

## Annual Migis Meetup: A Time to Connect, Reflect and Learn

Nearly 100 MSC camp professionals come together at Migis Lodge

With the opportunity to connect with fellow camp professionals and discuss topics relevant to the 2024 camp season, nearly 100 MSC members gathered at Migis Lodge on Wednesday, Sept. 25 for their annual “Migis Meetup.” Beginning with coffee, muffins and catching up, the meeting moved into announcements and awards, including the annual presentation of the Halsey Gulick Award. This year’s recipient, **Beigette Gill**, was cited for her “unflappable” response and caring compassion as she guided MSC as board president during the COVID-19 pandemic. (See story below).

MSC Board President **Matt Pines** opened the meeting by sharing the organization’s profound gratitude for the opportunity to gather at Migis, followed by an extension of condolences to the

Migis organization. Migis’s legendary leader and enormous supporter of Maine camps, Tim Porta, died in July.

ACA New England Executive Director **Michele Rowcliffe** also spoke to the gathering, thanking Maine camps for welcoming ACA NE personnel on visits this summer. She also emphasized the organization’s commitment to accreditation efforts and briefly addressed the topic of a \$45 million grant to the national ACA.

In addition to presenting the Halsey Gulick Award, MSC Awards Committee Chair **Rich Deering** took a moment with board member **Garth Altenburg** to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of longtime MSC board member and former MSC Board

**Annual Migis Meetup** continues on page 9.

## Halsey Gulick Award Presented to Beigette Gill

Cited for her contributions as MSC board president during the COVID-19 pandemic

At the annual gathering of MSC members at Migis Lodge on September 25, **Beigette Gill**, co-owner/director of Fernwood Cove in Harrison, was honored with the Halsey Gulick Award. Recognized for her care, compassion and “unflappable” role as MSC board president during the early period of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gill was presented with the award by Rich Deering. Last year’s awardee, Catriona Sangster, read the following citation.

### Halsey Gulick Award Citation Honoring Beigette Gill

“She was the perfect person to be in that role at that time because she is such a thoughtful, calm presence.” This praise of the 2024 Halsey Gulick Award recipient is well deserved and widely shared. As the COVID-19 pandemic upended the globe, and the Maine youth camping industry along with it, this year’s award winner, serving as Maine Summer Camps board president, rose to the challenge with grace, intelligence, and quiet and confident leadership. “We needed somebody who could relate on a personal level to what was happening to us emotionally as well as logistically,” this colleague continues.



Previous Halsey Gulick Award winners gather alongside 2024 awardee **Beigette Gill** at the Migis Meetup. Pictured are: **Mike Katz, Pam Cobb, Beigette Gill, Rich Deering, Jack Erler and Catriona Sangster.**

Vastly capable and organized, with emotional intelligence “off the charts,” she offered hope, strength and an inordinate amount of time to help the MSC members navigate unprecedented

**Halsey Gulick Award** continues on page 5.

# Maine Summer Camps (MSC)

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Published by **Maine Summer Camps**  
A membership association for Maine youth camps  
Lucy J. Norvell, *Executive Director*  
207.518.9557  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE MSC PRESIDENT

OCTOBER 2024

After many hours of calls, meetings, and document mark-ups, MYCA board members, along with Lucy Norvell and Newell Augur, MSC's government relations and lobbying professional, will meet later this month with DHHS representatives in Augusta to discuss the most recent draft of the proposed Chapter 208 rule. This rule impacts all camps in Maine. Yet the directors of just a half dozen or so camps have taken on the burden of working with DHHS, drafting language, reviewing edits, providing written definitions, and attending hearings in Augusta. They have done so on behalf of all Maine camps. It's unpaid, tedious, and without a doubt, an extraordinary thing to do.



This happens all the time in Maine's camping industry. MSC won recognition at the last ACA national conference for the Indigenous Neighbors Working Group, another incredible initiative of members of the MSC board and community. Our event at Migis Lodge in September was a super successful member benefit that cost camps nothing to attend, but provided community, a delicious lunch, and great knowledge-sharing. There are endless examples.

