

L.L. Bean Renews Campership and Level Ground Initiative Funding

Building on L.L. Bean's wish to send underserved Maine kids to camp



Maine Summer Camps is extremely fortunate that L.L. Bean awarded significant funding again this year—and we received this great news more than a month earlier than we did last year! A \$100,000 grant is being used for camperships for underserved Maine children at MSC day and resident camps. An additional \$25,000 will fund the administration of MSC's Level Ground Initiative starting in July 2023, the beginning of MSC's fiscal year.

The MSC L.L. Bean Campership Committee reconvened to continue the L.L. Bean Campership Program again this year with an added challenge — balancing the importance of providing first-time Maine campers the opportunity to experience the joy of summer camp and of allowing some L.L. Bean-funded campers from Summer 2022 to return to the same camps in Summer 2023. As with funding in the previous year, the bulk of the funds (approximately 75 percent) will again flow to nonprofit camps. MSC is investing 25 percent of the campership funds to independent camps in order to expand camp options for children who qualify for camperships. This is possible because the participating independent camps are willing to make up the difference in tuition. A \$1500 campership might cover half or most of the tuition at a nonprofit camp. This summer, we have more campers enrolled at independent camps who will get a full

summer experience for the \$1500 campership plus the remainder of tuition (as much as \$9000) in campership dollars donated by the camp itself. At the end of the day, camps are working hard to include children from Maine who need camperships in order to attend.

For the 2023 season MSC made every effort to include camps that did not have the opportunity to participate last summer. This year's program is built on last summer's success in honor of L.L. Bean's wish to increase the number of underserved Maine children who benefit from a camp experience in Maine.

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MSC Executive Director Lucy Norvell said, "Research proves how beneficial it is for campers to return to camp summer after summer. Each request for a returning camper received funding, while 132 new campers will also have the chance to experience the joy, learning, friendship, and adventure that await them at the Maine camp that applied on their behalf."

For new campers, the camperships award amounts are, for residential camps, up to \$1,000 for two weeks or less, or up to \$1,500 for more than two weeks, per camper. Day camp camperships will range from \$250-\$400 per camper (regardless of session length). Camps agree to cover the balance.

For returning L.L. Bean campers from Summer 2022, the campership award amounts are, for residential camps, \$500 for two weeks or less, and \$750 for more than two weeks, per camper. Day camps will receive \$125-\$200 per camper (regardless of session length). Camps agree to cover the balance.

L.L. Bean Renews Campership Funding *continues on page 5*

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MESSAGE FROM THE MSC PRESIDENT JUNE 2023

Happy Staff Training!

This is the biggest challenge of the summer: bringing together a staff who, in just one to two weeks, must go from being an awkward group of both old friends and complete strangers, to a team ready to care for, mentor, support, challenge, and entertain groups of children and teenagers.



As we work our way through our staff week schedules, making sure trainings are completed (and recorded), facilities are prepped, and program supplies are in place to make sure everything is perfect for campers when they arrive, we need to be sure to also think about how our staff will remember this week. What are the lessons they will recall months or years after their summer(s) at camp have ended? Just as importantly, what career skills will they take from their experience this summer, and how can we make those experiences as valuable as possible?

The ACA's Project Real Job (PRJ) has many resources for how to help your staff take the most value from their summer at camp as possible. Helping them access these resources, being intentional about the types of work experiences your staff are having and explaining to them how these camp experiences translate into lifelong career skills should be front of mind for all of us.

This summer, MSC is collaborating with the UMaine System, and Maine Department of Education, to start finding more ways to recognize and certify the skills that camp staff develop every summer. Hopefully this leads to a closer working relationship with the higher education system, and Maine's education system, to reward staff for the incredibly valuable skills they learn, and practice (and practice and practice) every summer.

Good luck! Here's to happy, healthy campers and continuing to help staff learn career skills that will take them far and which make this world a better place.

Matt Pines, MSC Board President, Maine Teen Camp Co-Director

MYCA UPDATE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the first regular session of Maine's 131st Legislative session comes to close, MYCA continues to monitor final bills. Several of the bills which are expected to pass will not have clear details about their impact on camps until the rulemaking process is completed in the coming year, including emergency amendments to **Maine's Retirement Savings Program** and Maine's Paid Medical Family Leave.



