# NEWFOUND.OWATONNA Call of the loon

SPRING 2021



# Gathering Together at Camp

SETH JOHNSON, Executive Director

e are looking forward, so very much, to Camp opening this summer and to once again gathering together on the shores of Long Lake. In addition to Newfound and Owatonna, Family Camp, and Creative Arts sessions this summer, we are also excited to gather for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Owatonna/Ropioa during Labor Day weekend, September 3-6, 2021. We hope that you will join us this summer – whether by sending your children or grandchildren to Newfound or Owatonna, by attending Family Camp, Creative Arts, or the Reunion, or by supporting Camp through your prayers and financial contributions.



4 Camp Newfound Road Harrison, Maine 04040 email: info@newfound-owatonna.com www.newfound-owatonna.com Facebook: NewfoundOwatonna Instagram: campsnewfoundowatonna

#### PROGRAMS

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

We serve campers in a place where Christian Science is lived and loved, through overcoming limitations, nurturing spiritual growth, promoting spiritual discovery, and having fun.

#### NEWFOUND-OWATONNA STAFF

Seth Johnson, Executive Director Mary Rankin, Newfound Director Reid Charlston, Owatonna Director Sara Osborn, Operations Director Jenny Green, Communications Director Dan Gray, Facilities Manager Jennai and Mike Hufstader, FC Directors Danis Collett, Creative Arts Director

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#### Continued from page 1

When I think of our Camp's rich history and legacy, I can't help but think about the clear vision and mission our camp founders, Elizabeth Horton and George Stanley, demonstrated in establishing our Camps in the early 1900s. They strove to provide an excellent residential camp experience based on the teachings of Christian Science, to serve youth, support parents, help everyone learn more about God, and develop character. Elizabeth Horton, affectionately referred to as "Aunt Elizabeth," founded Camp Newfound in 1914 on Newfound Lake in New Hampshire, and five years later moved the camp to its incredible current location on the shores of Long Lake in Harrison, Maine. George Stanley, whose wife Gertrude was a friend of Elizabeth Horton's, founded Ropioa in 1922 on the property "just up the hill," where Owatonna is today. Aunt Elizabeth let Gertrude and George know that the property "up the hill" was for sale, and the Stanleys purchased the property and established Camp Ropioa in 1922 as a brother camp to Newfound.

Following Stanley's passing in the early 40s, Ropioa was sold and continued to run as Ropioa for several years, but was not affiliated with Christian Science. Then in 1955, the property again came up for sale and a group of Ropioa alumni, who were campers and counselors under Stanley, seized the opportunity to again establish a Christian Science camp. Frank Connor, Al Romero, Boyd Jones, John Cooper, William Trilsch, and Gertrude Stanley purchased the property and began plans to reopen a camp for boys based on the teachings of Christian Science. The camp was renamed Owatonna, and Camp Owatonna opened in 1956 as a non-profit Christian Science camp under a Board of Trustees. Much of this history will be written about in more detail in *The* History of Owatonna/Ropioa which will be ready for the Reunion in September.

It has been through the consecrated work and vision of many individuals – trustees, directors, staff, friends, and the individuals who had the vision to re-purchase and start Owatonna - that our beloved camps, our "home away from home," continue to prosper. The Camp's vision statement is "for campers and staff to learn and demonstrate complete trust in God in a unique Christian Science community." And the mission statement is to "serve campers in a place where Christian Science is lived and loved, through overcoming limitations, nurturing spiritual growth, promoting spiritual discovery, and having fun." I think Elizabeth Horton and George Stanley would be very happy with Camp's continued progress, vision, and mission.

In recent summers, Newfound and Owatonna have had children come from 31 states and ten countries, and staff have come from over 30 colleges, and enrollment has continued to grow. We are very grateful our camps remain viable, but we are always looking for new campers, staff, and families to join us. If you know children who would benefit from coming to Newfound and Owatonna; individuals, couples, and parents who would enjoy Family Camp; or adults who would prosper at Creative Arts, please help us to share Camp.

We are grateful for the many years our Camps have served and will continue to serve campers and provide a place to learn more about God and Christian Science and to develop one's innately deep character. We are so excited to gather once again on the shores of Long Lake.

# **Come Home to Camp**

#### TERRY COOLIDGE, Reunion Coordinator

Reunion to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Camp like waterskiing, canoeing, archery, building a fire, cooking beloved summer Camp, first known as Ropioa and now over a camp stove, and more. Less obvious is the tremendous Las Owatonna, seems like a pretty big deal. Is it a big impact that Camp had on my love of music. I was introduced to deal? I certainly think so! The past six months have been a lot many bands that I had previously been unfamiliar with as a result of fun for me as I have turned my attention to the Reunion. I've of sharing cabins with guys who had unique tastes. The same pulled out boxes from the back of a closet and have unearthed is true regarding my introduction to great books, comics, and some treasured camp photos and mementos. I know Camp has games. While I had good friends back home, I didn't spend three been reaching its typical audience through electronic and paper days with them hiking in the White Mountains, paddling down mailings that have been mentioning the Reunion, and I have the Saco River, or sailing the length of Long Lake where deep, also been reaching out through emails and calls in an effort to formative conversations took place. Counselors' repeated requests encourage attendance and support. "The Reunion Coordinator to be quiet during rest hour didn't prevent me from receiving is well pleased" with the progress we've made so far. How fitting first-class wisdom and knowledge from my bunkmates. I'm often that we just recently crossed "the century mark" in number of transported back to Camp when I hear certain songs, think of registered attendees, and there is a palpable excitement about certain movies, or play certain games. I can honestly say that an

what we are planning. I expect enthusiasm will continue to build over the remaining months as we prepare for what is sure to be a phenomenal Labor Day Weekend.

