

## L.L. Bean Grant Helps Fund 165 Maine Children's 2022 Camp Experience

*Company donates \$100K in campership*

“That’s why we are here.” Getting kids to camp is what it’s all about, says Norm Thombs, executive director of Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop. Thanks to a \$100,000 grant from L.L. Bean Thombs is among many camp directors who will welcome scores of new youngsters to camp this summer. The grant, funds designated solely for the purpose of creating camp opportunities for more Maine children, means a total of more than 150 youngsters will have a camp experience this summer. Twelve of those campers will attend Camp Mechuwana.

Maine Summer Camps chose to allocate the funds in a manner that would maximize camper participation. Camps had to enroll children after May 4, and qualifying camps were funded up to \$1,000 per camper for residential stays less than two weeks and up to \$1,500 for residential camp stays more than two weeks. Day camps were funded up to \$350.

Ron Hall, executive director of Maine Summer Camps, says participating camps, who are funding the tuition costs not covered by grant funding, have doubled the impact of the grant, contributing more than \$140,000 of their own funds to fund the campers.

“L.L. Bean’s two primary goals were to help Maine camps and to get as many under-served Maine children to be able to attend camp this summer,” says Hall. “L.L. Bean’s generous donation of \$100,000 was more than matched by the camps who enrolled these children, providing more than over \$240,000 in camperships.”

“Maine Camp Experience, a group of private Maine camps also donated funds to this project. The great news is that more than 150 children will be able to attend camp this summer due the generosity of these amazing donations,” Hall said.

“It’s an incentive and also a challenge to camps to make this go much further,” Hall said. “Camps responded with resounding participation,” he said.

Hall hopes this level of funding will continue in future summers. And he said if the funding comes sooner than it did this spring even more camps – particularly those whose enrollments were full long before May – will be able to participate.

At Camp Mechuwana that means several families will have desperately needed childcare. Day camp enrollment means youngsters will swim and boat and be around other children while their caregivers can work. Other youngsters will attend the camp’s one-week sessions.

**L.L. Bean Grant** continues on page 7.



**Laura Ordway, Beigette Gill, Jack Erler, Carol Sudduth, and Ron Hall (left to right) helped celebrate Jack's retirement at Wyonegonic Camps in early June — see story on page 15.**

## Maine Summer Camps Board of Directors 2021-2022

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Ron Hall, *Maine Summer Camps*



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## MESSAGE FROM THE MSC PRESIDENT JUNE 2022

*Bringing large groups of people together in a safe, social and supportive environment is what we do. Coming together in unity is central to all our efforts in creating our camp communities.*



*As the pandemic and the concerns around coronavirus linger, it has made our role increasingly more difficult. Despite the challenges, we forge ahead with our mission of bringing people together, most importantly our youth. Collectively, we all know the value of camp for children. The pandemic has only solidified the importance of social and learning experiences in Maine's outdoors. Camp is vital!*

*I hope you hear and feel the resounding heartfelt "Thank You's" from all those who you have positively impacted through your work over the years. Your dedication and commitment through difficult times, continuing to create community, is honorable. My hope is that appreciation and gifts of gratitude will provide the fuel to help you to continue what you do.*

*I personally want to thank all the directors who have supported each other by openly sharing and offering help. This comradery is invaluable to us as camp directors and to the continued success of Maine Summer Camps. Our membership of MSC both facilitates and makes this possible.*

*Now, as our attention and energy are focused on our own camp communities. I wish you all continued success. Remember to reach out and support each other.*

Warmly, Beigette

## Welcome New Camp Members

### ■ Maine Maritime Museum Summer Camps

We are ready for summer here at **Maine Maritime Museum**, with 20 acres to explore right on the Kennebec River in Bath. Education staff is hard at work designing new experiences and bringing back old favorites (field trips!). We offer three different day camp programs: Kennebec Explores (2-5 graders); Mariners Adventure Day Camp (6-8 graders); and Crosscurrents (rising 10-12 graders).

Amanda Pleau  
207.443.1316  
[info@maritime.org](mailto:info@maritime.org)

### ■ Slovenski Camps

Campers will be outside almost all day at **Slovenski Camps**, connecting with the natural world and getting plenty of sunlight and fresh air. Unstructured time gives campers a chance to use their imagination and is key in developing independence from technology. We are excited to show your family an incredible experience your children can have at camp.

Peter Slovenski  
207.725.8049  
[peter.slovenski@gmail.com](mailto:peter.slovenski@gmail.com)



## AMSKIER IS HONORED TO CONTINUE DEDICATED SUPPORT OF MAINE SUMMER CAMPS



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## MSC/MYCA 2022 Annual Meeting Wednesday, September 21 at Migis Lodge

The MSC/MYCA annual meeting will begin at 10 am although you are encouraged to arrive early as coffee and muffins will be available at 9 am. Following the annual meeting, Migis will treat us to their renowned gourmet cookout. During the cookout this year's recipient of the Halsey Gulick Award will be announced.

