

# NEWFOUND • OWATONNA Call of the loon

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FALL 2023



## Growing Together

BY SETH JOHNSON, Executive Director

I'm so very grateful for all the campers, staff, families, alumni, and friends who come to Camp or support Camp from afar each summer. You really make Camp the great place it is. Camps Newfound and Owatonna had over 500 children and adults come to the shores of Long Lake to spend part or all of the summer of 2023. These 500+ were Newfound and Owatonna campers, Family Campers, Creative Artists, counselors, kitchen staff, trip leaders, directors, and many others. They came from Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Germany, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and many of the US states. They were children, teenagers, college students, parents, and grandparents. Some were brand new

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## Call of the loon

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### PROGRAMS

Camp Newfound *for girls*  
Camp Owatonna *for boys*  
Family Camp *for everyone*  
Creative Arts *for adults*

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to Newfound and Owatonna and others were alumni or had family members who had been at Camp for generations before. There is truly a program for everyone, and I love witnessing the depth of the experience and the spiritual growth everyone experiences at Camp.

One of my favorite parts of my job is seeing this spiritual growth in action. As I walked around Camp this summer, I heard the words of encouragement that counselors shared with campers as they were taking a new route to the top of the rock wall or learning to waterski for the first time. I witnessed the kindness older campers showed to younger campers as they ran around together during Mission Impossible and Counselor Hunt evening activities. And at Morning Meeting, I saw campers and counselors share their gratitude to God and for Christian Science. At Family Camp, I saw campers of all ages speed down the zip-line, compete in our camp-style triathlon, and share healings at testimony meeting. I watched Creative Arts campers challenge themselves to expand on their creativity while they painted, sang, photographed, and carved. Everywhere I turned throughout the summer, I could see so clearly how Camp makes a difference in people's lives.

Our biggest goal is to provide a loving, challenging, and fun environment for campers and staff based on the teachings of Christian Science and our love for God and His love for all His children. I rejoice in bearing witness to our Father-Mother God's presence at Camp expressed by the campers and staff. It's a great opportunity to see the spiritual nature of man in action. Our metaphysical theme this past summer was a springboard to all we experienced at Camp: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself" (Luke 10:27). We're focused on living the Love that is always present for everyone. Camp is about loving God and loving all His children every day. As Mary Baker Eddy says, "Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and bestowals. It is the open fount which cries, 'Ho everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters'" (Science and Health, 13:2-4).

Thank you for your love of Camp: for sending your children, for working at Camp, for supporting Camp financially, and for all your prayers for Camp and the world. We could not do it without you. If you know someone who you think would benefit from and enjoy attending or working at one of our programs, please let us know and point them in our direction. Join us in Maine – at Newfound, at Owatonna, at Family Camp, or at Creative Arts. We'd love to see you in 2024!

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**Save the date: Mark your calendars for a Labor Day weekend 2025 (Friday, August 30 - Monday, September 1) joint Newfound-Owatonna Reunion.**

**Join our Newfound-Owatonna Career Network!** Thank you to all who have helped us build the Newfound-Owatonna Career Network. Let's keep the momentum going! At the end of the summer, our recent staff members were able to use the career network and contact camp alums and friends in multiple career fields for guidance and mentorship as they explore their future career fields. It's a fantastic resource for our summer staff, and we want to keep it growing. If you would like to be a part of this initiative or have questions, please email [info@newfound-owatonna.com](mailto:info@newfound-owatonna.com).



# The Rain of Divine Truth, Life, and Love

BY BARRETT PIERCE

I promise the title of this article is not a mistake. In fact, I didn't even come up with it on my own. The idea for this title came from a young Newfound camper years ago in a memory that, to this day, remains as one of my favorite moments ever at Camp. It happened like this: as both camps gathered together for our weekly Wednesday evening testimony meeting, a young camper bravely stood up, waited for the microphone, and prepared herself to share a testimony in front of the large audience that joined in the amphitheater that evening. She took the microphone and said something like this: "This week during our morning Bible Lesson study time, we were talking about the Daily Prayer with our counselors. We were going through it each part at a time when we got to the part about the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love being established in us. My counselor explained what it meant, and I was surprised by what she said because I had always thought it was the *rain* of divine Truth, Life, and Love. I had never even known "reign" was a word before that. I guess I had always thought it meant that divine Truth, Life, and Love were always raining down on us from above. And as we talked about it more, even though I learned that was not the right word, I guess it still made sense to me that even though divine Truth, Life, and Love were always governing us, they could still rain down on us too!" I don't think there was a single one of us staff members not smiling from ear-to-ear.