Why and how are MSC and MYCA able to do all this? I think that camping professionals, above almost any other group, understand the immense power of connection, and those connections are the support upon which all this is built. Each summer in our own camps we create the framework for others to forge connections, we facilitate connections between individuals and groups, and we model how to build and maintain relationships. We see the incalculable value of connection. We know from ecology that organisms with a rich web of connection thrive and multiply. We know from psychology that humans of all ages are happier and healthier when they have robust and varied connections. Kids do better in school, and older adults live longer and healthier when they feel connected.

The same is true of communities, including this professional one. MSC and its sibling organization, MYCA, are healthy, effective, and dynamic because the professional membership understands the value of, and prioritizes, connection.

Over the coming months, MSC committees will undertake all manner of initiatives and events all vital to camps and connection. Keep an eye on the calendar for upcoming dates, and if you'd like to get involved, please reach out to Lucy, or Raine, or me. We'd love to make a new connection.

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

# MYCA UPDATE

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Tuesday, September 17th members of the MYCA board, along with a couple of other MSC member camps, met with representatives from our licensing department in Augusta. This meeting was the latest step in discussions regarding newly proposed licensing rules for youth camps in Maine, known as 'Chapter 208 rules'. This was a productive and collaborative meeting. There are several more steps MYCA will take on members' behalf over the next month, at which point the state will provide us with an updated version of the proposed rules for all youth camps to review and comment on. MYCA will keep you updated throughout the fall as this process continues.



[Click here to read the recent memo from Curtis Thaxter.](#)

In November, MYCA will have an annual post-summer meeting with our state licensing department representatives in Augusta (this is a different type of meeting than the meeting I just referenced above, which was specific to Chapter 208 rules). These particular meetings happen twice each year and include personnel from the Health Inspector Program (HIP), division of Environmental & Community Health of the CDC. The November meeting will be a review of the Health Inspector inspections at youth summer camps during summer 2024, the licensing process, and complaints to Out of Home Investigations. (No private details are shared; the department simply provides us with the number of overall complaints). We discuss trends and concerns.

If your camp had a particularly good, or particularly bad, interaction with our state licensing department this past year, please let MYCA know. It's helpful for us to have examples of interactions that went well, but it's even more important for us to represent MSC member camps regarding any concerning trends we see with our licensing department.

Laura Ordway  
President MYCA Board  
Winona Camps, [laura@winonacamps.com](mailto:laura@winonacamps.com)

*MYCA (Maine Youth Camp Association) is an affiliated 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 agencies and 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. The LDs and laws in rulemaking above have been more thoroughly explained in the most recent **Legislative Report**, which is sent to members prior to the annual and semi-annual membership meetings.*

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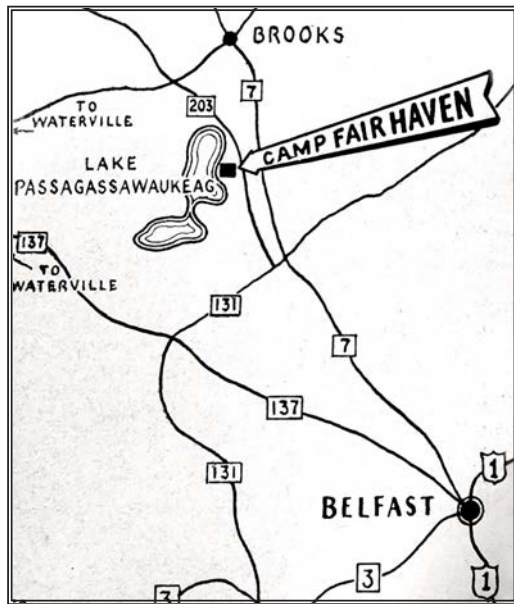
## Maine Camp History

# Camp Fair Haven

## Three Miles South of Brooks Village

By Henry Paul Johnson, Maine Summer Camp Historian

According to a website for Fair Haven Camps, Fair Haven Camps provide a “quality, purposeful, and Christian summer camping experience to young people in Maine and beyond. Summer camp staff are trained to thoroughly prioritize the campers’ experience and to lead to them to activities and devotions.” Its “high quality guest speakers” motivate campers during chapel sessions each day.



