interest them and given the chance to work toward completing ascending levels of mastery. As always, our staff is readily engaged in providing an educational environment that aligns with the Y's core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

Erin Gray, 207.633.2855 ext 255, [egray@brymca.org](mailto:egray@brymca.org)  
[boothbayregionymca.org](http://boothbayregionymca.org)

### Camp Osprey, Freeport

Located at the Casco Bay Branch of the YMCA of Southern Maine, Camp Osprey offers a diverse, age appropriate experience in a safe and fun outdoor environment. Campers enjoy the Y's swimming pools, open-air gymnasium and playground, as well as its 25 acres of woods and trails.

Jen Genthner, 207.865.9600  
[jgenthner@ymcaofsouthernmaine.org](mailto:jgenthner@ymcaofsouthernmaine.org)  
[www.ymcaofsouthernmaine.org/main/summer-camp](http://www.ymcaofsouthernmaine.org/main/summer-camp)

### Camp Pineland, New Gloucester

Camp Pineland is a day camp for children ages 5-12, with a Leader-in-Training (LIT) program for teens ages 13-16, located at the YMCA of Southern Maine's Pineland Branch on the Pineland Farms Campus in New Gloucester. Campers will enjoy the Y's swimming pool, bowling alley, and gymnasium, along with 20 miles of walking trails, open fields, and frog ponds.

Kara Phillips, 207.688.2255  
[kphillips@ymcaofsouthernmaine.org](mailto:kphillips@ymcaofsouthernmaine.org)  
[www.ymcaofsouthernmaine.org/summer-camp](http://www.ymcaofsouthernmaine.org/summer-camp)

### Camp Sokokis, Biddeford

Situated on 26 beautiful acres at our Northern York County Branch in Biddeford, Sokokis is a traditional day camp for youth ages 5-12 (with a Leader-in-Training program for ages 13-16). A rock wall, high and low ropes courses, archery range, two sports fields, outdoor amphitheater, sand volleyball court, and hiking trails highlight our outdoor offerings. Camp also provides three lodges for group activities and a swimming pool for all aquatic activities.

Meaghan Woodsome, 207.283.0100  
[mwoodsone@ymcaofsouthernmaine.org](mailto:mwoodsone@ymcaofsouthernmaine.org)  
[www.ymcaofsouthernmaine.org/summer-camp](http://www.ymcaofsouthernmaine.org/summer-camp)

### Children's Museum, Portland

The Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine offers art, science, and theater summer day camps for ages 3-12. Our summer day camps provide a world of multidisciplinary, open-ended, and experiential learning to empower children to ask questions, make mistakes, and draw connections between the world, their community, and themselves. Museum exhibits serve as the backdrop for camps, but also as unique tools for play, exploration, and learning.

Patricia Erikson, 207.828.1234  
[info@kitetails.org](mailto:info@kitetails.org)  
[www.kitetails.org/summer-camps](http://www.kitetails.org/summer-camps)

### CREA Summer Day Camp, Topsham

CREA's Summer Day Camp is a nature-based, off-grid day camp for girls and boys ages 6-16 based at our Ecology Center located in a 230-acre nature preserve. Campers engage daily in nature-based art, hands-on science exploration, and active games and activities based on the weekly camp theme. Camp is offered 5 days a week from 8:30am – 4:00pm, over 7 weekly sessions. Sessions are held in July & August and are organized by grade level groupings.

Jenny Mueller, 207.331.3202  
[jenny@creamaine.org](mailto:jenny@creamaine.org)  
[creamaine.org/camps/summercamp/](http://creamaine.org/camps/summercamp/)

### In-Town Camp, Portland

Come for one week, a few weeks, or the whole summer! Our full-day camp for kids ages 5-12 at our Greater Portland Branch takes advantage of the great resources in our community! At In-Town Camp, we visit local beaches, parks, and attractions and have access to the Y's gym, pool, art studio, and squash courts. We'll fill our days with fun and excitement, including arts and crafts, games, activities, and swim lessons, plus traditional camp team-building favorites.