This moment was so unforgettable to me for one simple and very powerful reason: the wonderful purity of children. Only a young child would find that idea from a simple line in our Daily Prayer. And yet, what a wonderful idea it is! Can we not also rejoice in the idea that divine Truth, Life, and Love rain down on us in times of need and rejuvenation?! How cool is that! This short story is always the first thing that comes to my thought when someone contends that we cannot learn as much from children as they can learn from us. Clearly, we always have more to learn, and on more occasions than we often admit, children have a much easier time coming up with new ways to think about things than we do.

There is not a person who has experienced Camp Newfound

and Owatonna who has not witnessed that absolute purity expressed in children. It serves as the most perfect reminder of Jesus's command that we shall all "become as little children" (Matthew 18:3). As we grow up, and are not able to spend as much time at Camp as we used to (as we wish we could), that childlike innocence becomes more and more precious, though we tend to experience it less and less in our daily lives. For me, as a United States Marine Corps Officer, seeing purity in my day-to-day life does not come quite as naturally as it did when I was a counselor at Owatonna. The military is by no means the only institution today which tries to strip us of our innocence. In opposition to these suggestions, we know true childlike-



ness. We have seen it in its clearest form, on the shores of Long Lake. To this day, when an old photo resurfaces, we reunite with friends from Camp, or John Denver's "Country Roads" plays out of the speakers, all the memories come flooding right back. We know what it means to be like little children, that perfect Love. Camp Newfound and Owatonna showed it to us. Now today, as "grown-ups," we have those experiences to hold on to so tightly, to pass along to the next generation, perhaps to kids of our own, and share with the whole world. We never have to be afraid of losing it, for we are covered, always, in the rain of divine Truth, Life, and Love!

# Celebrating a Summer of Growth

*I'm grateful the counselors are here  
to support us and to help us grow ...  
not just in activities, but they help us grow  
as people and they help us grow spiritually.*  
– Newfound Camper

BY MARY RANKIN, Newfound Director



**L**et's celebrate and acknowledge how awesome Newfound is, especially this past summer! If you are reading this, it is likely that you already know and love Camp, but it's still so important to take time to remind ourselves and really articulate what specifically it is that makes Newfound such a special place in our hearts.

So who are we and what are we all about?

## WE LAUGH AND HAVE FUN

I'm reminded of the numerous dance parties we had in the rain this summer. We had lots of rain, but the campers and staff embraced every moment of it with mud soccer, dance parties, puddle jumping, and more. On one particularly rainy day, a camper announced to her cabin that she was not just having fun, but that she was "having the time of my life." Another camper shared that she feels criticized at school for her outbursts of joy, but at Camp she feels encouraged to express her true happy nature. And I love this quote from a staff member: "When I am intensely focused on good, dress-up days, funny accents, games, and jokes become more creative and natural! Learning to fearlessly set my gaze on the high and lovely things has been one of Camp's many wonderful blessings in my life." At Camp we love to laugh because laughter brings us together; it connects us to

each other and builds lasting friendships.

## WE CHALLENGE OURSELVES

My favorite story of trial and triumph this summer is about an older camper who came to Newfound having no idea how to swim, and she admitted that she felt afraid of the lake. Imagine the courage it took for her simply to come to Camp, a place surrounded on three sides by water! After just a few days of feeling the support, love, and encouragement that was all around her, she decided to conquer her fear. Every day she pushed through her trepidation, and by the time she left Camp, she was much more comfortable in the water and was beginning to swim on her own. Another sweet moment of facing challenges was when a girl was struggling to get up on water skis. At the end of the week she announced, "I learned this week that it's ok not to get something on the first try. Be persistent and stick with it! It feels much better to work hard than to get it the first time." I love how this young woman learned the power of accomplishment and hard work, a lesson that will stick with her for the rest of her life.