Registration for the meeting will open on August 15 and will close on September 7. Initially, each camp will be able to register two people and place up to three people on the waitlist. Additional people will be drawn from the waitlist after September 7 once we will have the initial count. We may be able to add more people from the waitlist a few days before the event if the weather forecast is favorable.



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*Mark your calendar!*

## Upcoming MSC Events

Tuesday, July 12, 1:30–4 pm

**Chris Thurber Workshop at Camp Wawenock**

Tuesday, July 19

**Camp Kindness Day**

Monday-Friday, July 25–29

**Junior Maine Guides Test Camp at Oquossoc**

Wednesday, September 21, 9:30 am–1:30 pm

**MSC annual meeting and cookout at Migis Lodge**

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

**MSC winter workshop & business networking  
extravaganza at The Italian Heritage Center, Portland**



## JMG July Testing Camp: Donor Acknowledgement, Book Publication

**T**he Junior Maine Guide Program is looking forward to this summer's JMG Camp, which will be held on the Kennebago River in Oquossoc from July 25-29.

The ongoing ramifications of the COVID virus mean JMG Camp 2022 will be run as it was last summer. Each camp's group of candidates will be kept together for testing and masks may be required in certain areas of the encampment. Camp directors who send candidates to testing camp will be notified of any policy changes. The pre-Junior Maine Guide Camp newsletter, including updates on JMG Camp, will be sent at the end of June.

JMG would like to thank the four organizations that have made donations to the program this past year: **Enterprise Holdings, L.L. Bean, Maine Retired Wardens Foundation and Maine Timberland Charitable Trust.** Their contributions make a significant impact on the program's operations and success.

Anyone with questions about the JMG Program should contact Moose Curtis, JMG Program director, [mr.moose675@gmail.com](mailto:mr.moose675@gmail.com).

### **New edition of *The Art of Outdoor Living* now available**

We hope JMG participating camps will take the opportunity to read the latest edition of *The Art of Outdoor Living*. This seventh edition includes more than 100 review questions for candidates as well as a section on teaching tips for the candidates' instructors.

## 2022-23 Camp Membership

For the first time in three years MSC is raising its dues. In most cases the increase will be about 5%. Dues this coming year need to be paid by August 1, unless you select the four-payment plan.



[Click here for the membership renewal form](#)

## Welcome New **Business** Members

### ■ **Sim-City Indoor Golf Complex**

Westbrook's Sim-City Indoor Golf, open all summer, is a fun, interactive experience for all, whether you are a professional or beginner. In addition to a pub eatery, we serve 12 great flavors of Gifford's world-famous ice cream. Our course library includes more than 80 of the world's best courses.

**MSC Member Special:** Golf/Sim time (35 campers per hour), Hot Dog, soda, chips and a scoop of Gifford's ice cream is \$20 per camper

**Teddy McKay**  
617.504.9455  
[teddy@simcityindoorgolf.com](mailto:teddy@simcityindoorgolf.com)  
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### ■ **One Wing Pictures**

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# Education Committee Offers Update and Future Plans

*Major focus has been fostering a collaborative and interactive approach*

**W**ith MSC members' help and enthusiastic participation, the Education Committee has tackled topics this year spanning from support dogs at camp, to trauma-informed care, to Covid-19. We collaborated with the Native American Working Group on an informative January workshop and a webinar on land acknowledgments. Two lively book club discussions were held over Zoom, and participants in the 21-Day Indigenous Challenge met to discuss their learnings in small groups.

We hope that through the webinars and workshops offered this past year, MSC members have been able to expand their knowledge as well as increase their network of camp directors. Fostering a collaborative and interactive approach has been a major focus for the Education Committee over the past few years.

Zoom has allowed us to meet safely this last year and draw high participation for our webinars and workshops. Chalmers Insurance and Redwoods are our sponsors for webinars this past year, and we are so grateful for their continued support.

The Education Committee has 13 committed members who meet monthly over Zoom on weekday mornings.

If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to Anna Hopkins Buller at [director@friendscamp.org](mailto:director@friendscamp.org).

## Possible topics for next year include:

- ▶ social/emotional development of teens and young adults;
- ▶ continued learning about Indigenous topics;
- ▶ and how restorative justice may be used at camps.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting in September, where we will conduct a poll to ask what topics you are eager to see addressed in webinars or workshops. ■

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### Level Ground Initiative Evolution: L.L. Bean Funding Helps Program Grow

Starting in 2017 a small group of camp directors and owners began to discuss the need to invite immigrant and refugee campers to summer camps in Maine. These three directors — Catriona Sangster of Camp Wawenock, Matt Pines of Maine Teen Camp, and Peter Kassen of Hidden Valley Camp — along with Maine Summer Camps Executive Director Ron Hall and volunteer Sara Lentz, assembled a committee which in 2018 launched the first camper season of Level Ground, an initiative providing camp scholarships to immigrant and refugee youth. During that first summer, six summer camps invited 23 campers. This resulted in about \$65,000 in scholarships awarded to immigrant and refugee campers who, without Level Ground, most likely would never have had that camp experience.