Joe Baty, 207.874.1111  
[jbaty@ymcaofsouthernmaine.org](mailto:jbaty@ymcaofsouthernmaine.org)  
[www.ymcaofsouthernmaine.org/summer-camp](http://www.ymcaofsouthernmaine.org/summer-camp)

### Maine Audubon – Fields Pond Camp, Holden

Maine Audubon hosts day camp programs for children at Fields Pond in Holden, just 7 miles from Bangor. Camp sessions have varied wildlife conservation themes and include nature-based hikes, adventures, storytelling, science and art projects, songs, outdoor games, and guided hands-on activities. Camps run weekly throughout the summer and daily during school vacation weeks. Preschool and family programs are also available. Scholarships are awarded annually.

David Lamon, 207.989.2591  
[fieldspond@maineaudubon.org](mailto:fieldspond@maineaudubon.org)  
[www.maineaudubon.org](http://www.maineaudubon.org)

*Welcome New Camps, continues on page 15*



## Welcome New Camp Members *continued from page 14*

### Otter Pond, Standish

Situated on 500 acres of wooded wilderness in Standish, Otter Pond Outdoor Adventure Camp is for campers ages 5-12 (with a Leader-in-Training program for 13-16-year-olds). Throughout the summer, campers will enjoy our high and low ropes courses and climbing wall, build archery skills, learn to canoe, hunt for frogs and turtles, and learn how to fish. Campers will also swim in the cool water of Otter Pond daily!

**Liza Stratton, 207.688.2255**

**lstratton@ymcaofsouthernmaine.org**

**www.ymcaofsouthernmaine.org/summer-camp**

### Sailing Ships Maine, Portland

Sailing Ships Maine offers one-week, overnight sailing adventures for kids ages 13 to 19 along the Maine coast and elsewhere. These academically accredited voyages of discovery give teens enhanced leadership skills and life-changing experiences. Seeing land from sea and spending the night at sea changes perspectives. Absolutely no previous boating experience needed. We sail on a variety of vessels including the iconic 130' Maine Schooner Harvey Gamage, Spirit of Bermuda and others.

**Alex Agnew, 207.619.1842**

**info@sailingshipsmaine.org**

**sailingshipsmaine.org**

### Small Point Summer School, Boothbay

Founded in 1958, the Small Point Summer School offers a safe, fun, socially rewarding, adventurous, and environmentally responsible experience for children ages 4 - 13 in the Small Point and surrounding communities.

**Dana Burton, 207.389.9165**

**smallpointsummerschool@gmail.com**

**smallpointsummerschool.org/**

### Surf Camp Maine, Scarborough

Join us for Maine's original surfing day camp. In our flagship summer camp, your camper will learn to surf, make lots of new friends, and hang out at the best place in the world: a Maine beach in the summertime! Book early - camp fills up quickly. Camp runs five days a week; Monday through Friday. The hours are from 9 am to 3 pm.

**Dustin Turin, 207.370-6706**

**dustin@surfcampme.com**

**www.surfcampme.com**

### University of Maine Upward Bound, Orono

Upward Bound serves: high school students from low-income families; and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

**Rebecca Colannino, 207.581.2524**

**rebecca\_colannino@maine.edu**

**https://umaine.edu/ub/**

### Y Summer Camp at OLEC, Auburn

Located at the YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston's 95 acres Outdoor Learning and Education Center (OLEC), Y Summer Camp gives kids a traditional outdoor day camp experience, with games, hiking, archery and so much more!

**Jaime O'Connor, 207.795.4095**

**joconnor@alymca.org**

**www.alymca.org/summer-camp**



## Five and Five: Camps' Universal Experiences and Gains for 2021

**“**Camp directors have a high tolerance for uncertainty,” Winona Camps co-director **Laura Ordway** said. “We took a leap of faith, with the guardrails of camps’ missions, CDC and state guidelines, Maine Summer Camps, and our colleagues.” And their season was a success.