## WE ARE SERVANT LEADERS

A servant leader is someone who looks for ways to uplift others and their community. A moment of servant leadership

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# Small Changes = Big Impact

BY REID CHARLSTON, Owatonna Director

Recently, I sat down for lunch with a long-time supporter and friend of Owatonna. He and I live in the same area, and we had gotten to know each other a little bit during the centennial reunion in 2021. We hadn't stayed in touch other than a few non-committal texts suggesting we meet at a favorite restaurant sometime. When he pitched the idea again this fall, I thought it would be fun to get to know him better, so I said yes and we set a time.

Our conversation bounced from Camp to work to raising children to church and back to Camp. I learned some new things and we laughed at some old

stories, but one thing he shared really stuck with me. He told me that a while back he realized how much he didn't enjoy asking for subs for church work because it was always hard to get someone to volunteer. We've all experienced it. He noticed how wonderful it was in those times when a quick response came back from a willing member. Recognizing that he had often delayed his own responses when asked, even though he knew he could fill in, he decided that from then on he was going to be quick to say yes whenever possible. I'm sure, in the years since, many of his fellow church members have been grateful for this change, and I was

happy to hear him say that it had helped make church work more meaningful for him. It was one little change with a significant rippling effect.

In the week after our lunch, I kept reflecting on my friend's story, thinking about the little changes we can make that can have a big impact on our experience and that of those around us.

Last spring I called a mother of a camper. Her son had been coming for a number of years, so I was surprised his registration hadn't come through yet. She let me know that he didn't want to be back at Camp, but that she was encouraging him to come. One of his main

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# CIT: A Summer of Transformation

For many campers, their Counselor In Training (CIT) summer is the highlight of their years at Newfound and Owatonna. The program focuses on teaching leadership skills that will help make the CITs successful not just as future camp counselors but also in their future academic, social, and work pursuits. It is really a transformative summer! We asked the 2023 Newfound and Owatonna CITs what was the most important thing that they learned during their CIT summer, and here are their responses:

I learned to practice Christian Science in every area of my life. By doing this, listening to God first has become my first instinct. Through Christian Science many of my relationships have healed and grown so much, as God encourages me to act with love first. My understanding of Christian Science grew so much this summer, and I now feel like I understand the power that Divine Love has on the world, which also helped my thought heal, too.

I learned this summer how important and impactful it is to always try and be your best even in the little things. You should make being your best a habit so that you automatically do it.

The thing I learned this summer was trust. I had been having difficulties trusting God and just people in general after a rough school year. And throughout the summer I became so connected to my cabin and even closer to God. This summer showed me how to put reliance on God which really helped me grow spiritually.

I learned how to make the most of every moment with the people you love.

This summer I learned that I am capable of anything, because God is capable of anything. Most of the time, I make an effort to encourage others and have a positive attitude, but sometimes I lack confidence that I will be able to accomplish a specific task. Usually I hide that feeling. For me, the greatest challenge that I thought I would face was doing the circuit. Before I did it, I felt nervous, and did not hide my lack of confidence, but as I completed the circuit I realized I can do so much more, physically, than I expected of myself. I also know now that the circuit is

just as much a mental and spiritual challenge. I was able to lean on the guidance of God to see me joyfully through the circuit. I brought this mindset to other aspects of my time at Camp, and in my life now, facing challenges head on because I knew I would have God's guidance right there.

I learned this summer to always trust in God, and to keep Christian Science at the forefront of my thought whenever I am confronted with struggles. CIT summer wasn't easy, and on paper it is hard to imagine that we really completed all of the tasks that we were challenged with. I believe that it would not have been possible for me to have a summer as harmonious and smooth as I did without the use of the wonderful metaphysical concepts given to me by Camp, my counselors, and angel thoughts received along the way. This was a complete change in thought that I am incredibly grateful for.

I learned from CIT summer how to be confident in my abilities. I went into the summer scared to lead a team by myself and make decisions that would make an impact. I didn't feel confident in my mental strength or connection with God, or my physical abilities to complete tasks and didn't think of myself as an athletic person. But CIT summer changed all of that. I learned how to deal with any problem that was presented to me with confidence and certainty. I learned how to make decisions I knew were right and lead a group of campers with love and care while also getting stuff done. I learned to not fear physical challenges, and take them on no matter the difficulty, because I knew God would support me through all of it. The amount of growth I had during the summer is the most I have ever experienced, and I am so grateful for the lessons I learned and the values and skills I will take into my life.