The Fair Haven Camps was founded in 1950 and at the time of creation, the camp property and equipment were vested in Central Maine Bible Conference, Inc., a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1951 under the laws of the State of Maine. The camp was originally under the supervision of Reverend Charles Talmadge who was also the Director of the Waterfront. Reverend Talmadge at the time served as a pastor of the St. Albans Union Church and was a teacher at Hartland Academy in Hartland, Maine.

According to a brochure for Fair Haven Camps published in 1958, the camp’s waterfront activities then ranked high in the interests of the campers and included swimming, boating, and canoeing. Regular instruction was given in swimming and lifesaving and campers received Red Cross certifications of achievement as they progressed. Each camper was required to take swimming instruction unless excused in writing by a parent or doctor.

Other activities included hiking, archery, riflery, softball, basketball, volleyball, badminton, campouts, cookouts, and other features. Bible study and inspirational campfires or fireside services were a part of each day’s program.

In 1958, Fair Haven Camps offered four weeks of camp for girls aged 8-16 followed a separate four-week camp for boys. The 1958 brochure for Fair Haven Camps indicated that the water supply was pumped from a spring-fed lake and was purified electronically for drinking and cooking purposes. The camp was licensed and inspected by the State Department of Health and Healthcare and sought to carry out all safety and sanitary measures recommended by the Department.

Initially, the camp store was a very popular spot on the campus, with its “candy, ice cream, and pop.” The campers could obtain these goodies along with t shirts in the green and yellow camp colors as well as stationery, camera film, and other knickknacks. Campers were then limited to spending no more than fifteen cents per day for candy and pop.

It is noteworthy that in 1958, the fee for attendance for one week was \$16.00 for the first week and \$15.00 for each week following after. The purpose of Fair Haven Camp as examined in its 1958 brochure was to “bring boys and girls to Christ, to learn from the Bible to how He wants them to live, and to develop sound healthy minds and bodies.”

In 1958, campers were to bring with them a notebook and pencil, two bed sheets, a pillow with cases, three blankets, towels and washcloths, bathing suit, “enough clothes,” safety pins (large), Kleenex, a jacket or coat, a flashlight, a musical instrument (if a particular camper played one), a drinking cup, and a Bible, as well as such items such as a toothbrush, toothpaste, a comb, and soap.

It is indicated in the 1958 brochure that boys were to bring ordinary play or work clothes and should plan to keep something “clean for Sunday” and girls were to have modest play clothes and dresses for Sundays and special occasions.

It is noteworthy that in 1958, smoking by campers or staff was strictly prohibited. As is depicted in the map graphic at left, Camp Fair Haven is nestled in a little corner off the Maine Woods in the town of Brooks. It rests on a body of water called Lake Passagassawaukeag. By all accounts, this camp has existed in continuous operation since 1951. ■



*This article is written by noted author and Maine Summer Camp Historian, Henry Johnson, who attended Camp Powhatan in Otisfield, Maine from 1966 through 1979 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@henryjohnsonlaw.com](mailto:hjohnson@henryjohnsonlaw.com).*



2024 Spelling Bee winners! Left to right, Ruby, Camp Tapawingo; Elinor, Camp Arcadia; William and Leo, Camp Wigwam

## Spelling Bee Draws Almost 50 Competitors

"The day was perfect," Camp Wigwam Director and MSC Spelling Bee organizer Neal Goldberg said about the July 10 MSC Spelling Bee, sponsored by Bangor Savings Bank. "Great weather, great venue and terrific spirit."