What a great start to the program! We were amazed at how important Level Ground was: for immigrant and refugee youngsters to have a camp experience; for our Maine summer camps to host these campers; and, lastly, for our two community partners, Portland Community Squash and Prosperity Maine to have children that they served attend camp.

Level Ground's successful 2018 launch prompted the committee to add King Middle School as a community partner in 2019. The program mantra became *"More campers and more camps."* And that is exactly what happened. In 2019, fifteen camps invited in a total of 58 campers, amounting to just over \$200,000 in scholarship tuition funded by partnering camps.

It was clear that this little volunteer sub-committee of seven folks could no longer handle this alone. We needed help, especially as the committee continued to say, "more campers and more camps." Maine Summer Camps, and generous donation from Tom and Lisa Gorman, provided funding so we could hire a part-time coordinator. We started collecting applications and were about to line up interviews when COVID-19 struck.

We took a short pause in 2020. In 2021 we resumed hosting Level Ground campers at camps and this summer we are projected to host even more campers than last. Kris Millard has served as our coordinator helping to place all those campers in camps and keeping the initiative moving forward.

Here is the amazing thing. L. L. Bean recently announced to Maine Summer Camps its support of the Level Ground initiative and its growth. They backed their commitment with a \$25,000 donation to fund a Level Ground coordinator and administrative costs. This gift accompanies a commitment by Ampion Renewable Energy, an organization that provides electricity credits thanks to subscription to a community solar program.

Ted Rioux, director of business development at Ampion Renewable Energy, says their goal is for MSC members —

both camps and businesses — to enroll a total electricity load of 2.5 million kilowatt-hours by the end of June. Ampion will contribute up to \$500 per 100,000kW hour enrolled toward supporting the Level Ground Coordinator position. To date the company has committed more than \$4,000 and hopes to contribute a total of \$12,500. Members have reached about 45 percent of the total 2.5 million kW hour enrollment that will result in the full \$12,500 donation.

"When Ron explained the Level Ground initiative and the need to hire a part-time coordinator, it seemed like a fantastic effort for Ampion to support," Rioux said.

To date, 12 MSC member camps and one business member have enrolled in the program.

*A camp experience can be life changing.  
It offers the chance to try new things, build character,  
and mold youngsters into people who will make  
the world a better place.  
The Level Ground initiative is doing just that.*

Between Ampion and L.L. Bean, funding a part-time coordinator is now possible. And that means more campers from more communities. Plans include enlisting future community partners in South Portland, Scarborough, Lewiston, and throughout the state of Maine.

We will also need more camps to participate in this special initiative. Level Ground is great way to get more Maine kids to have that camp experience that we all know our camps deliver. In addition, we need people to continue to make connections among our partners throughout the year.

A camp experience can be life changing. It offers the chance to try new things, build character, and mold youngsters into people who will make the world a better place. The Level Ground initiative is doing just that. Thank you, L.L. Bean, for recognizing this and a commitment to support hiring of a program coordinator Thank you, also, to all the camps that take in immigrant and refugee campers, as well as to all the other camps whose own generous scholarship programs help get Maine kids to camps. It is through all of our generosity, commitment, and love of camps that is making this possible.

So again, we are saying: *More Campers, More Camps!* ■

Mike Douglass  
Director, Camp Bishopswood  
Level Ground Committee founding member



## L.L. Bean Grant *continued from page 1.*

"We are truly tuition blind," says Thombs. "If you call and say I don't have money we will find a way for your child to come to camp." But funds are not endless, so when Thombs learned the grant would provide thousands of dollars to support tuition he was thrilled.

***"We are truly tuition blind," says Thombs.***

***"If you call and say I don't have money we will find a way for your child to come to camp." But funds are not endless, so when Thombs learned the grant would provide thousands of dollars to support tuition he was thrilled.***

"These additional funds are just amazing help," he said.

Amanda Hatley, director of SheSummits Company, an outdoor adventure camp for teenaged girls, agrees. Hatley, who founded SheSummits just two years ago, has plenty of space for campers. The L.L. Bean funding means she will have enough enrollment to run trips that might otherwise have been cancelled. In total, nine girls will attend thanks to grant funding, she says.

"They are allowing three of our trips to run, which is fantastic for us, especially as a newer camp," Hatley said. Four of the campers are in foster care, she said.

At Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School, the grant means the summer camp program will also reach youngsters who would otherwise not attend camp. Owner Jon Tierney says 12 campers, all of whom attend a school for students with special needs, will learn to rock climb.

"I think it's awesome," Tierney said. "We are always looking for ways to fund things." Climbing is a sport typically reserved for those "with means," he said. "It frustrates me no end when we can't get to others." Thanks to the L.L. Bean grant, this summer they can.

"Kids need camp!" adds Lisa Carter, executive director of Agassiz Village in Poland, which will also benefit from the L.L. Bean funding. "We are grateful to L.L. Bean for being an important part of the powerful community that believes in the limitless potential of our young people."