As with any pending legislation that MYCA feels is critical for membership involvement, we will inform you when it's time to contact your local representatives and senators. Bills that are voted into law and affect Maine camps will be outlined in a memo to Maine member camps (linked within the Hall Monitor and placed on our website for reference), with details about new rules and regulations. Along with the legislative bills, we are monitoring rulemaking in several agencies which directly affect summer camps, including the Department of Health and Human Services (our camp licensing rules), Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (our boating rules) and MUBEC from the State Fire Marshall (our building codes).

Additionally, MYCA:

- ▶ Is invited to be part of a stakeholder group to review completed studies relating to **wake boats and their effects on shoreline property and the environment** (LD 379, amended).
- ▶ Created a one-page "**lake etiquette**" for member camps' staff who operate motorboats. See page 14.

- ▶ Is monitoring a federal lawsuit against a Maine school district for assisting a student with social gender transition without consulting the student's parents, as well as proposed Maine Department of Education ruling re: School Counselor Confidentiality.
- ▶ Meets regularly with DHHS regulators to confirm details re. 2023 **HIP inspections** at youth camps and created an **optional form** camps can use to record partially immunized or unimmunized campers (this does not relate to COVID-19 vaccination).
- ▶ Is following **Thrive Maine Grants** round 2, which closes June 23rd.
- ▶ Monitors camp participation in the Maine Career Exploration Program: a 2-year, \$25 million initiative to connect 6,000 young people with future career opportunities in the state.

All of this information and resources would not be possible without each member of the MYCA Board, and their hard work. Thank you all for serving.

Laura Ordway
President MYCA Board, 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.

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Pre-Camp Tips from MSC's Diversity-Equity-Inclusion Committee

As we welcome our diverse communities of staff and campers, please keep these ideas in mind:

- Develop appropriate training sessions. Find resources at: www.acacamps.org/resources/diversity-equity-inclusion
- Keep a list of external consultants in case you need help responding to a situation outside your experience or wheelhouse (Transplaining for Camps and OAAARS are great resources.)
- Before camp starts, identify which people on staff are qualified to help respond to challenges that arise. Please keep this in mind: When asking staff members to take leadership in diversity training or other diversity matters, make sure your request allows them to opt in or opt out without repercussion.

As always, our goal as camp directors is to help all concerned to learn and grow as we take on inevitable challenges.

Remember that we will all encounter challenges in many dimensions of diversity. This is to be expected in a society that discriminates against people of color, women, non-cisgender, heterosexual people, those of limited economic means, and the differently abled. As always, our goal as camp directors is to help all concerned to learn and grow as we take on inevitable challenges. Some thoughts along these lines:

● Train staff to recognize hurtful behavior and comments (often labeled as micro-aggressions.) Examples: Out of curiosity or nervousness, a white child touches the hair of a black camper. Or a camper says, "You look like a girl." Next steps might include:

- ▶ Redirect the conversation.
- ▶ Attend to the experience and feelings of the harmed party.
- ▶ Talk with the person who said or did something harmful.
- ▶ Follow up with a supervisor.
- ▶ Provide ongoing support as needed for harmed party.

All of this requires that we help staff feel comfortable intervening, as in any other bystander training. One committee member notes that, "Sometimes counselors are afraid to respond in the moment and yet it is so important for them to show their support and understanding, as long as they're not accusatory or overly emotional."

Remind your staff that harmful moments will occur, and while we can't prevent or eliminate discrimination, we can all learn how to respond appropriately on behalf of the adults and children in our care.

Wishing you all great success this summer —

MSC DEI Committee ■



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Mark your calendar! Upcoming Events

Thursday, July 6
16th Annual Spelling Bee at Bradbury State Park

Tuesday, July 11
'Handle Any Camper Behavior Challenge'
Chris Thurber at Camp Wawenock

Wednesday, July 19
Camp Kindness Day

Monday-Friday, July 24-28
JMG Test Camp, Oquossoc

Wednesday, September 20
Annual Meeting and Cookout at Migis Lodge

L.L. Bean Renews Campership Funding *continued from page 1.*

Camp Beech Cliff, a day camp on Mt. Desert Island, will once again host campers who will benefit from the L.L. Bean grant. John Izenour, the camp's office manager, says that a much-valued campership fund from the community doesn't fully meet campers' needs. "Programs like this mean one less family I have to turn away," he said. "We make an effort to give as many kids a camp experience as possible."

Izenour says the advantages of hosting returning L.L. Bean-funded campers are significant. All campers at Camp Beech Cliff gain from a summer experience among children of a broad range of backgrounds, he says. And returning to camp allows children to continue those friendships. "All the kids here develop friendships with kids from other places," he said. "They renew those friendships every summer."

