

NEWFOUND • OWATONNA Call of the loon

FALL 2024



Your Camp Home

BY SETH JOHNSON, Executive Director

We are so grateful for an excellent summer at camp in 2024, and all the blessings it brought to so many, and we are already looking forward to a great summer in 2025. We are also looking forward to celebrating our beloved camp again with our Newfound-Owatonna Reunion on Labor Day Weekend 2025, August 29-September 1. We're celebrating over 100 years of camp where children are in a nurturing

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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*

www.newfound-owatonna.com

and challenging educational environment, where they can develop character, improve skills in a wide variety of fun activities, make new friends, and learn more about God and how to practically apply Christian Science in their daily lives. Camp added Family Camp in 1967 and Creative Arts in 2001, as opportunities for families and adults to get to join in the joy and growth of time spent at camp!

And we are so grateful for our whole camp family – for parents and grandparents who send their children and grandchildren, for our alums, friends, and foundations for their consistent support, and for our amazing counselors, kitchen crews, trippers, and other staff members who come to the shores of Long Lake each summer. Summer 2024 we had over 650 people come to our camps - campers, staff, family campers, creative artists, and many visitors. We are, very much, a big camp family, stretching back many decades where we stay connected at camp in the summer and over the many years that camp has been in operation. Deep bonds are formed between members of the camp family because of the many ways camp touches the lives of individuals and serves as a period of significant spiritual growth. After camp, campers and counselors go out into the world and let their light shine!

The purpose of our camps is to benefit anyone interested in the teachings of Christian Science as discovered and founded by Mary Baker Eddy. Please share our camps with your church members and friends. We want to welcome and include everyone we can in our programs, so please reach out to people who show an interest and share all the good at camp. If you know anyone who you think we should be in touch with about enrolling their children in camp or working on our summer staff, attending Family Camp or Creative Arts, please let them know about our program and be in touch with us.

As we prepare for the Newfound-Owatonna Reunion over Labor Day Weekend (August 29-September 1, 2025), I'm grateful for the relationships that have developed over 100 years and that those relationships continue to exist between our current campers, families, and staff, as well as between our decades of alums and camp friends. There is a genuine sisterhood and brotherhood at camp. Please plan on joining us on the shores of Long Lake for our Newfound-Owatonna Reunion – all who ever participated in any one of our programs, as well as families and friends, are welcome to attend. We hope to see you all in Maine!

Please accept our sincere gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to our beloved camps. Whether you are an alum, parent, grandparent, staff member, or friend of camp, your commitment helps to sustain our mission and the traditions and values that define Camps Newfound and Owatonna, ensuring that future generations of campers will continue to flourish and thrive on the shores of Long Lake.

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 to 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 meaningful initiative or have questions about how to participate as a mentor, please email info@newfound-owatonna.com.

The Newfound Woman

BY ANYA HOOPER

“I am so grateful that I am able to learn about life while having fun.” Recently, I discovered a short essay of mine from seventh grade titled, “Unique Sense of Reality.” In the essay, I reflect on a sleepaway camp I go to in the summertime to learn about the “freedom to express myself” and “unconditional love.” I describe a beautiful place where women and girls support each other spiritually and learn to do the right thing even when no one is watching. I explore what Christian Science means and resolutely conclude that “unconditional love is one of the most important lessons I will ever learn in my life.” This was between my Twin Pines and Gaiety Gables summers.

In the decade since I wrote this essay, summers on Long Lake have taken me from camper to CIT to counselor. I even drive the camp vans now! Reflecting on these years, it is clear that Newfound has always offered my family, my friends, and me a place for essential learning.

It is a profound gift to give a child some place where she can grow and learn without fear. Newfound sets the gold standard. Every summer, campers and staff create an environment based in spiritual sisterhood that nurtures and promotes growth in every activity and challenge. We follow the tune, “In work and play perfection shines / Through the birches and the pines.” At camp, we understand this “perfection” as spiritual and unchanging; it is not a physical standard nor a measure of intelligence, but the growth we strive for, the love we express, and the good we see in others. We learn to shine in work and play by embodying these important tasks.

I had the joy of joining staff in 2019, the same summer camp formalized our spiritual model of womanhood known as the “Newfound Woman.” The qualities of the Newfound Woman guide us from camp into the world and can be expressed by anyone, including our friends at Owatonna and those unfamiliar with camp. This is how I paraphrase the definition of the Newfound Woman in order to share with friends at home: As Newfound women, we love being held to high standards. We know we are capable of anything through our ever-present connection to Life, and we see this capacity in everyone. We enjoy doing things the right way – the inclusive and loving way – and not just the easy way. We uplift each other’s sense of integrity and joy. We know how to love ourselves and others. We love to

learn. We love Life.