Plans are already underway for the 2025 competition, which will be held on July 15, 2025 at Camp Wigwam. "I hope the event only gets bigger in the years to come," said Margaret Gleason, who brought the Camp Tapawingo campers. "It's a great concept with so much potential."



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## Halsey Gulick Award *continued from page 1.*

challenges. "She was the right leader at the right time," says a fellow MSC board member. "Not only did she do it with flying colors, but she did it at a time that brought us challenges we had no idea to expect."

Another colleague says this camp professional "brought a new definition to what 'pivot' means." Together with former MSC Executive Director **Ron Hall** "they handled themselves so deftly and beautifully." While Ron "got the job done," this colleague reports, this year's award recipient "really came in during very tough circumstances to bring some true compassion and helped us find the joy of what we do."

Ron Hall describes this camping professional as "unflappable" during the peak of the pandemic. "Totally supportive to all and always looking for ways to help camps in the most challenging of times. And she was always ready to give us hugs!" The warmth, compassion and dedication she demonstrated during the pandemic "kept us positive and inspired to do our great work helping kids feel safe and secure," another colleague reports. "But more than that, she reassured members amidst all the challenges of the pandemic that 'all will be well.'"

Our 2024 Halsey Gulick recipient exhibits curiosity coupled with self-awareness, taking the time to "understand herself and therefore herself in relationship to others," says a longtime friend and fellow camp owner/director. She brought great energy and dedication as a former Education Committee chair and, a remarkable listener, she also asks insightful questions. "I think she is extremely knowledgeable but very approachable, so she comes across as such a collaborator rather than a leader from above."

***"The greatest thing is that she has so much insight into the human connection that inspires people to reach for their very best."***

The awardee has also personally faced a life-altering event, and she and her husband met that challenge with extraordinary resilience, colleagues say. Another camp director praises, she is inspirational in how she teaches "us all what's so important about picking ourselves up and reinventing ourselves, making us stronger physically, emotionally and spiritually. The greatest thing is that she has so much insight into the human connection that inspires people to reach for their very best," this fellow MSC board member concludes.

This year's Halsey Gulick Award winner consistently brings her best in providing such inspiration. Honoring her as a champion of human connection, curiosity and compassion, an individual who buoyed an organization facing unparalleled obstacles with tremendous care and capability, Maine Summer Camps presents the 2024 Halsey Gulick Award to Beigette Gill. ■

# Maine Tourism Association Offers Paid Internship Opportunities

## Camp O-AT-KA hosts two CNAs from Maine technical high schools

The hospitality industry isn't just about hotels and restaurants. It's also about camps. That's what two young women studying in Maine technical high schools learned this summer thanks to an internship program offered by the Maine Tourism Association.

The program, funded by a \$500k grant that supports several Maine Tourism Association initiatives, pays for up to three week-internships with the intent of "changing perception of tourism and the hospitality industry," says Maine Tourism Association Workforce Development Specialist Caroline Ridout. This summer at Camp O-AT-KA, a boys camp in Sebago, these two CNAs (certified nursing assistants) enrolled at Maine technical high schools had the chance to learn what camp nursing is all about.

*"People don't think about camps as [tourism] careers or jobs."*

"People don't think about camps as [tourism] careers or jobs," said O-AT-KA Executive Director **Heather Plati**. Indeed, there are myriad job opportunities in tourism that young people may not immediately think about, Ridout says.

"We are trying to start from the ground up, reaching young people while they are still learning," Ridout said. For example, she said, young people may not realize they could be a nurse in a ski resort, a cruise ship, or a camp, she said.

Plati urges camps to consider hiring interns as childcare professionals as well as kitchen workers. "If people knew how easy it was, I think more people would do it," she said.

The grant will be in place through 2025, Ridout said, meaning internships will be possible for the summer 2025 camp season.