Philanthropic support from the L.L. Bean fund ensures that The Summer Camp program remains a consistent source of support and encouragement for girls navigating uncertain times.

The Summer Camp, a camp serving girls from economically challenged households and foster homes will welcome nine campers thanks to the L.L. Bean grant. Development and Outreach Coordinator Jessy G. Stacy wrote in an email: "Philanthropic support from the L.L. Bean fund ensures that The Summer Camp program remains a consistent source of support and encouragement for girls navigating uncertain times. The L.L. Bean camperships for returning campers are especially valuable as it allows girls from at-risk environments the opportunity to return to our supportive, close-knit community where they feel a much-needed sense of stability and consistency."

"At camp, girls connect with positive adult role models, explore new talents, and develop confidence and a sense of belonging," Stacy added. "Thank you for giving these girls the opportunity to learn and grow through meaningful summer camp experiences!"

At the Y Camp of Maine, CEO/Director Jeff Gleason also has high praise for L.L. Bean's contributions.

"The L.L. Bean Grant is helping us bring more campers to Y Camp who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity. We have easily identified a group of campers through MSC's Level Ground community partners," as well as Spurwink, Gleason said. Gleason said the Y Camp is helping to coordinate transportation to pre-camp health physicals as well as "pooling resources to fill packing lists and have items at the campers' bunks when they arrive."

"L.L. Bean and Level Ground are creating opportunities for us to continue strengthening our community and bridging resources to serve campers (AND their families) all year round," he said.

Camps' generous contributions providing the balance of what camperships didn't cover have nearly tripled the impact of the L.L. Bean grant for summer 2023. The L.L. Bean campership grant leveraged more than \$190,000 in additional campership funding from the camps' own campership coffers. L.L. Bean's

generosity and the generosity the grant inspired from camps mean that 170 of Maine's underserved children will become campers or continue as campers at a time when children growing up in Maine have so much to gain from all that summer camps have to offer.

MSC promotes all the benefits of youth camping, and funding like that from L.L. Bean aligns exactly with organization's mission. Norvell says MSC is deeply appreciative of L.L. Bean's leadership in providing funding for underserved Maine children to be able to attend camp in our state with. "Such immense natural beauty—rivers and lakes, rugged mountains, and nearly 3,500 miles of coastline provide an incomparable setting for outdoor learning and adventure."

But she adds that Maine camps go beyond wilderness immersion. "They create environmental stewards and outdoors enthusiasts, and they also help develop skills in sports, visual and performing arts, even robots and rocketry. They foster growth in youngsters while instilling timeless values: teamwork, responsibility, and mutual respect. Camps, whether public or private, share this mission.

MSC seeks to increase its campership funding "by inviting additional corporate, foundation, and individual funders and donors to join the Maine summer camp community's significant efforts to make summer camp experiences possible for Maine's children for whom there are barriers to attending camp," Norvell said.

"Recent data on child poverty in our state and the complex financial and other challenges facing Maine families further supports the huge need to grow campership funding," she said. "Summer camp experiences boost child development in critically important ways and camps are vital partners for parents, families and schools in raising and educating the next generation."

"Children today need summer camp more than ever!" ■

Welcome New Business Members

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Education Committee Fosters Collaborative and Interactive Approach

The Education Committee has tackled topics this year with MSC members' help and enthusiastic participation. Workshops and webinars spanned from hiring staff, to promoting positive mental health for campers and staff, to an in-person Huddle at Maine Beer Company. One lively book club discussion was held in person and another over Zoom, and we were fortunate to be able to benefit from another webinar from Dr. Laura Blaisdell focused on managing COVID in addition to other communicable diseases at camp in summer 2023. In addition, the committee collaborated with the MSC DEI committee to offer a **Casual Conversation on Supporting Campers from Low-Income Socioeconomic Backgrounds**.

We hope that MSC members have been able to expand their knowledge as well as increase their network of camp professional contacts through the webinars and workshops offered this past year. Fostering a collaborative and interactive approach has been a major focus for the Education Committee over the past several years. Zoom continues to allow us to meet safely and draw high participation for our webinars and workshops. We are so grateful for the continued support of Chalmers Camp Insurance and Redwoods our webinar sponsors for webinars.

If you are interested in getting involved with the highly collaborative and interactive Education Committee, please contact Karen Malm, interim chair, at mander@campagawam.org.