Kids do need camp. And thanks to this grant, lots more youngsters will get that experience. ■

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100	\$1.74	\$2.02	\$2.08	\$2.90	\$3.72
250	\$1.30	\$1.66	\$1.70	\$2.16	\$2.87
500	\$1.06	\$1.26	\$1.29	\$1.94	\$2.55
1000	\$0.90	\$1.05	\$1.10	\$1.69	\$2.25

# Native American Working Group Continues Its Efforts: An Update

A year ago, MSC received outreach from members of the Penobscot Nation regarding concerns about cultural appropriation in Maine camps. In response, members of the board of MSC arranged to meet with former Chief Barry Dana and Tribal Ambassador Maulian Dana, who were generous with their time and wisdom.

In May 2021, MSC reviewed and removed content linked to our website that depicted cultural appropriation. In addition, communication was made with all member camps to raise awareness about cultural appropriation, and a committee was formed to determine the next steps for our organization.

***The actions that MSC has undertaken are only the initial steps of our journey, recognizing that reconciliation, remedies, and solutions to a more than 400-year-old problem will require a long-term process.***

The actions that MSC has undertaken are only the initial steps of our journey, recognizing that reconciliation, remedies, and solutions to a more than 400-year-old problem will require a long-term process.

**Immediately, the committee identified the need for education on Maine's history as it relates to Indigenous People. Here's an update on the educational front:**

- ◆ MSC Board participated in the *Interacting with Wabanaki-Maine History* training with Wabanaki Reach followed by a facilitated session to debrief and plan next steps.
- ◆ MSC membership had the opportunity to take part in a DEI training with Debbie Irving, a racial justice educator. This was followed by a panel discussion with Claudia Tree Fox, an educator and social justice activist, and Erick Giles, a Maine attorney representing Tribal Nations. (A recording of this is still available, contact Ron if you're interested!)
- ◆ MSC encouraged members to participate in the 21-Day Racial Equity Indigenous Challenge and facilitated several check-ins throughout the challenge.
- ◆ MSC encouraged members to watch Ambassador Maulian Dana's interview with Colin Woodard to educate themselves on the advocacy that the Penobscot Nation is doing for the restoration of tribal rights.
- ◆ MSC facilitated a workshop with Dr. Darren Ranco of the University of Maine Orono about land acknowledgements, their significance, their limitations and the intention and the importance of follow through.

## On the policy front:

- ◆ Our MYCA Board closely followed the proposed bills in the Second Regular session of the 130th Legislature, specifically LDs 585, 1218, 1568, 1626 and 1907. The Board prepared and filed for each of these bills a Statement of Support for the Tribes which states:

*The Maine Youth Camp Association is a State-wide non-profit organization of Maine children camps. We support the work of indigenous people of Maine to have restored to them the rights they lost as the result of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. We recognize that the Wabanaki people have lived on this land for more than 10,000 years. We acknowledge our organization's responsibility to further our understanding of the Wabanaki people's efforts for cultural recovery and protection. We support the efforts of the Tribes, Maine Legislature, and Governor to find a way forward in reaching a new and better legal governing relationship.*

- ◆ LD 1626 was *not* voted on by the Appropriations and Financial Affairs committee, which ended the bill after it had already been passed by both the Maine House and Senate. This emphasized to us the need for MSC to monitor and support future legislative campaigns which work to restore tribal sovereignty in Maine.

## Looking ahead to next year:

- ◆ Our Education Committee is committed to continuing to work to build up resources and plan educational opportunities to help members understand indigenous history as well as to educate themselves about current day challenges. The Education Committee would also like to provide ideas to support education in individual camps' programs.
- ◆ Our DEI Committee is working to create a Cultural Audit to help camps assess their language, policies and practices as they relate to Native American appropriation, and, more broadly, diversity, equity and inclusion.
- ◆ MSC also plans to create an organizational land acknowledgement and determine its appropriate use.

Maine Summer Camps has an educational mission, and we are committed to supporting camps as they work to undo racist and offensive practices and work to promote respectful understanding, as well as authentic history of the Wabanaki people. If you haven't already joined us in these efforts, we hope you will as we continue to move forward on this path. ■



# MYCA Update

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### This is a story about Three Duffel Bags.

Many, many moons ago, camps in Maine had all legal, policy/regulatory and lobbying work basically managed in a single duffel bag. As this duffel bag became too heavy to lift, a second duffel bag was added to specifically carry the lobbying work for Maine camps. In January 2020, a third duffel bag was added and for the past couple of years The Three Duffel Bags each carried, respectively, the policy/regulatory, lobbying and legal responsibilities for MSC and MYCA. Heavy bags.

### Stay with me.

Then, the duffel bag which carried all of the policy/regulatory work (named Polly Reg) said,

"This has been fun, but it's time for me to retire to an island. Peace out." So, the duffel bag which carried all of the legal work was asked if they wanted to absorb Polly Reg's load. Legal duffel bag (named Legal Bag) said, "Nay. We're good with the contents we are carrying." So, MSC and MYCA asked the other duffel bag, known for their lobbying abilities (named, appropriately enough, Lobby Bag) and Lobby Bag said, "Sure! We will take the load from Polly Reg. Have fun on that island. Hasta la vista." And, then Lobby Bag changed their name to BIG Reg & Lobby Bag and continued on, with Legal Bag at their side. The future looked bright. The End.