I had the joy of returning to Long Lake for the last few weeks of this summer, and I left with a renewed desire to express the Newfound Woman. It had been two years since I visited for longer than a weekend, but camp was just the same.

The fragrant pines and starry sky greeted me kindly, just as they did my first summer at ten years old. Again, I relished the way my skin felt after jumping into the lake and drying in the sun. Roars of laughter made up the invisible energy in the air. Everyone readily saw each other in their most perfect light: as beautiful, capable, and whole, with the desire to be good eliminating any trace of envy or competition. There was hugging,



singing, hair-braiding, spiritual support, and achievement all around.

At camp, we end our days with gratitude. I am grateful for this summer’s reminder of a distinct feeling I recognize from time to time and ought to acknowledge more. Even those who have never heard of Christian Science know it: It was the familiar sense that I was completely surrounded by Love.

I realized that the camp environment is itself a spiritual model for how to serve others and enjoy what is all around us. As Newfound women, we are empowered to create loving, growth-filled environments in any place. What a gift.



Lifting Others Up: The Newfound Approach to Leadership

BY MARY RANKIN, Newfound Director

When we think of leadership, most of us picture someone giving a rousing speech or leading a charge to victory. But at Camp Newfound, leadership is something else: It's about service and lifting others up. Here, leadership is not about titles or basking in the spotlight. It's about showing up for others, embodying the idea that true leadership is rooted in responsibility, love, and service.

As the director at Newfound, it is inspiring to see how leadership grows in the quiet, everyday moments. It's not about having all the answers, but about being a force for good: showing compassion, listening deeply, and encouraging others to

discover their own strength. In *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mary Baker Eddy defines good as God, and when we lead from this place of goodness, we lead with love and a sense of divine purpose.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN THE LITTLE MOMENTS

One day, a camper was nervous about taking her "Big Float Test" (the camp swim test). She had been watching the other girls pass it, but the thought of completing it herself made her incredibly nervous; she was adamant that she would fail. I sat down next to her, and instead of coaxing her into the water right

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To Nurture Growth, Healing, and Trust in God

BY REID CHARLSTON, Owatonna Director

Occasionally, I will get inquiries from families who find us on the web not knowing anything about Newfound-Owatonna or Christian Science. I'm always happy to have those conversations because I love sharing about who we are and what we do. At the end, I usually say that there are numerous great camps in Maine, many of which would probably be a good fit for their child, but if they are interested in Owatonna and the Christian Science summer camp experience we offer, then I'd love to keep the conversation going to see if it would be a good fit.

What exactly is this Christian Science summer camp experience? Well, our mission says it is "to nurture growth, healing, and trust in God to: love one another, be the best, give gratitude, and have fun in a safe and loving environment," and I'm happy to say that during the summer of 2024 we did just that.

Long before anyone arrived on the shores of Long Lake, I was sitting in my office at home praying about camp. I'd been thinking about my own boys, and my campers, and my staff, and how to best help them feel excited about and connected to Christian Science. As I sat there listening, I was led to look at my nearby bookshelf where my copy of *Healing Spiritually* stood out to me. *Healing Spiritually* is a compilation of testimonies of healing through Christian Science. I had read it years ago, and as I thumbed through the pages I was reminded about some of the wonderful healings included

in it – healings of injuries, diseases, safety in life-threatening situations and emergencies, and many more.

Sitting there, I reflected on my childhood. My mom, who has been a Christian Science Nurse for her whole adult life, was always sharing healings with my siblings and me. Sometimes they were from cases she had been on, but many of them were healings she had found in the Christian Science periodicals. She was collecting them so that there was never a situation she would be called to that she didn't already have an example of it being healed through Christian Science.

I realized that I had taken for granted my familiarity with these countless amaz-

ing healings and had never identified the huge part they had played in helping to build the trust in and love of Christian Science I have to this day. I also started to recognize that many of the campers and staff members at camp may not have ever been exposed to these healings and may not even be aware of what is truly possible in Christian Science healing. So, then and there I decided to make the metaphysical focus for the summer to expose camp to as many healings as possible.

First I bought 14 copies of *Healing Spiritually*, one for each cabin. My next step was creating my staff metaphysical assignment that they use to prepare their

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Thank You, Staff!