Chris Thurber Returns to Camp Wawenock for Leadership Training

For the first time since the pandemic, renowned camp educator **Chris Thurber, Ph.D.** will return to Camp Wawenock to teach counselor and CIT participants from across MSC's membership. His presentation will take place on Tuesday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 person and participants are asked to bring a bag lunch. After a brief overview, the group will work in small groups, acting out scenarios ranging from bullying and prejudice to missing home and bedwetting. Thurber says participants will not only make new friends but also have renewed confidence in handling whatever behavior challenges come their way.



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Teach Your Campers about Maine's Native American History – Some Programming Resources

MSC's Native American Working Group offers resources in its Indigenous Appropriation Assessment

Summer 2023 at camp presents countless opportunities for programming; many are well-established and part of camp culture and tradition. But have you considered teaching campers about Maine's Native American history? Indigenous peoples inhabited our camp properties many thousands of years before the relatively short history of youth camps, and many such camps have engaged in cultural appropriation offensive to Maine's Indigenous people. As MSC and its Native American Working Group look toward taking steps to address this issue, MSC members are encouraged to consider programming opportunities to foster understanding through education.

MSC shared a definition of cultural appropriation when it introduced its [Indigenous Appropriation Assessment \(IAA\)](#) tool to the MSC membership in March: "A legacy of settler colonialism, cultural appropriation occurs when members of a dominant culture take cultural elements from people who have been historically mistreated without those people's consent. A relevant example might be a non-Native summer camp making use of Indigenous people's language or traditions as part of its programming, without consent or teaching from these Indigenous people."

In the IAA, shared last March, MSC encouraged camps to engage in education about Maine's Indigenous peoples as part of understanding practices of appropriation. And with camp programming decisions on the front burner, MSC would like to direct its camp members to resources they might consider as they teach their campers about Indigenous practices and cultures.

Remember that citizens of Native American Tribes are not a monolith. The history, culture, language, traditions of each Tribe are unique, and within each Tribe, each citizen is unique. Be careful not to generalize or perpetuate stereotypes.

Here's a link to the [Educator's Hub of the Abbe Museum](#), a Smithsonian Affiliate located in Bar Harbor and dedicated to the history and cultures of the Native people in Maine, the Wabanaki. Scroll down to "Educators' Resources" for different grade-level lessons on a variety of topics.

Do you want to help campers understand why cultural appropriation is harmful? Check out this [TedTalk](#) in which Maulian Dana, Ambassador for the Penobscot Nation, articulates in a very personal way the harm of misappropriating Native American symbols and language.

ACTIVITIES TIED TO NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

Campers across Maine enjoy activities whose origins are tied to Native American history. Do your campers know about the history of canoes? Or the game of lacrosse? Check out these:

[Abbe Museum Birchbark Canoe Passamaquoddy – YouTube](#)

[This centuries-old canoe was critical piece of Wabanaki life – Portland Press Herald](#)

[Indigenous Lacrosse – Honoring the CREATOR'S Game at Ontario Science Centre – YouTube](#)

The Creator's Game: Native People Created Lacrosse Yet Now Strive to Play the Sport in International Arenas | [NMAI Magazine americanindianmagazine.org](#)

Origins of craft activities can also be tied to centuries-old Native American practices. The IAA also provides links to information about basket making and dreamcatchers. Camp programming could incorporate this information as campers learn new skills.

[Day School Survivor Shares Tradition Of Making Mi'kmaw Baskets — Wabanaki Collection](#)

History of Dreamcatchers
www.theindigenousfoundation.org/articles/dreamcatchers

BOOKS RELATED TO NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

Do you read stories to your younger campers?

Want to make some additions to your libraries? Here are a few book titles the IAA recommends:

The First Blade of Sweetgrass by Suzanne Greenlaw and Gabriel Frey: "This sweet, authentic story from a Maliseet mother and her Passamaquoddy husband includes backmatter about traditional basket making and a Wabanaki glossary."

The Canoe Maker by Jean Flahive & Donald Soctomah tells the story of Passamaquoddy culture keeper David Moses Bridges. "In this magical tale, David weaves Native American storytelling into the ancient art and spirituality of canoe making, including the heart-rending mythological legend of the partridge, the first canoe maker."

A recommendation for staff and older campers

Twelve Thousand Years: American Indians in Maine Paperback – September 1, 2004 by Bruce J. Bourque (Author)
This book documents the generations of Native peoples who for twelve millennia have moved through and eventually settled along the rocky coast, rivers, lakes, valleys, and mountains of a region now known as Maine. Arriving first to this area were Paleo-Indian peoples, followed by maritime hunters, more immigrants, then a revival of maritime cultures. Beginning

Native American History Resources continues page 9.