Winona Camps was one of less than two dozen Maine camps that opened this summer. Like several directors profiled in the Summer in Review, Ordway was effusive about the season. “The campers had a great time; they learned a lot from their cohorts,” she said.

***“We took a leap of faith, with the guardrails of of camps’ missions, CDC and state guidelines, Maine Summer Camps, and our colleagues.”***

***And their season was a success.***

That program modification, among others, plus the layers of safety protocols—but no universal COVID-19 testing—received “a tremendous response from everyone,” she said.

Winona Camps includes three units, each of which Ordway says operates almost individually. This aspect of the camp’s program and physical space proved valuable, she said. “We have a tremendous safety advantage within the unit system.”

The camp’s single three-and-a-half-week session welcomed about 150 campers, along with about 80 staff. Winona required 14-day pre-camp quarantine; only staff and campers who need to break it were tested. The camp had no COVID-19 cases.

### Five and Five Offer Reflection, Gains

Ordway says Winona Camps’ season gave rise to what she called “my own little list of things.” Her assessment includes “five universally shared experiences,” as well as “five things gained for 2021.” Here is a summary.

### Universally Shared Experiences at Camp 2020

① **Maine Summer Camps’ value:** “No one could open without Ron, Jack, the boards, and members,” Ordway said, adding that the organization, particularly its camaraderie, is “envied by other states.” Regular calls and texts among camps that were open this summer are just one example of camp directors’ ongoing support of one another.

② **Safety Pillars:** Adherence to the safety layers (known in public health language as “non-pharmaceutical interventions”, or NPI’s) to best ensure good health. “This was not new,” she said. “It’s Public Health 101.” Hand washing and sanitizing, cleaning, maintaining distance, and cohorting all provided layers that worked.

③ **Camps’ Varied, Yet Successful, Interpretations of Guidelines:** “We were still all successful,” said Ordway. Winona did daily temperature and health checks; other camps took a less stringent approach. From masking to enforcing bathroom capacities, camps utilized different interpretations of the same health and safety guidelines. “It was fascinating for me to see.”

④ **Operating in a “Bubble” is Unsustainable:** From staff’s limited time off, to delivery logistics, to trips, to parent interaction, Ordway said, the bubble creates circumstances “that can’t move forward long-term.”

⑤ **The Rewards of Summer 2020:** “It’s overwhelming how rewarding it was. I haven’t spoken with one camp director who hasn’t agreed.” She said the laughing, fun, being silly, “all that stuff” was essential to their entire community. “I knew within the first hour of campers onsite that we’d done the right thing.”

### Gains for 2021

The season also highlighted elements that will help moving forward, Ordway says.

① **Healthy Camps:** While Winona – and presumably other camps—still had medical issues to contend with, they were not the typical respiratory infections or strep throat that camps often treat. “We need to figure out how to take health protocols and turn them into our culture.”

② **Get Back to Basics:** “Less is more,” Ordway said. Although camps will choose to implement various elements moving forward, doing without some of the frills “wasn’t such a hardship.” The industry continues to add programs to attract families, but sticking to the basics merits consideration too, she said.

③ **Parent Buy-In:** “It was fantastic.” Parents appreciated the transparency in planning efforts, and were trusting throughout, she said. COVID-19 admittedly made communication particularly challenging, she said, and she acknowledged that the value of an open approach can be a “doubled-edged sword” if camps don’t balance transparency with attention to how quickly situations can change. “Is every parent going to be easy in the future? No. We will still have challenging parents, but transparency will help.”

④ **Health and Safety Guidelines Are Straightforward:** “We learned the guidelines are not complicated.” Ordway says they provided a support structure all summer. “Any time there was a question, we always came back to the guidelines.” And while guidelines may not be complex, it undoubtedly takes time for each camp to adjust them to their own facility. “That’s why we can’t just release a handbook,” she said. Going forward, Ordway says she is confident “MSC will help ensure the state can provide both good guidelines and time to for camps adapt to their own curriculum and facility.”