This summer I realized how strong my connection is with God and Christian Science. I saw how it affects the people around me in a positive way. I came to the realization that the love Camp gives is a belonging I will always cherish.

The most important thing I learned from CIT summer is how to rely on God in any situation, big or small.



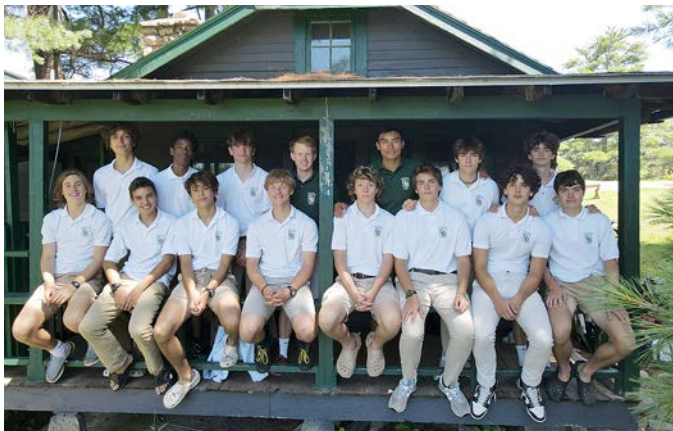
CAMERON MARTINDELL



NATE RICHARDS



JOHN MCCARDELL



NATE RICHARDS







# Coming Home to Family Camp

BY SUSAN YOUNGBLOOD

This summer, our family had only four days when everyone was available to take a trip together because of our college student's summer internship and our high schooler's regimented rowing training. I began throwing out options for the family to vote on: Go to a resort on Cape Cod or in the mountains? Explore a new city? Rent a house on the water? Family Camp?

Family Camp?

We hadn't been to Family Camp in many years. However, everyone was very familiar with it. From the time Zack and Luke were toddlers until they were old enough for Owatonna, we were family campers. When the boys were young, as parents, we loved the independence they gained running around Newfound

and participating in activities that helped them develop new skills and confidence. They made friends with kids of all ages who were also there. We also adored the staff. They were incredible role models.

They knew Camp was an atmosphere filled with unconditional love and support and they were confident they would be welcomed.

This summer, it was a unanimous vote to go to Family Camp. Interestingly, Zack and Luke knew it was unlikely there would be other families there who had kids their ages and that it was quite possible we might only know the senior staff there. The beds were not luxurious. And it was a five hour drive to Harrison.

When I asked them separately why they picked Family Camp over another vacation, they told me it was because Camp was their family. Their people. It didn't matter if they knew anyone or not. They knew Camp was an atmosphere filled with unconditional love and support and they were confident they would

be welcomed. You don't get that experience at a resort.

Charlie and I wanted to go to Camp because we appreciated the multitude of activities to pick from and the harmonious and loving atmosphere. Once at Family Camp, we loved seeing young families that reminded us of our time at Family Camp when our guys were little.

Zack and Luke also said they loved the activities at Camp and they knew they would have a great time, even if by chance it wound up raining the whole time. It did not rain the whole time. What did we do in four days? Zipline, pickleball, windsurfing, the Cherry Island swim, frisbee on the sand bar, paddleboarding, tennis, bumper tubing, canoeing, the cinnamon bun run, sailing on a catamaran, and running Heartbreak Hill (a few times). And we gave gratitude. Gratitude for the people who worked at Family Camp, for the beautiful location, and for the loving atmosphere where people are actively living Christian Science. We will be back!





# The Joy Corps

*Creative Arts 2023*

BY DEB HENSLEY, Creative Arts Director

We fired up the wood stoves this summer. For a few crisp days we cozied up in lodges and cottages to write, strum, sing, carve, dance, and paint. And as the days warmed and the sun spun out its gold, we colored in the landscapes of our lives – laughing ‘til we cried and crying ‘til we laughed again.

Through it all we cherished something we always cherish at Creative Arts: Joy.

It bloomed in the easy fondness between friends, found us on early morning walks, and shimmered the water the night we swam off the point at dusk.