Native American History Resources *continued from page 8.*

in the sixteenth century, Native peoples in northern New England became tangled in the far-reaching affairs of European explorers and colonists. Twelve Thousand Years reveals how Penobscots, Abenakis, Passamaquoddies, Maliseets, Micmacs, and other Native communities both strategically accommodated and overtly resisted European and American encroachments. Since that time, Native communities in Maine have endured, adapted when necessary, and experienced a political and cultural revitalization in recent decades.

LAND HISTORY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Here are some live links to interactive maps that may help you in researching land history –

[Places of the Dawnland and Native-Land.ca](#) | [Our home on native land](#)

Information about land acknowledgements can be found on the website of [Wabanaki REACH](#)

Historical Timeline of Wabanaki-Maine relations by Wabanaki REACH

Acknowledging the Land – an article by Maria Girouard, Executive Director of Wabanaki REACH

Maine Summer Camp's Webinar: Land Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territories facilitated by Dr. Darren J. Ranco, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Coordinator of Native American Research at the University of Maine, Orono.

MORE ABOUT ORGANIZATIONS IN MAINE

Wabanaki REACH “supports the self-determination of Wabanaki people through education, truth-telling, restorative justice, and restorative practices in Wabanaki and Maine communities. Wabanaki REACH envisions a future when Maine and Wabanaki people join together to acknowledge truth and work collectively toward equity, healing, and positive change.”

First Light “is a bridge between conservation organizations and Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet and Mi'kmaq Communities who seek to expand Wabanaki stewardship of land. First Light's goal is to expand Wabanaki access and stewardship of land for prosperity and to create a stronger conservation movement that includes and reflects Indigenous expertise and perspective. All will benefit from this, and it all begins with the land.”

Summer is chock full of activities at camp but we hope you will look into these resources as you consider programming and the vital importance of the history of Maine's Indigenous peoples. ■



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Maine Camp History

Camp Burleigh Hill: Boothbay, Maine

By Henry Paul Johnson, Maine Summer Camp Historian

By all accounts, **Camp Burleigh Hill** which was located in Boothbay, Maine operated from 1955 through 1975. The Camp was a specialty camp specializing in sailing. The Camp was initially owned and operated by one Lester Rhoads. The Camp lay on approximately 90 acres of land on a private estate.

It is interesting to note that in 1958 Burleigh Hill became a yacht club as well as a camp with an official listing in Lloyd's Register and membership in the North American Yacht Racing Union and the Maine Yacht Racing Association. In 1962, the Camp began competing in the Mallory Cup competition (for men) and the Adams Trophy (for women). In its first year of competition, the Burleigh Hill crews, made up of mostly Burleigh Hill counselors, won the Maine championship in each event that it entered and, ultimately, went on to the New England finals.

Recorded dates support that the Camp closed in 1975 and one Joe Walsh, a former counselor of Burleigh Hill, continued to vacation at the former camp property with his family until approximately 2000. It appears that an heir of Lester Rhoads sold the property in 2001 following Mr. Rhoads' death. The Camp today remains as a yacht club as well as provides houses available for vacation.

Camp Burleigh Hill was located at Burleigh Hill Road in Boothbay, Maine. Two roads that access the former Camp Burleigh Hill property (both Route 1 and Route 27) can be described as scenic. Specifically, Camp Burleigh Hill was located on the Sheepscot River, which is 66 miles long. Its lower portion is a complex island estuary with connections to the Kennebec River downstream of Merrymeeting Bay. It should not surprise anyone that the water activities that were offered at the Camp included sailing (inclusive of sailing instruction), swimming, skiing, kayaking and paddle boarding.

Camp Burleigh Hill is not only interesting to this Historian as a successful camp, but also reminds this Historian that the uses for Camp property can change over time. By way of example, what was once Camp Chickawah for Boys in Harrison, Maine is now Camp Fernwood Cove for Girls. What was Camp Beaumont in Bridgton, Maine now provides the opportunity for single family residential living.

Camp Kohut in Oxford, Maine which was once a boys camp is now a coeducational camp. Camp Mendota on Pleasant Lake is now Hoop Camp. Upon information and belief, what was the Island Camp Androscoggin Senior Camp now provides single residential housing. What was Camp Truda on Pleasant Lake now provides residential housing for many along with some common area amenities.