*Five and Five, continues on page 17*

⑤ **Delivering a Camp's Mission:** "A camp mission is strong when you can deliver it anytime, anywhere," Ordway said, adding that some camp directors made very difficult decisions to suspend their seasons based on concern that they would be unable to deliver their missions. "Too many of us as camp directors get confused with mission versus selling camp—the physical elements of Maine and a particular location. But a mission is independent of that," she said. "Winona should be able to take its mission to the other side of the planet. It's about people, educating young people, helping them grow in their confidence, leadership, being a member of a community. Every camp that opened delivered their mission. I hope that will be helpful for camps to know you can find your mission in anything."

## More evidence of MSC's spirit of collegiality

These ten observations and suggestions from Laura Ordway are other example of MSC and its members' unique and invaluable support. Last spring, Maine camps—and MSC's leadership—undertook its typical collaborative approach in sharing concerns and questions to identify and understand the factors crucial to their open-or-suspend decisions.

**...camps are looking immediately forward to 2021.  
And once again, these camps will rely on and benefit from  
the wisdom of their colleagues and MSC's leadership  
team and boards.**

Now, post-season, camps are looking immediately looking forward to 2021. And once again, these camps will rely on and benefit from the wisdom of their colleagues and MSC's leadership team and boards. Camp is about learning and teaching and caring—for the whole community.

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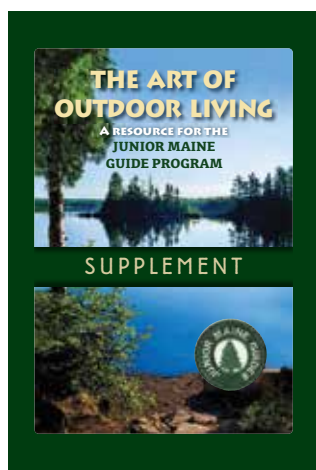



## JMG and the Summer of 2020

**JMG published a 32-page supplement to *The Art of Outdoor Living*, built two new encampments for candidates, and updated tests**

**L**ike the rest of Maine summer camps, this has been a different summer for the Junior Maine Guide Program. In fact, it was the first summer since the establishment of the JMG program in 1937 that JMG testing camp did not take place. JMG examiners, however, took the opportunity to pitch in to support the JMG program.

First, thanks to a donation from the estate of Paula (Danaceau) Ziesler, a 1954 Junior Maine Guide from Camp Vega, the JMG staff was able to publish a 32-page supplement to *The Art of Outdoor Living*. The publication includes updates and additions to our testing, as well as two minor corrections. The JMG program will now evaluate candidates' knowledge of the latest DHHS guidelines to food preparation and awareness of proper sanitation measures around the campsite. In addition, the supplement includes an equipment list for camps that want to start a Junior Maine Woodsman or Maine Woodsman programs, some Dutch oven recipes, and a list of 136 review and training questions for the candidates. Finally, it includes a section of teaching tips for JMG instructors.



### Thank you to long-term JMG supporters

In addition, we are grateful for several donations this year from the Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust and Enterprise Holdings, making it possible to establish a fund for the JMG program. The yearly interest from this fund will help support program needs that our annual income is unable to cover. We thank these two organizations for being long-time supporters of the JMG Program.



***Picnic tables at the JMG campsite at the Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve got a new coat of stain. JMG staff also worked on erosion control.***

### Work at the Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve

Many of the JMG testers were able to spend several days working at our JMG campsite at the Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve on the Kennebec River. The site sustained significant winter storm damage, and the staff was busy cleaning the area and building two new encampments for the candidates. All the picnic tables got a new coat of stain and staff completed erosion work as well. A group of the testing camp staff also met at Bryant Pond 4-H Camp to update our written tests.

### Looking ahead to 2021

The JMG staff is looking forward to resuming our Junior Maine Guide testing in 2021.

—Moose Curtis, JMG Director

2021 JMG Testing Camp

Monday-Friday, July 26-30 (tentative dates)

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