### Cast members:

Polly Reg . . . . . Jack Erler

Lobby Bag . . . . . Newell Auger

BIG Reg & Lobby Bag . . . Pierce Atwood, with Newell Auger

Legal Bag . . . . . Curtis Thaxter, with Nancy Marcus and Tyler Costello

If you have any questions (other than about my own sanity) or want to hear more about MYCA's recent vote to hire Newell Auger and his team at Pierce Atwood to expand their lobbying work to also include policy/regulatory work for MSC/MYCA, please call me. Or Ron. Mostly call Ron.

Laura Ordway  
Winona Camps

*MYCA (Maine Youth Camp Association) is the sister organization to Maine Summer Camps (MSC). MYCA's mission is to monitor, publicly comment and interpret state and federal legislation on behalf of MSC, with the purpose of furthering the welfare of camps in Maine. We maintain relationships with policy officials for camp advocacy. Additionally, our 501(c)(4) non-profit status allows for limited activities supporting political campaigns. As a member of MSC, your camp is also a member of MYCA.*

## Register for Chris Thurber's July 12 Summer Workshop

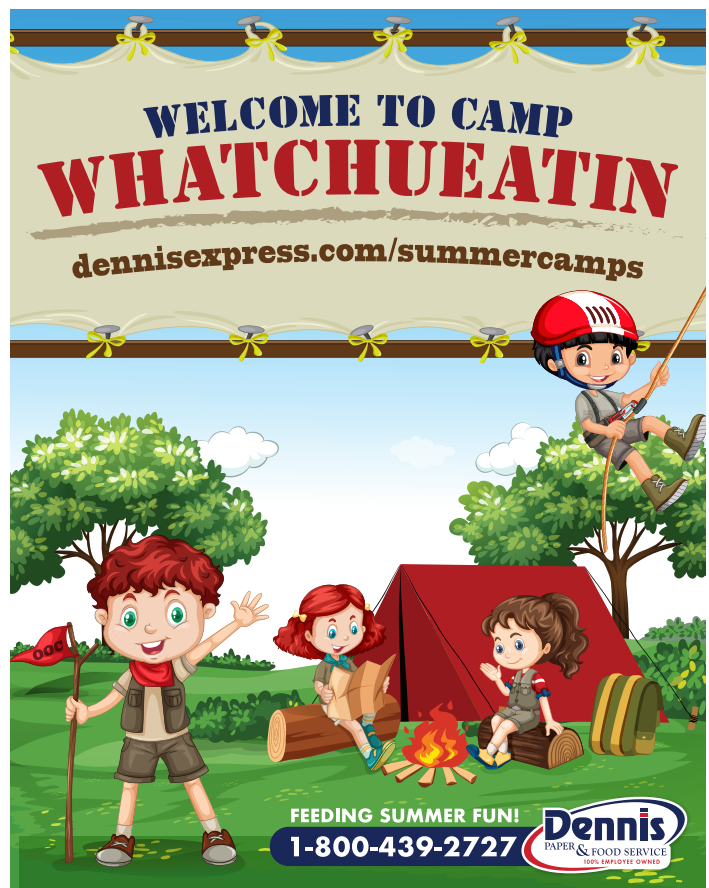
Behavior Management Essentials for 1st and 2nd Year Staff

Register your staff for MSC's best-ever summer seminar presented by esteemed camp professional, Chris Thurber, Ph.D. held on **Tuesday, July 12, 1:30–4 pm at Camp Wawenock**. Your staff will strengthen their core leadership skills and connect with other staff while learning: (1) Practical strategies to bond with campers; (2) Collaborative ways to resolve conflicts; (3) Effective methods for helping with homesickness; and (4) Prosocial responses to bullying behavior. After practicing this four-pack of behavior management essentials with new friends from other camps, your staff will leave with the confidence and stamina they need to enjoy the rest of the season. They'll also get tips on self-care and guidance for writing camp jobs on their resume—two sets of professional skills they can use long after closing day.

The workshop is for CITs, LITs, and first-year cabin leaders and camp counselors. It will take place outdoors in a roofed pavilion at Camp Wawenock. Participants must show proof of vaccination. The price of the workshop is \$20 per participant.