While some camp properties and summer camps have gone through transitions, the fact is that summer camps in Maine have had continuous operation, which for many is over 100 years, brings a great smile to this Historian. Wohelo Camps, Camp Fernwood, Camp Arcadia for Girls, Camp Winnebago, Camp Androscoggin, Camp Agawam, Camp Winona for Boys, Wyonegonic Camps, Camp Mataponi, Camp Newfound, and Camp O-A-T-KA, just to mention a few, provide a wonderful baseline for the greater than 100 years of the existence of Maine summer camps. Indian & Forest Acres are turning 100 years old in 2024. ■

Noted author and Maine Summer Camp Historian, Henry Johnson attended and worked at Camp Powhatan in Otisfield, Maine beginning in 1966 through 1973 as a camper, counselor, and ultimately, program director. Mr. Johnson writes about the history of Maine summer camps. You may submit information relating to Maine camp history at: hjohnson@henryjohnsonlaw.com

IN MEMORY

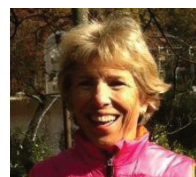
Services Scheduled to Celebrate Lives of Davis Van Winkle, Lynn Lilienthal, Pat Smith, and Jean McMullan

Four services will be held this summer to celebrate the lives of legendary Maine camp leaders.



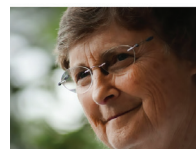
Davis Van Winkle, Wohelo Camps

A remembrance for Davis Van Winkle will be part of the Wohelo Camps Founder's Day on July 9, 11 am-12 pm. For information and to RSVP, please email Mark Van Winkle: mark@wohelo.com



Lynn Langman Lilienthal, Camp Winnebago

A service in memory of Lynn will be held during Family Camp at Winnebago on the afternoon of Friday, August 18.



Pat Smith, Camp Wawenock

Celebration of Life: Saturday, August 19, 11:30 am at Camp Wawenock
RSVP: <https://campwawenock.com/patsmithcelebrationoflife/>



Jean McMullan, Alford Lake Camp

Celebration of Life: Saturday, August 19, 4 pm at Alford Lake Camp.
See page 15 for RSVP information and to read the obituary.

Get Out Your Dictionaries!

MSC's Spelling Bee is back on July 6

Maine Summer Camps' wildly popular spelling bee will make its return on July 6 for the 16th summer. Sponsored by Bangor Savings Bank, the bee will be held at the amazing Bradbury State Park where spellers can also enjoy the local hikes, frisbee on the sports fields, and picnic stations for lunch.

"We couldn't be more pleased and excited to bring back the 16th annual MSC Spelling Bee. We're spellers primarily, but if our records are correct, this year we'll be hosting our 1000th speller! Please join us for a morning of jovial competition." Bob Strauss and Neal Goldberg, directors of Camp Wigwam shared in an email.

"Past years have attracted 100+ spellers and raised more than \$1,000 for Maine Summer Camps," Goldberg said.

Come join us Thursday, July 6 at Bradbury Mountain for a morning of spelling in two age groups, in both team format and individual competition. Trophies will be awarded to top spellers in each age group and best overall camp teams. Goofy spelling attire is encouraged.



[Click here to register campers for the MSC Spelling Bee](#)

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JMG's Instructional Programs Are Renamed

"Words matter."

Ron Fournier, who succeeds Moose Curtis as director of the Junior Maine Guide Program, says the time was right regarding the decision to rename the JMG instructional programs for younger campers.

The two programs are now called **Junior Maine Woodcraft** and **Maine Woodcraft**, changed from the previous titles, Junior Maine Woodsman and Maine Woodsman.

Official discussions regarding the establishment of a gender-neutral terminology for the programs began early in the legislative session with the introduction of ME LD152, which would have directed the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to change the term "woodsman" to "woodsperson," said Fournier. Ultimately, the decision "was handled internally," he said.

"We felt it didn't need to go through legislature," he said. "I met with the commissioner and expressed my views."

***It was a good exercise, with good intent...
designed to make the program
gender-neutral and respectful.***

After some "wordsmithing," a decision on the new terms was made in a matter of days, Fournier said. "It was a good exercise, with good intent," he said, designed to make the program "gender neutral and respectful."