But there was deeper joy at work here, too, as there always is – unexpected, sometimes difficult, always transformative. And it did not fail us. It broke up inhibition after inhibition, called out hidden talent and showed up as that bold, true, new, creative you. It powered our artistic aha moments, inspired our prayers, recast mistakes, and made beauty impossible to ignore.

Moreover, even though Creative Arts lasts only eight days, it helps set the stage for the constant spiritual response to unrest and fear throughout the whole year. Because, as writer

Toni Morrison says,

"This is precisely the time when artists go to work. There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal."

Creative Arts, then, is our unique reply to fear – where joy is a protest, art is on the march, and jubilation is doom-proof.

In Thy house securely dwelling,  
Where Thy children live to bless,  
Seeing only Thy creation,  
We can share Thy happiness,  
Share Thy joy and spend it freely.  
Loyal hearts can feel no fear;  
We Thy children know Thee, Father,  
Love and Life forever near.

(Christian Science Hymnal, No. 58:3)



## Every Donation Makes a Difference

Help to bring all the things you love about Newfound and Owatonna to a new generation of campers. Support Camp by giving to our Unrestricted, Campership, Capital, or Endowment Funds or give monthly as a Sustaining Friend. Please consider Camp in your current and future Planned Giving. To donate: [www.newfound-owatonna.com](http://www.newfound-owatonna.com) or use envelope.

from this summer that really sticks with me is when I walked into the CIT cabin one evening to say goodnight. I found the CITs circled tightly together eagerly writing notes and brainstorming together. When I asked what they were working on, they responded that they were preparing a presentation to give to the other campers about how to move from feeling self-conscious to self-confident, from doubt to certainty, and from feeling unworthy to worthy. The CITs recognized that lack of confidence and self-love was something some of the middle school and high school campers were dealing with, and the CITs wanted to help empower the girls to all see their beauty and value. I also can't forget when a tiny seven year old asked me if she could accompany her fellow campers to a race that we call Mountain Mama. She wasn't competing in the race, but wanted to attend just so that she could cheer everyone on and make sure that each participant felt supported. Competition at Camp isn't about who wins, it's about learning how to uplift and celebrate each other.

## WE ARE NEWFOUND WOMEN

You might wonder what a Newfound Woman is. In a nutshell, it is a reminder that we are spiritual beings and as a result we are limitless, confident, kind, inclusive, strong, courageous, humble, and so much more. These divine qualities and qualities of "The Newfound Woman" are infinite, good, and beautiful! On the last day of Camp, as the entire camp sat together in a circle, a camper said to everyone, "When I think of the Newfound Woman, I think of each of you" and she pointed to the entire camp. She was seeing each young woman as her pure, spiritual self. The Newfound Woman lets her light shine and at the same time sees the light in everyone else.

## WE GROW (AND MOST IMPORTANTLY GROW SPIRITUALLY)

We witnessed so many healings this past summer. Here are quotes from staff and campers about how they grew spiritually at Newfound this year:

After a healing of knee pain, I feel a connection to God that I've never felt before. *-camper*

I grew in the self-accountability aspect of Christian Science by working in the kitchen. I learned how to prioritize God and daily study of Christian Science because it is something that empowers me, not because it was built into my schedule. I focused on my self-expression of love and joy, and was able to see and feel

the impact of those qualities being expressed by others much more profoundly. *-staff member*

Through feeling the love that others have for me at Camp, I learned how to love myself. I used to put myself down all the time and now I see how detrimental that is. I now genuinely love myself. *-camper*

The environment of Camp is one of constant support and encouragement, which I look forward to year after year. While I was at Camp this summer, I was able to truly reflect and realize the importance of guarding my thoughts/standing porter at the door. *-staff member*

I learned that our prayer (the collective prayers of our camp family) is important and impactful. Each year I'm grateful for God's constant protection, but it stood out to me a bit more this year. At Camp, prayer often is focused on overcoming fear, doubt, and any sense of limitation. *-staff member*

## WE GIVE GRATITUDE

Gratitude is a transformative force that impacts our lives in big ways. It's a reminder that even in the most challenging times, there is always something to cherish and appreciate. Gratitude fosters a connection to God and a recognition of the good that is always coming our way. Here is some gratitude from campers this summer:

I'm grateful the counselors are here to support us and to help us grow ... not just in activities, but they help us grow as people and they help us grow spiritually.