[Click here to hear interns speak about their experience](#)



[Click here to hear Heather Plati speak about the internship program](#)





## Another Successful Summer for the Junior Maine Guide Program

Director Ron Fournier Praises Staff, Counselors and Candidates

This summer's program was a great success! Fourteen Examiners were onsite during the week in Oquossuc and I would like to thank them for their dedication and time. They demonstrate leadership and a deep passion for the outdoors, and the skills that JMG represents. This year's Examiners included: Lynn O'Donnell, Katie Curtis, Virginia Geyer, Bill Southwick, Caitlin Southwick, Haley Southwick, Marie Keane, K Bolduc, Lou Falank, Bruce McDonald, Pete St. John, Stephanie Emery, Lindley Brainard, and a special thank you to Dan O'Donnell for all the logistical support, set up and take down, and culinary contributions.

A total of 39 JMG candidates came from eight camps. This number is slightly up from last year. Participating camps included: Arcadia, Birch Rock, Bryant Pond, Kawanhee, O-AT-KA, Natarswi, Winona, and Wyonegonic. Seventeen candidates of the 39 passed and earned the distinction of becoming a Junior Maine Guide.

The counselors did a fine job conveying the Code of Conduct policies at the start of the week, and this amazing group of future leaders raised the bar on themselves. Counselors deserve a huge pat on the back for supporting their groups and allowing them the space in which to experience the JMG program individually and with their group. Counselors did several service projects throughout the week, and they helped to make camp run smoothly and made improvements that will benefit future years. This also helps us in maintaining a great relationship with the Stephen Phillips Memorial Preserve and Bill Roy, the Kennebago/Grants Camps gatekeeper. He was very pleased with the group.

During evening programs candidates had an orientation and heard about the history of JMG, listened to a talk from IF&W Angling and Outreach Specialist Chelsea Lathrop, and were entertained by long-time favorite, Registered Maine Guide and storyteller Roger Lambert. We also enjoyed a visit from MSC Executive Director Lucy Norvell, whose efforts we very much appreciate. Kareem Dieng, director of outdoor education at Camp Beech Cliff also visited. Camp Beech Cliff is one of our newest camps, currently offering the Junior Maine Woodcraft and Maine Woodcraft programs, with hopes of having JMGs in the near future.

A look at overall scores and trends on the various tests revealed that camps who focus on hiking/backpacking and canoeing trips fare much better with practical experience and knowledge. Canoeing in a current, even day trips, will better prepare JMGs in the future. Camps have made some real improvements on axe skills and shelter/fireplace skills as well as managing the camp kitchen and coolers. This is one area that always needs to be prioritized. The Examiners will spend time this summer and early fall making adjustments to several testing modules, and we will make sure that all camps have this information this fall so that they can prepare.

I applaud everyone involved with the program for doing a great job to navigate the path forward to assure that our young people have



JMG Examiners worked with 39 candidates at testing camp.

this and other opportunities like JMG available to them. I hope candidates enjoyed their experience and hope many will continue as your future CITs, counselors, trip leaders, and future stewards of the outdoors. This program is growing, and we are committed to maintaining relevancy, progress, and accessibility to all that wish to participate. ■

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*Level Ground Initiative Coordinator Raine Kerhin enjoyed a snack with a Level Ground camper at Agassiz Village in July.*

## **Level Ground Initiative has Successful Summer of Growth**

Level Ground Initiative Coordinator **Raine Kerhin** was invited to Agassiz Village to visit and have lunch with a few of the Level Ground campers enrolled that session. Close to 100 Level Ground campers were registered this summer. More than 20 camps offered spots free of charge to immigrant and refugee children who have recently moved to Maine. Interested in learning more? Contract Raine at [office@mainecamps.org](mailto:office@mainecamps.org).



**Annual Migis Meetup** *continued from page 1.*

President **Andy Lilienthal**. Deering also extended gratitude to a number of longtime camp professionals for their dedication to Maine youth camping.



*A group of Migis Meetup participants discuss Camp and Climate Change on the Upper Terrace at Migis Lodge.*

The event was planned by the MSC Education Committee and offered roundtable discussions on topics such as parent communications, camper retention strategies, building staff resilience, trips protocol, DEIB at camp, HIP and DHHS update, and economic sustainability. The morning included three separate discussion sessions, followed by the highly anticipated Migis gourmet cookout on the waterfront.