"Words mean things," Fournier said. And using gender-neutral language is an important priority, he said. Fournier said that when he directed the Bryant Pond 4-H and Learning Center prior to joining IF&W, their JMG program already used the "woodcraft" term. The "s" in the term acknowledges that campers are learning skills in the "woods," he added.

The JMG resource manual, *The Art of Outdoor Living*, uses the previous terms. Fournier said while the current copies will continue to be used, a sticker adhered to each book will explain the terminology change.

GEARING UP FOR SUMMER 2023

The JMG Program generally is gearing up for another summer of teaching outdoor living skills, instilling independence and confidence, and supporting the development of young leaders, Fournier said.

Most of last year's participating campers are returning to the test encampment in July, he said. "There will be a pretty good showing," adding that Camp Natarzwi, the Girl Scouts of Maine camp in Baxter State Park, will focus on its younger programs this summer, and will likely return to testing camp in 2024.

Fournier said Moose Curtis, who directed the JMG program for about five decades, continues to serve as a program advisor. "He is certainly in communication with us, guiding us, and helping to effectively pass the torch."

Fournier said the JMG program has also assumed more of a committee structure, with long-time instructors Lynn O'Donnell and Bill Southwick working with Fournier as an "admin team" to executive decision-making, planning, and coordination around JMG issues.

As for the upcoming season, Fournier says he "can't wait." This summer should be a return to normalcy after several pandemic-affected seasons. "I think we will start seeing growth," he said.

"Now more than ever JMG is an important part" of helping youngsters in building "career pathways, esteem building, and having a sense of accomplishment," he said. ■



Level Ground Initiative Will Enroll More Campers in 2023

Maine Summer Camps' Level Ground Initiative is poised for another summer of making camp possible for youngsters from Maine's immigrant and refugee communities.

The initiative, established in 2018, has created community and camp partnerships in which community partners and MSC collaborate to place youngsters at participating camps for a tuition-free camp experience. Camp Bishopswood, a camp partner since the Level Ground Initiative's inception, will enroll Level Ground campers for about 50 camper weeks during this summer's season, says Bishopswood Director Mike Douglass. Many of those campers have been placed by community partner Portland Community Squash. Other placements there have been made thanks to partners at Scarborough Middle School.

... it's been a joy to see our students thrive in these communities and explore new opportunities for personal growth, reflection and professional development.

Kelsey Goodwin, youth program director and MSC/Level Ground liaison at longtime partner Portland Community Squash, reports that "each year, over a dozen of our students gain the opportunity to take part in a wonderful Maine camping tradition. Some have truly found their home away from home. This summer, we are excited to be sending students to Camp Bishopswood not only as campers but also as a part of their staff." She added that, "it's been a joy to see our students thrive in these communities and explore new opportunities for personal growth, reflection and professional development."

Plans are also in the works for Level Ground campers to attend Agassiz Village in Poland, the YMCA Camp of Maine, and potentially other participating Level Ground camps.

Other MSC members also support Level Ground campers, including Winona Camps, Camp Wawenock, Hidden Valley Camp,

and others, all of which have demonstrated a strong and consistent commitment to hosting New Mainers. In total, about a dozen Maine camps have offered spaces to Level Ground campers.

Hipai Pamba, who was hired as the Level Ground Initiative Coordinator in February, is no longer filling this role due to personal reasons. Kris Millard has assumed those responsibilities through summer 2023.

Mike Douglass, chair of the Level Ground committee says he is excited for the upcoming Level Ground season: "Thinking during these past rainy days, it has warmed my heart to know that very, very soon, our Level Ground Campers will be joining many of our camps. I'm excited that there are **more Level Ground Campers going to camp this summer** than last summer.

"It humbles me to know how much work Kris Millard does, behind the scenes, to make this happen and I want to give her a huge shout out," Douglass said.

Douglass says he is also "honored to have our first two Level Ground campers as part of our staff this summer at Bishopswood!"

"Level Ground is exciting, life changing, and just one of the many shining stars that are a part of MSC galaxy! Thank you so much for your hard work and have a great summer!" ■



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LAKE ETIQUETTE FOR CAMP MOTORIZED BOATING STAFF FROM MYCA

The legislation that would have limited wake surfing has created more intense scrutiny of motorized boating activity on Maine Lakes. MYCA will continue to work on best practices of camp boating to help our relationship with the boating coalition that wants to more closely regulate motorized boating on Maine lakes.

In the meantime, share with your motorized boating staff and waterfront director about driving responsibly, keeping in mind shoreline erosion, wildlife protection, other boaters and community members on your lake.