They teach the crawl stroke, how to drop a ski, how to shoot a bullseye, and how to light a one-match fire. They give instruction on the tennis courts, in the arts and crafts studios, and in kayaks. They encourage overcoming fear on the zip line, building skill and endurance on the soccer field, and confidence skippering a sail boat. They lead hiking trips in the White Mountains, kayaking trips on the Atlantic

Ocean, and canoeing trips down rivers all around Maine and New Hampshire. They cook us three delicious meals every day. They model living Christian Science in daily life. They are role models of excellence. Our summer staff brings joy, kindness, creativity, patience, and fun to each and every day at Newfound and Owatonna. We are so grateful for all that you bring to camp – THANK YOU!



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

- Newfound Counselor and Kitchen Staff – First Session
- Owatonna Counselor and Kitchen Staff – First Session
- Owatonna Counselor Staff – Second Session
- Owatonna Kitchen Staff – Second Session
- Newfound Counselor and Kitchen Staff – Second Session

Family Camp – Yes, Indeed!

BY DANIS COLLETT

Mid-winter, it really felt like an inspired idea to invite my adult daughter, Ellie, and her lovely German boyfriend, Matthias, for a Family Camp Week 2 vacation. Some families do cruises. I do camp – Creative Arts! Anyway, Ellie lives in Berlin, and we go somewhere together each year. What better place than the shores of Long Lake? Ellie loves Newfound. Matthias loves all things water. And frankly, I loved the half-price offer for first timers attending Family Camp on Week 2. So...

They were thrilled! But. They would need to agree to a few camp ground rules if they were to come. The only tough one was no smoking for Matthias. Thankfully, he was psyched to finally quit the habit – for his first trip to America! Of the Christian Science setting, I was grateful to assure him it wouldn't occur to anyone there (including me) to ever think of him as a smoker. A fresh start. And he did totally quit before arriving. When I asked him about writing this here, he said "100%!" Camp had already been a real influence for good! And then...

Just weeks before arriving, they called to say that when they came to the US, they were going to go to the town hall

and get married! Now I was thrilled! I knew it was inspired to have them come :). We had a tiny, charming, simple wedding, then packed the car to the gills and headed up – taking the fam to Family Camp! All this good before even getting there!



ELLIE MUTCHLER

The week flowed with the variety of activities promised on the website and plenty of downtime. Besides the water, Matthias embraced daily tennis lessons with Ray. Ellie's fave was archery. Of course, she got a perfect bull's eye the first day. But the archery counselor also complimented my off-to-the-left shots as "good clustering." So kind. My athletic highlight, though, was trying camp's disc

golf course – throwing a frisbee toward distant baskets for nine holes. I joined a young family starting a round. The dad and older kid were impressive; the kindergartner and I energetically and consistently threw several-over-par. So much fun!

I've done lots of camp – teaching art to Newfound girls and with Creative Arts. But it was a new delight to re-meet former campers as vital, dedicated counselors at this session. They brought active ideas to do with the kids like making a hilarious movie of pint-size Nehemiah and her crew excavating and building a sand wall at the ski beach. They were enthusiastically inclusive and helpful with us big people as well, keeping track of all hikers – fast and slow – on Blueberry Mountain, and cheering every single finisher of the mini-triathlon. For some families, this camp's an annual tradition, but Ellie appreciated the comfortable, welcoming atmosphere and that "it was a genuine 3-generation experience." Matthias poetically added (in his German accent), "The location is lovely, embedded in the nature, and over all swung a golden glance of positivity among everyone." Yes, indeed!





*“Creative Arts camp changed my life.
I wasn’t even aware I was stuck in a box,
making prearranged, prescribed lines with timid strokes.*

Now I’m swishing color all over the place, living out of the box, and with a lot more joy!”

BY DEB HENSLEY, Creative Arts Director

This happens every summer in all kinds of ways. Sometimes it’s wild and wonderful, sometimes it’s a stretch and a challenge, sometimes it’s tender and sweet – but without fail, the immersive art classes experienced during Creative Arts surprise us with fresh inspiration, ignite our creativity, deepen our skills, and shift our perceptions. That’s because engaging with art touches every aspect of our lives.

This past summer was no exception. We created books, painted, moved, improvised, and made music. We took photos, crafted with leather, danced, told stories, sang around the fire under the stars, and shared healing experiences. Our spontaneous Saturday pop-up sessions included something for everyone – from foraging for mushrooms, to archery, to circle singing, to a vibrant book discussion. And how could anyone forget the laughing club?