I'm grateful that Camp is here to push us to be better people.

As the sun sets on another incredible summer, I am left with a bursting heart, precious memories, and a profound sense of gratitude for Camp Newfound. This summer was a testament to the transformative power of our community, where we celebrate each other's successes, embrace our individuality, support each other's growth, and learn more about who we are as children of God. There is no place else on earth that is Newfound ... it's one of a kind!



concerns was sports. This guy is kind and funny and one of the most artistically talented people at Camp, but sports were never really something he spent a lot of time with at home. He didn't love team sports periods and sports on team days at Camp. While I strongly believe that Owatonna has a lot to offer every boy, regardless of his athletic interest and abilities, I did understand that those wouldn't necessarily be his favorite parts of the summer. Well, mom won (as moms often do), and he was signed up. I was grateful to see him there and, as usual, he was a joyful and loving presence.

During the last week of the session, I was editing home reports before they were sent out. In our new format this year, we asked each camper to complete the sentence, "Something I learned this summer was ...". I'm not sure he realized how profound his answer was when he said it, but when I read it I paused to reflect on his summer. He said, "Activities I don't enjoy are more fun when I participate more." Many of us are happy to check out when we need to do something we don't like, so his decision to embrace participation was amazing. I remembered watching him from the HQ porch on team days, noticing that he was more engaged than I'd ever seen him before. His decision to try harder clearly had an impact on his experience, and it blessed those around him – his teammates and everyone else on the field.

This is the real work that Owatonna is doing with these boys. Sure we have fun and try challenging things, but ultimately the highest good we do is to give everybody at Camp the opportunity to make positive choices that are going to impact their lives – the chance to more fully demonstrate that they are the reflection of God. It can be choosing to challenge a fear, dig deeper into the Bible Lesson, be more patient with cabinmates, or do more than their fair share in cabin cleanup. Whatever it is, the culture at Owatonna is that we strive to make choices that will make us more aligned with our true nature. We do this for our own growth and to be a blessing to the world.

Another example came from one of my counselors. There is always a temptation to be a little tired during week six of the summer. By then, counselors have been at Camp for nine weeks, including pre-camp, of very full days, and while I will applaud this year's group for doing their best to work through that, we did need something to change the tide as we went into week seven. One night late in the week there was one counselor left in HQ before lights out. I turned to him and said, "We need someone to help inject some energy into things as we go into our last week of Camp. He smiled and said ok and went to bed.

I wasn't sure if he had taken it to heart or just placated me in the moment, but on Saturday morning I got my answer.

He and another counselor had both written songs for our Congo Bar challenge that afternoon, and we only could use one of them. We let them know they would both perform at our staff meeting and we would vote on which one to use. The time came, and this counselor popped up to the center of the circle. With his song memorized, he jumped into a Congo Bar-praising, a capella version of "I Feel Good" by James Brown, complete with dance



moves. While he may not have outperformed The Godfather of Soul himself, his song won easily over a well-written but slower version of "We Are The Champions" by Queen.

While he was performing, I watched the staff. None of them were expecting a performance like that, and the energy it injected into the group was tangible. We went on to have one of the best single weeks as a staff in my time as director, and I would argue that his decision to be the best with that silly performance was just the catalyst we needed to finish with a bang – including one of the closest Great Races in Owatonna history (but that's a story for another day).

For each of these three Owatonna men, a little choice he made to be better or to do more had a significant impact. It is what we practice at Owatonna and what I encourage every Owatonna man to take with him into the rest of the world at the end of the summer. With all the challenges our world seems to be having, I hope each one of us will take a moment to look at ourselves and to let God show us what small decisions we can make that will make us better people, better citizens, and better healers. We will keep working on that each summer on the shores of Long Lake, and I know our impact will continue to be felt.

# Newfound-Owatonna Call of the loon



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## MAKE A NOTE



**We have a program just for you  
on the shores of Long Lake!**

### 2024 CAMP PROGRAMS & DATES

1st session	June 16 – July 5
Two-week session <i>for new campers</i>	June 16 – June 29
2nd session	July 7 – August 2
Full session	June 16 – August 2
CIT	June 16 – August 2
Family Camp Week 1	August 5 – 11
Family Camp Week 2	August 12 – 18
Creative Arts	August 20 – 27

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