Respectfully share the lake with others by:

- ▶ Drive headway speed (slowest possible) within 200 feet of shore, including islands.
- ▶ It is illegal to waterski/wakeboard within 200 feet of shore. You are allowed to "take and drop off" skiers/boarders at your dock system but it must be at a prudent, safe speed.
- ▶ Always assume others do not know where your camp typically run their boats and give right of way to others.
- ▶ When wake surfing, always aim enhanced wake away from the nearest shore.
- ▶ Keep music and voices in check (sound travels loudly over water).
- ▶ Know your rules of the road when overtaking others, observe buoy meanings, comply with controlled speed areas and when in doubt, go slow.
- ▶ Be aware of your wake. Smaller craft with limited maneuverability can be flipped over by larger wakes AND are often not easy to see.
- ▶ Identify and report invasive species to your lake association.
- ▶ What you bring to the lake, take home from the lake.
- ▶ Pick up trash in the lake if possible.
- ▶ Follow all other state rules and ACA standards, specifically regarding PFDs.
- ▶ Encourage all motorized boat operators to complete a Boating Safety course, either in-person or online.

www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/maine-boating-laws.pdf

MSC Membership Dues Update

Help keep Maine camps safe, informed and full of happy campers

Maine Summer Camps is Maine's only professional association dedicated to organized youth camping! Your membership helps keep Maine camps safe, informed, and full of happy campers. July 1 marks the beginning of our fiscal year. It's the time when membership dues are due for both camps and businesses. Forms for camps and for businesses are now on our website.

The MSC Board of Directors voted to increase membership dues. For camps, this is a 5 percent increase. For businesses, whose dues have not increased recently, the annual Camp Supplier Membership Dues are now \$300 annually. New this year is an opportunity to shift when businesses pay their dues. For businesses that wish to pay dues on a calendar year, it is possible to pay \$150 now and then pay for an entire year, beginning in January. Details are included on the form.

For camps, it is possible to arrange a quarterly payment plan or to make an individual payment plan by emailing Lucy Norvell at camps@mainecamps.org.

As a membership organization, we are grateful to our camp and business members! All members will receive an individual communication about dues for the 2023-2024 year. Thank you!



[Click here to renew a Camp Membership](#)



[Click here to view a Camp Member Directory](#)



[Click here to renew a Business Membership](#)



[Click here to view a listing of Business Members](#)

Dr. Laura Blaisdell's May Webinar Available Online

COVID and Beyond: Infectious Disease at Camp in 2023 with Laura Blaisdell, MD/MPH, FAAP, Thursday, May 11, 2023, 11:00 am to noon - Maine Summer Camps (mainecamps.org)



[Click here to view the webinar](#)



Remembering Jean Gentry McMullan

Jean Gentry McMullan, a national leader in youth camping and director of Alford Lake Camp in Hope for more than 30 years, died at the age of 96 on May 12, 2023, at her home in Asheville, NC.

Jean attained her dream of owning a camp in 1962, when she and her husband, Andy, purchased Alford Lake Camp in Hope. Their concept of “camping” transcended the daily activities at ALC. “The whole essence of camp isn’t pretend,” she once wrote. “It’s a place to practice the real skills of living.”

Jean’s many accomplishments included fostering camp exchanges between countries and hosting the first Soviet campers to visit the U.S. in the 1980s. She was inspired by the work of young Mainer Samantha Smith, a guest of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov after writing him to express her desire for peace between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. After Smith and her father were killed in a Maine plane crash, Jean helped to initiate an exchange with a Soviet camp that the Smiths had visited on their trip. “We believed that children playing, camping and being challenged together was the best way to continue what Samantha had started,” Jean said.

Jean had a national impact on camping, serving as the President of the American Camping Association (ACA), President of ACA New England, and other leadership roles. She received the ACA’s highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, as well as more than 30 other honors in her lifetime.

So many lives have been shaped by Jean McMullan, including her successor, Sue Stocker McMullan, who worked alongside Jean starting in 1970, and purchased Alford Lake Camp in 1993. Jean’s legacy lives on in thousands of ALC campers and in countless camp professionals who benefited from her leadership.

Jean is survived by her children, Kathy McMullan Kopani, Mark Andrew McMullan, and Keith Charles McMullan, 10 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Alford Lake Camp on Saturday, August 19 at 4 p.m.

To see Jean’s full obituary, and to RSVP to the Celebration of Life Service, go to:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/jean-gentry-mcmullan-obituary?id=52127462>