**Click here to register your staff for the workshop.**



## Maine Camp History

# Camp Hiawatha and Maine Teen Camp: An Exploration in Transition

By Henry Paul Johnson, Maine Summer Camp Historian

**C**amp Hiawatha was established in 1920 by Abraham “Mandy” Mandelstam (the co-founder of Camp WigWam), and directed by Lucile Ryttenberg, and was located at 481 Brownfield Road, Porter, Maine. Mandy was very well connected with the Broadway theater scene, and would invite well known actors and musicians to perform at camp during the summer. The camp was situated roughly 40 miles northwest of Portland, Maine and occupied approximately 55 acres. The Camp included a spacious main lodge which was utilized for arts and crafts and other activities. Facilities at the camp included several cabins, tennis courts, a horse barn and a riding pen. Activities at the Camp included swimming, sailing, archery, horseback riding, and tennis. Camp Hiawatha, like many Maine summer camps, employed numerous local residents. Fresh food such as vegetables, eggs and milk was provided to the camp through local distributors. Local residents worked at the camp assisting with laundry and providing general maintenance.

In 1967, the camp was purchased by Andrew Friedman and his two sons, Major and Drew, who retained the name Camp Hiawatha as well as many of the same policies, practices, and philosophies of Camp Hiawatha's founders. Under the Friedmans' ownership, Hiawatha was the “sister” camp to Camp Robin Hood (NH), also owned by the Friedman family, across the border in Freedom NH.

In 1984, Camp Hiawatha was purchased by Jay and Karen Stager who had owned and operated Hidden Valley Camp in Freedom, Maine, in partnership with Kris Kamys. They renamed the camp “Maine Teen Camp”, which operated under that name for the first time in summer of 1985. In 1991, the Stagers and Kamys sold Maine Teen Camp to Bob Briskin. Current owners Matt and Monique Pines were working for Briskin in 2003 when he passed suddenly due to cancer. The Pines have owned and operated MTC since.

### Maine Teen Camp As Exists Today

According to Maine Teen Camp's website—

“Established in 1984 as a specialty program for teenagers 13 (or entering 8th grade) to 17, Maine Teen Camp aims to provide each camper with a diverse camp experience in a safe and supportive natural setting that promotes a sense of community, friendship, personal growth and leadership.”

The Maine Teen Camp Website further states—

“The beautiful 55-acre site between Stanley and Trafton Ponds has been home to a summer camp since the early 1900s. Prior to 1984, the site was that of Camp Hiawatha, a traditional camp for girls. After Hiawatha closed, Maine Teen Camp was created according to the joint vision of founding Directors — Jay & Karen Stager, and Kris Kamys. Recognizing the pressing need for a summer camp

uniquely designed for teenagers, MTC was founded as a largely preferred alternative to teen travel programs.”

### The Camp Site in Transition

The utilization of the Hiawatha — Maine Teen Camp site, as both a traditional girls summer camp and presently as a specialty camp for teenagers 13 to 17, does follow some trends in Maine summer camping where campsites utilized for an initial purpose, gender, or age group, in turn now serves a different mission. This Historian notes that Camp Wildwood for Boys in Bridgton, Maine was once Camp Wildwood for Girls. The camp site of Barta Camp on Pleasant Lake was utilized for an extended period of time as Camp Tall Timbers for Boys and Camp Lanark for Girls. Camp Kohut, when I was Program Director at Camp Powhatan during the 1970s, was a boys camp. Camp Kohut presently is co-educational. The site of Camp Powhatan for Boys is now the site of Seeds of Peace. The great Maine Camp tradition, as is examined in this article, can exist in various forms on the same camp site throughout the years. ■

*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 relating to the history of any Maine summer camp you may do so at: [hjohnson@henryjohnsonlaw.com](mailto:hjohnson@henryjohnsonlaw.com)*

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## The Halsey Gulick Award

**Nominations due to MSC office by September 1**

The MSC Awards Committee welcomes any/all nominations for the **Halsey Gulick Award** to be presented at our annual meeting in September. This prestigious honor is given to an individual or individuals who have distinguished themselves with spirit, fortitude and inexorable dedication in promoting the core values and best practices of improving the MSC movement for our state and our respective camp communities.

The Halsey Gulick Award was first presented in 1982 by the newly formed Maine Youth Camping Association to recognize those people who have distinguished themselves by giving unselfishly of their time, energy, and resources to improve organized youth camping in Maine. Recipients are selected by their colleagues in camping for their record of public service to the camping movement in Maine. Anyone may recommend candidates for the award. Candidates need not be members of the Maine Youth Camping Foundation dba Maine Summer Camps (formerly MYCA) and their contribution to Maine camping may not necessarily be related to leadership roles within the Association.



[Click here for a link to the nomination form](#)



[Click here for a list of prior recipients of the award](#)

## 2022 Dedication to Camping Recognition

**Nominations due to MSC office by September 1**

The **Dedication to Camping Award** represents MSC's recognition of those who have dedicated a significant amount of time working in Maine organized youth camping. This award is for length of service in Maine camping.

**Eligibility for Dedication to Camping Recognition:**

- ▷ Any staff member, current or former, regardless of their camp position, is eligible.
- ▷ Length of service must be 25 years or more.
- ▷ Service fully or predominantly to Maine camps.
- ▷ Service does not have to be consecutive or to one camp.
- ▷ Count years as staff member, not years as a camper.
- ▷ Can be seasonal or year-round.