The energy, spirituality, and inclusivity expressed in this community is truly amazing and unique. And it’s your platform – yours for launching new projects, yours for trying out new possibilities.

While our 2025 class roster is still being filled in at this writing, here’s a sneak peek of what’s to come:

- Oil painting - with Paul Trowbridge
- Cartooning - with Chuck Wilcoxon
- Movie Making - with Nate Richards
- Songwriting - with Jeff Robertson
- Cooking & Art - with Lizzie Loomis
- ... and more class offerings still to come!

So stay tuned. The full roster will be posted in January. We warmly invite you to join us next September for an experience that, without a doubt, will change your life.



Every Donation Makes a Difference

Help to bring all the things you love about Newfoundland 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. To donate go to: www.newfound-owatonna.com/giving, use enclosed envelope, or use Venmo by scanning the QR code.



venmo

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away, I just listened. We talked through her fears, and I reassured her that she was safe in God's care and in camp's care. It wasn't just my encouragement that helped: Her friends and counselors were quietly supporting her, reminding her that she wasn't facing this alone. She had a whole sisterhood cheering her on, giving her the confidence to believe in herself.

After a few more days of gentle support, she took that leap into the water and passed the test with a huge smile. That's the beauty of servant leadership. It's not about pushing someone to achieve something, but being there to support and empower them as they grow and discover their own strength. That small moment on the dock embodied what leadership is all about at Newfound: building trust, listening with compassion, and knowing that your role as a leader is to help others rise.

A LESSON IN LEADERSHIP FROM AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPER

This summer, we welcomed an international camper who, at first, felt completely out of place. Everything was unfamiliar, and she struggled to find her footing. She didn't connect with the camp experience right away and kept her guard up, unsure if this was a place where she could truly be herself.

But over time, something shifted. Through the love, care, and support of her fellow campers and the staff, she began to feel safe and to trust. Slowly, she let her guard down and embraced the experience fully. By the end of the summer, this same camper who once felt so disconnected, wrote me a note that touched my heart. She shared that she had learned here at Newfound that it was okay to let her light shine brightly, and that, in doing so, she could also shine a light on others.

What made her realization even more profound was this: She mentioned that she had come to camp thinking leadership was about excelling at certain skills – academics, sports, music, you name it. But at Newfound, she learned that every day she had a choice to make. That choice wasn't just about perfecting her skills, it was about whether she would use her strengths to promote love, happiness, and goodness in the world, and to lift up others. That's when she truly understood what being a leader meant.



This camper's story illustrates the heart of servant leadership: It's not about commanding attention or using our talents for recognition. It's about using our gifts to serve others and making sure that as we shine, we help others do the same.

CARRYING LEADERSHIP INTO THE WORLD

At Newfound, we talk about how the leadership qualities we nurture don't just stay at camp, they go with us, shaping how we move through the world. True leadership is rooted in humility, compassion, and responsibility, and we teach our campers and staff to carry these values into every part of their lives. Leadership isn't about titles or recognition, it's about consistently making choices that reflect love and goodness in everything we do.

As Mary Baker Eddy wrote, "Goodness attains the demonstration of Truth. A right motive has its reward" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, 449). Leading with a "right motive" means choosing every day to act with kindness and integrity, to use our strengths to serve, and to create an environment where others can thrive. This is the essence of servant leadership.

Campers and staff are encouraged to remember that the small moments of leadership, whether it's listening to a friend, taking responsibility for a group, or simply offering a word of encouragement, are where real leadership happens. It's in these everyday acts of love and service that we reflect the infinite good that is God.

Leadership isn't always about taking charge or being the loudest voice in the room. It's about creating an environment where everyone feels safe and supported, where each person's light can shine brightly. And when we carry that forward, beyond the summer and into our daily lives, we become the kind of leaders who are grounded in goodness and who truly make a difference.

thought from pre-camp staff training. In it, I included three healings, two from camp people who I know, one from a lecturer who recently gave our lecture at camp, and one from someone I didn't know, but it was too cool to leave out. The goal was to show them that these healings didn't happen one hundred years ago, but they were from people we knew, and one of them even happened at camp while I was a counselor.

As we went through our staff training, we started to gain some momentum. Staff were sharing their own healings in meaningful ways, and you could feel the impact it was having on the guys around them. As the summer started, I encouraged them to share regularly from *Healing Spiritually* with their cabins.