*Beigette Gill reacts to receiving the annual Halsey Gulick Award on Wednesday, September 25. Looking on are, l to r, Catriona Sangster, Andy Sangster and Jack Erler.*



*Andy Lilienthal, Camp Winnebago, was recognized for his longtime service on the MSC Board. Page Rich, Alford Lake Camp, looked on.*

A full range of topics came up during roundtable discussions. At a Parent Communication discussion camp professionals discussed advantages of texting families as a means of effective communication. They also discussed ways of handling difficult parent phone calls. Parents “want to be heard,” participants agreed, and camp staff are served well by approaching these difficult conversations with empathy and respect. One parent communication roundtable also addressed the issue of posting camp photos and the challenges that can arise from that practice.



*Carly Vargas, Kamp Kohut, and Rich Deering, Birch Rock Camp*

Another roundtable featured robust conversation about the tremendous concerns about climate change and its effects on camp operations. From tree growth management to beating the heat, from tick-borne illnesses to erosion control measures and the impact of severe weather, participants offered ideas and shared deep concern about how camps face a full range of climate-related challenges.

“What a great event at Migis Lodge this year!” said MSC Executive Director **Lucy Norvell**. “I’ve received a lot of feedback about how great it was to see some new faces! It is also always wonderful to honor members who have served MSC so significantly as Beigette Gill and Andy Lilienthal. Too many participants to count told me how worthwhile the day was for them. And who doesn’t love the gourmet cookout lunch provided by Migis Lodge?” ■

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Winter Workshop and Business Networking Extravaganza! Camp and Sustainability**

Mark your calendars! MSC's annual Winter Workshop and Business Networking Extravaganza will take place on **January 29, 2025** at the Doubletree Hilton, Portland in South Portland.

Education Committee meetings are well underway to finalize plans on this year's topic. The event is sure to provide thought-provoking and topical information and conversation and, as always, the post-workshop lunch will offer a chance for MSC members to connect and catch up.



Then, attend the Business Networking Extravaganza including the infamous Raffle, filled with valuable prizes.

*More information will be forthcoming!*

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## “Sensitive Responses to Sensitive Topics”

Psychologist and Camp Consultant Dr. Chris Thurber Guides Young Camp Leaders

*“There is no statute of limitations on conversations.”*

In his annual workshop for young camp leaders, **Dr. Chris Thurber** encouraged almost 70 participants to communicate clearly, set appropriate boundaries, and praise curiosity in professionally helping campers navigate sensitive topics. Held on July 9 at Camp Wawenock, the workshop brought together CITs and counseling staff from eight Maine camps.

In introducing topics ranging from political divisions to substance use to gender identity, Thurber urged workshop participants to remember that conversations can be both ongoing and contained by appropriate professional boundaries. Campers’ curiosity, awareness of issues, and unique perspectives deserve praise, he said, but counselors have a responsibility to set limits in how and what they communicate to campers.

It was a morning of connecting, sharing, role-playing and learning—trademark Thurber—and a great introduction for young leaders to summer.



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## Mark your calendar! Upcoming Events

### Thursday, October 17

Virtual Nonprofit Circle for Small, Short-Session camps, 10-11am

### Friday, October 18

MSC/Community Connections Coffee & Open House, 9am-12pm, MSC office, 550 Forest Av, Suite 203, Portland

### Monday -Wednesday, October 28 - 30

2024 ACA Staffing Summit

### Wednesday, November 13

Virtual MYCA Board Meeting, 10am-12pm

### Thursday, November 14

Virtual DEI Panel Discussion: Spotlighting Initiatives & Programs from Summer 2024, 12-1pm