[Click here for a link to the nomination form](#)



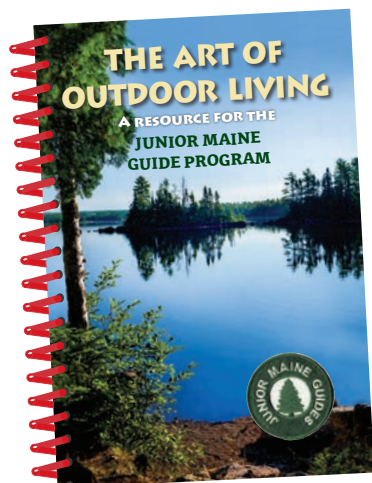
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*Camps and JMG candidate families may purchase the book by contacting the Maine Summer Camps' office at [mainecamps.org](http://mainecamps.org). The cost of the book is \$34, which includes shipping.*



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# Maine Summer Camps, Maine Youth Camp Association Executive Director Search

**Maine Summer Camps (MSC) and Maine Youth Camp Association (MYCA), affiliated non-profit organizations, are seeking an Executive Director beginning in Fall 2022.**

**MSC Mission:** Maine Summer Camps supports and promotes meaningful developmental, educational, environmental, and recreational experiences for children in a camp setting. We engage in activities that enhance the quality and effectiveness of Maine's youth camps.

**MYCA Mission:** Maine Youth Camp Association's mission is to monitor, publicly comment and interpret state and federal legislation on behalf of MSC, with the purpose of furthering the welfare of camps in Maine.

## ■ JOB SUMMARY

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director will have overall strategic and operational responsibility in accordance with priorities established by affiliated organizations, Maine Summer Camps (MSC) a 501(c)(3) non-profit and Maine Youth Camp Association, (MYCA) a 501(c)(4) non-profit. The Executive Director is a highly collaborative leader and an advocate for Maine summer camps, requiring the ability to successfully manage current initiatives and programs while developing new programs and initiatives for Maine summer camps.

## ■ DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES OVERVIEW

### Membership

The Executive Director oversees all aspects of the Membership process: insuring the annual renewals of current members and recruitment of new members in three categories — camps, businesses, and individuals, — as well as oversight of the promotional member services in the print, digital communications, and on-line directories.

### Professional Development/Board Leadership/Committee Oversight and Support

Provide support services to MSC/MYCA officers, board and committees. Lend guidance in providing resources and references that enhance and enable camping leaders to increase their effectiveness.

### The Maine Youth Camp Association – Advocacy/Public Policy/Legislative

Maintain relationships with key state agencies and collaborate with policy makers and leaders in business and the camping industry along with advocating on behalf of MSC.

### Public Relations/Promotion

The Executive Director serves as the resource person for the public, the media, and member consultation. The objective is to develop and implement an effective public information program through the searchable MSC website, directory circulation, media coverage, organizational recognition, media interviews, directory/web marketing, news releases, and securing public recognition for camp achievements.

## Finances

Using regular consultation with both professional and volunteer financial advisers, the Executive Director will arrange for accounting of the financial activity of MSC and MYCA, operate within the approved budgets, and be directly responsible for the investment of the Association's financial resources following the policies adopted by the Board of Directors and according to procedures approved by the Investment Committee.

## Resource Development, Research and Communication

Maintain individual consultation with camps and develop/maintain resources to answer questions from the public and agencies about Maine camps.

## Junior Maine Guide (JMG) Program

Work with JMG Director and Committee to ensure the proper administration of the program including promotion, online registration, staff payroll, grant management, curriculum, inventory, and print materials.

## ■ REQUIRED SKILL/ABILITIES

- ▶ Strong supervisory and leadership skills with the ability to develop and communicate the organization's mission and vision.
- ▶ Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- ▶ Ability to establish and maintain working relationships with government agencies, community leaders, and the general public.
- ▶ Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail.
- ▶ Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- ▶ Ability to function well in a high-paced and at times, stressful environment.
- ▶ Proficiency in public speaking and facilitating meetings and strategic planning among multiple stakeholders.
- ▶ Microsoft Office (Outlook, Word, Excel).
- ▶ Basic social media skills.
- ▶ Technology – zoom, VOIP phones, internet, QuickBooks, database management.
- ▶ Constant Contact proficiency.
- ▶ Google – document & file sharing, Google forms or other survey software, Google analytics.
- ▶ Must be able to work flexible hours with travel as needed to meet business needs and demands.

## ■ EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

- ▶ At least five to seven years of management experience and experience related to the summer camp industry required, with supervisory and leadership experience preferred.
- ▶ Bachelor's degree required.

**Interested applicants can send their resume and cover letters to Ashley Adams at Career Management Associates – [recruiting@cmacareer.com](mailto:recruiting@cmacareer.com)**

## DEI Committee concludes a successful year and looks toward summer

**T**he Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee — MSC Board's newest committee — recently held its final meeting of the off-season before taking a summer break. After planning for fall, the group decided to propose the following question to membership: *Have you thought about how you will respond when challenging conversations emerge among campers or staff this summer?*

Some issues adults and children may find themselves discussing this summer include race, gender and sexuality, and current events such as the upcoming Supreme Court decision about women's reproductive rights. You may want to think about:

- ▶ Who provides guidance in these conversations?
- ▶ How do we train staff in this regard?
- ▶ What are appropriate times and places for these discussions?
- ▶ Do our responses vary by age or camp role?