Then the campers started to share. Early in the summer we had some of the best Morning Meetings I can remember. It wasn't only healings that they were sharing, but we had campers popping up to share thoughts on the Bible Lesson and inspiration from their cabin Quiet Time. The sharing at our WETMs (pronounced "wet'ems"; stands for Wednesday Evening Testimony Meetings) got stronger as the summer went along too.

One of my favorite healings from the summer began midway through first session. One of the older boys fell awkwardly while playing a game and appeared to hurt his shoulder. He was taken to Birches (our Christian Science nursing cabin) and spent the night there. I checked in on him that evening, and he was in quite a bit of discomfort and couldn't move his arm comfortably. Despite the pain, he was very receptive to thoughts that I shared, and quickly he was working with a Christian Science practitioner. I was in touch with his parents, and we decided to connect again the next morning.

Over the next day or so, all the pain disappeared and he was able to be back in camp participating as much as possible. He still didn't have full mobility of his arm, but he was happy to do what he could, and he diligently kept working metaphysically during Quiet Time and down times, both on his own and with the practitioner. Throughout the next week and a half I checked in on him daily and kept in regular contact with his parents, and he kept working with the practitioner and participating in everything he could, but eventually, because we hadn't seen any significant progress in his ability to move his arm, his parents asked us to take him to have his shoulder X-rayed.

Our Camp Mom took him, and her report upon returning to camp was one of the highlights of my summer. She said the doctors had X-rayed his shoulder and confirmed that there had been a broken bone, but that it had been set perfectly and had been healing up quickly and there was nothing he needed to or could do to improve it. The doctor then said that he was absolutely

stunned that this boy had been feeling no pain the entire time, saying that normally it would have been constant pain without immobilizing the arm. He half-heartedly offered the camper a sling saying, "You can use this if you'd like, but it doesn't seem like you need it." The camper never needed the sling, and he continued to show progress throughout the rest of the summer and wasn't limited in a significant way from participating in everything we did. His parents reported to me after the summer that they had been asked to take him for a follow up X-ray and the report was complete healing. My favorite part was when he shared at one of our WETMs, "I realized I had been healed from the start, but I didn't understand it until now."

It was truly special to witness a boy trust in and focus on spiritual healing through Christian Science. I think that a significant part of this healing was that he was in a place where Christian Science healing had been our focus throughout the summer. Camp was living up to its mission to "nurture growth, healing, and trust in God," which gave him a firm platform to stand on as he made his own demonstration.

As I have reached out to families and staff about the summer, a number of them have shared about healings and spiritual growth. One staff member, who had a quick healing of an injured wrist, said, "I haven't had a summer with that much healing in a while." Another family told me they loved hearing their son say, "God will take care of it" when faced with a challenge this fall, telling me they were certain that trust came from camp.

All told, it was a beautiful summer of healing on the shores of Long Lake. I am deeply grateful for the inspiration that set me on the path of making healings our focus for the summer, and I have enjoyed sharing all the fruitage with those who have asked how the summer went. Newfound and Owatonna are very special places, and to see us fulfilling our mission in such tangible ways is proof to me that God continues to guide our camps, our counselors, and our campers. It's an experience that I hope all children will get to have, and I encourage everyone reading this article to read and share your favorite testimonies from the thousands that have been published in the Christian Science periodicals and go share your own at a WETM near you. It will help spread Newfound and Owatonna's impact throughout the whole world!

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!

2025 CAMP PROGRAMS & DATES

1st session	June 22 – July 11
Two-week session <i>for new campers</i>	June 22 – July 5
2nd session	July 13 – August 8
Full session	June 22 – August 8
Counselor in Training	June 22 – August 8
Family Camp Week 1	August 11 – 17
Family Camp Week 2	August 18 – 24
Newfound-Owatonna 2025 Reunion	August 29 – Sept. 1
Creative Arts	September 2 – 9

Why wait another 100 years to get together?

JOIN US FOR THE NEWFOUND-OWATONNA 2025 REUNION

Come home to Camp for Labor Day Weekend 2025, August 29-September 1! We're excited to welcome back alums, campers, counselors, staff, family, and friends.

All are welcome! Reconnect with camp friends, share stories around the campfire, listen to the loons, waterski or sail on Long Lake, and create new memories of camp.

It is a chance to celebrate our home away from home together.

Mark your calendars, and we'll see you by the lake!

Registration will open in the new year.



WWW.NEWFOUND-OWATONNA.COM