### Wednesday, November 20

Virtual MSC Board Meeting, 2-4pm

### Thursday, November 21

Virtual Nonprofit Circle for Small, Short-Session camps, 10-11am

### Wednesday, December 11

MYCA Board Virtual Work Session, 10am-12pm

### Thursday, December 19

Virtual Nonprofit Circle for Small, Short-Session camps, 10-11am

### Wednesday, January 8, 2025

MYCA Virtual Board Meeting, 10am-12pm

### Thursday, January 16

Virtual Nonprofit Circle for Small, Short-Session camps, 10-11am

### Wednesday, January 29

Winter Workshop, 9:30am-12:30pm, Business Networking Extravaganza, 12:30-3pm, DoubleTree by Hilton, Portland

### Thursday, January 30

MSC Board Meeting, 10am-12pm, DoubleTree by Hilton, Portland

### Wednesday, February 12

MYCA Board Virtual Work Session, 10am-12pm

### Tuesday – Friday, February 18-21

2025 ACA National Conference, Dallas, TX

### Thursday, February 20

Virtual Nonprofit Circle for Small, Short-Session camps, 10-11am

### Tuesday – Thursday, March 11-13

Tri-State Camp Conference, Atlantic City, NJ

### Wednesday, March 12

Virtual MYCA Board Meeting, 10am-12pm

### Thursday, March 20

Virtual Nonprofit Circle for Small, Short-Session camps, 10-11am

### Thursday – Saturday, March 27-29

New England Camp Conference, Manchester, NH

## AMSKIER IS PROUD TO CONTINUE SPONSORING

# Maine Summer Camps



Henry, Jeff, Aimee  
and the AMSkier Family



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## Philanthropic Funding Update

Business Member **Enterprise Mobility** has generously provided \$4000 to support program expenses of the July encampment of the Junior Maine Guide program. We are grateful for the ongoing support of Enterprise!

If you are connected to an individual, business, organization, or foundation that makes charitable contributions, there are many ways to support the work of MSC and join the Business and Camp Members who do! Please visit our website to make a gift.

**Most needed is general operating support, but it is also possible to help Maine Summer Camps:**

- ▶ Provide educational workshops and webinars specifically designed for camp professionals
- ▶ Send Maine children to Maine camps
- ▶ Offer the Junior Maine Guide (JMG) Program
- ▶ Offer immigrant and refugee children the chance to attend camp through the Level Ground Initiative.

Your support of MSC programs and services means the world to us and to the camps and campers we support! Thank you.



[Click here to make a donation to Maine Summer Camps.](#)

# L.L. Bean Funds Third Summer of Camp Experiences and Touches the Lives of 164 Children

**L.L. Bean** made a thrilling announcement last spring that MSC would again receive \$100,000 in funds earmarked for underserved Maine children to attend camps in Maine as well as \$25,000 in funds to support the administration of MSC's Level Ground Initiative (which makes camp experiences possible for children who are immigrants and refugees). At that time, MSC camps were in the thick of fielding record numbers of requests for financial assistance from families for the summer 2024 season. Camps enthusiastically responded to the opportunity to apply for funding on behalf of Maine children in need of camperships.

MSC is tremendously grateful to L.L. Bean for its third summer of playing a pivotal role in making summer camp experiences possible for more than 160 of Maine's most underserved children. Executive Director Lucy Norvell reports, "The structure of the campership program leverages L.L. Bean's generosity and essentially triples its impact and reach."

In Summer 2024 MSC was able to offer funding in the same funding categories as Summer 2023. For new campers, the campership award amounts were, 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 ranged from \$250-\$400 per camper (regardless of session length). Camps agreed to cover the balance. For returning L.L. Bean campers from Summer 2022 or 2023, the campership award amounts were, for residential camps, \$500 for two weeks or less, and \$750 for more than two weeks per camper. Day camps received \$125-\$200 per camper (regardless of session length). Camps agreed to cover the balance of tuition. As in summer 2023, 75 percent of the campers receiving camperships attended nonprofit camps. Twenty-five percent of the funds went to campers at private camps.