And what "ground rules" can we establish? For example: "Count to 10 before you share your thoughts." Or, "Ask yourself if you are asking a question to gain understanding or to persuade?"

These perspectives and others can be useful as camp leadership plans for a successful summer. As directors we can "get ahead of the curve" and determine how to best support our community members.

If any of this sounds interesting, please think about joining the DEI Committee when we reconvene in September. We meet on weekday evenings and seek new members passionate about inclusion work.

For more information, contact Alexis Dascoulias at [alexis@campcenterstage.org](mailto:alexis@campcenterstage.org).

All the best to each camp as we welcome our diverse groups to Maine in the coming weeks. ■



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# Jack Erler Celebrated at Wyonegonic Camps

## Heartfelt Thanks Expressed for Jack's 50-year Career

**"I** have loved everything I've done and how many people in the world get to work for some 50 years and love every single day . . . I am the luckiest guy I know, and I thank you all."

Jack Erler's words of appreciation at his retirement luncheon are undoubtedly matched by the gratitude of his colleagues and friends throughout the Maine camping community. More than 30 of those camp leaders feted Jack at Wyonegonic Camps on June 4. MSC board president Beigette Gill and MYCA board president Laura Ordway, along with several others, shared stories, humorous riffs on Jack's prowess in Augusta, and deep appreciation for this Maine youth camping legend.

Beigette opened the remarks by telling the gathering that she, too, was one of the thousands who have benefited from Jack's renowned counselor talks. It has been two decades since Beigette was a counselor at Camp Fernwood in 2002 and today, at the helm of Fernwood Cove, she recounted that she has heard about twenty of Jack's "amazing, notorious talks."

Beigette also highlighted the creation of the Jack Erler Award a year ago, established in recognition of Jack's long-time contributions to Maine Summer Camps. Recipients will be chosen by the MSC Awards Committee; the award will be given in Jack's honor to an individual or group for "exceptional support" to Maine Summer Camps.

***"I have enjoyed every moment and you are the folks who have made that possible, and I am deeply grateful for all of you and for what you do, and you do amazing things."***

And Jack likely won't be a stranger to the organizations; he has been designated as a member *emeritus* on both the MSC and MYCA boards.

MYCA board president Laura Ordway gave a humorous twist to the well-known book *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, suggesting elements of a new version.

*All We Really Need to Know about Strategizing with Elected Officials, Analyzing Engagement with Elected Officials and Managing Excessive Interest in Minor Details of Policy We Learned from Jack Erler*, Laura suggested, could be the guidebook for dealing with the state on camp issues.

But Laura's playful approach did not exclude her acknowledgement of Jack's genuine contributions. For example, "Jack believes as much as all of us that Maine campers need to be in the wilderness," she said, referencing Jack's role in creating the Maine Trip Leader program which "continues with strong safety training and limited bureaucratic red tape."

"I wish Uncle Al were here," Laura said, referring to her late father Al Ordway. "He'd shake your hand and say, 'John Paul, thank you.'"



**Jack Erler and his family gathered with more than 30 camp professionals in honor of his retirement on June 4 at Wyonegonic Camps. Jack's career working with Maine youth camps spanned more than 50 years.**

"On behalf of MSC and MYCA's boards, member camps, staff and mostly generations of Maine campers, we thank you for your decades of work to keep the essence of camp thriving in Maine," Laura concluded.

Carol Sudduth reminded the gathering that Jack's camping career in Maine began at Camp Wyonegonic when he as a young psychology major at Grinnell College to lead the sailing program. In 1960, she said, Jack sat on the porch telling a story so long that Helen Cobb remarked "get that guy on a sailboat; he's supposed to be teaching!"

After praise from Mary Ellen Deschenes, Pam Cobb, and Jack's granddaughter, Mazie, Jack offered a brief history of his start in Maine camping, reminding guests that because he's been in Maine only 50 or 60 years, "all good Mainers would say I'm from away."

"The center of my life are children's camps and Maine," Jack said, acknowledging those who helped him along the way. "I have all those people in addition to all of you to thank because it has made my life fantastic, just amazing. I have enjoyed every moment and you are the folks who have made that possible, and I am deeply grateful for all of you and for what you do, and you do amazing things. If you're not convinced it's the children who are going to save the world I don't know who else will."

"That's what we are in the business of doing," he said, "making those children be able to do that."

Jack's gratitude is fully reciprocated. He has helped make Maine youth camping the industry leader that it is. And while the baton of counselor talks and Augusta finessing is being passed on, Jack's impact and commitment have made an indelible mark.

***We appreciate you and all your contributions, Jack, and extend our very best wishes. ■***