Each of 36 MSC camps received at least one campership. Participating camps leveraged the funding they received by offering an estimated additional \$200,000+ of campership funding from camp donors and their own campership coffers. Many camps made up the tuition gap between the true cost of tuition and the campership amount. In some cases, this meant a \$1,500 grant from the program leveraged another \$9,000 of funding from other donors and the camp itself. MSC balanced serving as many new campers as possible while also supporting each of the campers who experienced camp through this program in Summer 2022 and/or Summer 2023 and wished to return.

Letters of thanks for the campership opportunities are poignant. Campers and families are already inquiring about whether L.L. Bean funding will be available in Summer 2025 based on the amazing camp experiences L.L. Bean made possible in Summer 2024! Camps expressed their deep



**L.L. Bean campership recipient playing in Clay Brook at CREA Camp.**

gratitude for making it possible for MSC camps to reach their goals of serving more children from Maine.

*"I am writing to extend our deepest gratitude for your incredibly generous sponsorship, which has made it possible for 11 children to attend our upcoming summer camp. Your support means the world to us, and we cannot thank you enough for your kindness and generosity. Thanks to your contribution, these children will have the opportunity to engage in enriching experiences, forge new friendships, and create lasting memories that will positively impact their lives for years to come. Your belief in our mission and dedication to making a difference in the lives of young people is truly inspiring. We express our gratitude to L.L. Bean for their support." – Deb Harriman, Camp Laughing Loon Board President*

This quote is representative of the very appreciative notes camps send in appreciation of funding from L.L. Bean.

Camp professionals understand the gains for children who return to camp for more than one summer. Research supporting this is compelling, so it is significant that L.L. Bean funding is supporting summer over summer experiences and ongoing growth and belonging in a summer camp community for returning campers. Norvell emphasized, "All camps that

**L.L. Bean Funds Third Summer** continues on page 14.

**L.L. Bean Funds Third Summer** *continued from page 13.*

applied on behalf of returning campers for Summer 2024 received campership funding for those children. We awarded \$36,860 of the L.L. Bean grant in camperships for returning campers at all types of camps: day, residential, nonprofit, and private.”

The diversity of campers benefitting from L.L. Bean funding is both broad and deep. Several children who received camperships are growing up in foster care, come from families that are unhoused, or come from low-income families burdened with financial and other worries and demands. Reports on the wellbeing of under resourced families in Maine are worrisome and the statistics are staggering in terms of families’ challenges to meet their children’s basic needs. MSC is pleased to partner with L.L. Bean to make a difference by providing the opportunity for 164 children to attend a summer camp in their home state of Maine. Summer camp experiences are a critically important growth and development opportunity for this group of children receiving L.L. Bean camperships.

More Maine children deserve the chance to experience summer camp in our state with such natural beauty combined with Maine camp professionals’ knowledge and experience. Camps provide an incomparable setting for outdoor learning and adventure that attracts children and camp staff from around the country and the world. MSC must increase future campership funding to an amount that meets the significant need. We will invite additional corporate, foundation, and individual funders and donors to join MSC’s significant efforts to make summer camp experiences possible for Maine’s children who face barriers to attending camp. Norvell concluded, “Generous support for a third year from founding donor of our campership initiative, L.L. Bean, has created a foundation to grow for the future.” ■

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**Annual Meeting held virtually on Sept. 11**

The MSC/MYCA Virtual Annual Meeting was held virtually on the afternoon of September 11.

Download the Agendas, the Semi-Annual Membership Meeting Minutes, and end-of-fiscal-year financial documents for MYCA and MSC, Committee Reports, and 2024-2025 Board of Director Nominations for MYCA and MSC by clicking the following links.

[Membership Meeting Agendas](#)

[MSC Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes 3/22/24](#)

[MYCA Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes 3/22/24](#)

[MSC YTD Financials – June 2024](#)

[MYCA YTD Financials – June 2024](#)

[Nominations for MYCA Board](#)

[Nominations for MSC Board](#)

[Committee Chair Reports](#)