Imagine all of the lives impacted by our first century. I was incredibly blessed to have been able to spend summers on Long Lake learning from the staff who served as role models and



were examples of men of Christian character. Plenty of fellow campers also conducted themselves in a way that had a positive influence on me, too. I may not have won either a White Feather or a Black Feather (not even a tuft for me!), but the qualities recognized by those awards are admirable, and I do make a conscientious effort to live my life today in a way that would be worthy of those awards. I strive to consistently express the qualities that were recognized in those who have their names on those lodge wall plaques. I'm looking forward to seeing some of these people in person after so many years. Some of them were older campers or CITs when I was just starting out in Cabin 16, so they may not have any memory of me. However, I look forward to letting them know that I certainly remember them. I'm fired up to reconnect with so many of our outstanding

alumni. I have lots of camp friends and former counselors to thank for so many meaningful things in my life. Camp is obviously where I learned many skills that we all associate with activity at Camp helped to set the trajectory of my educational pursuits and ultimately my professional career, so I'd say that Camp had a pretty profound effect on my life.

I loved my nine years as a camper and three as a counselor, and I'm grateful to have made it back to Camp for a handful of occasions over the years since. I'm looking forward to sights, sounds, and smells

that we experience when walking around the camp property. How much fun it will be to also relive some of the traditions of Camp that we all bonded through over the years. When was the last time you heard a lodge full of voices start breakfast with Psalm 118:24 or heard the subsequent cacophony of all of those wooden chairs being pulled out simultaneously? When was the last time you had a Congo Bar? When was the last time that you eagerly awaited announcements at the end of dinner to find out what you would be doing for Evening Activity? I could continue listing things, but I don't want to spoil all of the surprises.

We want everyone who has a current or past affiliation with Camp to feel welcome to join us for the Owatonna/Ropioa Reunion in September. Everyone is welcome. Wherever you are in your life journey, we'd love to have you. The 100 year anniversary of Owatonna/Ropioa is certainly worth celebrating, and a Reunion of past campers, counselors, trustees, and friends is the perfect way to mark the occasion. We hope to see you there!

# Newfound, a Place of Love

MARY RANKIN, Newfound Director

amp teaches love ... and we do it really well. So well, in fact, that it's impossible to spend time at Camp and not develop a profoundly deep understanding of love and a desire to share it with others. Among the many challenges the world has faced this year, one topic that has promoted growth in thought and action is that of diversity and inclusion. I have spent some time reflecting upon what diversity and inclusion looks like at Camp, and during a recent conversation with a camp parent, I had an ahha moment. I had reached out to this parent for some helpful insight, since she had more firsthand experience than I in this area. The first words out of her mouth were, "I can tell you this: My children feel so loved at Camp." What an incredible springboard that was for our conversation! We went on to have a productive brainstorming session about diversity and inclusion at Camp. We eventually said goodbye via Zoom, and I thought to myself, "Love really is the foundation of Camp!" As this concept continued to sink in, I felt an incredible sense of peace, comfort,

and excitement come over me. Camp truly is a place of love!

In the words of another parent, "The atmosphere here at Camp is really permeated by love, an unconditional love, just a very sweet, safe, confidence-building love ... and with that comes independence, freedom, joy, beauty, spirit, but I would say the foundation is that quality of love." Any of us who have spent time at Camp know and feel this love that we are talking about; it's woven into the fabric of who we are and everything we do. A camp alum said, "It's love of people, it's love of life, it's love of expressing Christian Science and God's perfection and it's love of a beautiful place ... it is love." Those final words warm my heart: "It is love." While this is something I have known and felt at Camp for decades, it is hitting me in new ways. After what has been a challenging year for the world, I find myself overcome with feelings of happiness knowing that the campers and staff are going to arrive at Camp and fall right into the arms of Love.

At Camp we learn that love is being in alignment with God. It's easy to love things that are lovable, but at Camp we learn





# **100 Summers of Owatonna**

**REID CHARLSTON, Owatonna Director** 

ere we are, on the verge of celebrating 100 years of Ropioa/Owatonna. Milestones like these are special. They offer us a chance to reflect on all the good from our past and they inspire us to look ahead to the future. Especially coming off of a summer where we weren't able to have Camp, there is a special excitement about our very near future – this summer. It was hard to walk around Camp last summer and see unused cabins and quiet activity areas. I know how much I missed seeing the campers and staff having fun and expressing all of God's qualities. Camp is a space that is meant to be full, and I believe that this summer at Owatonna will be needed more than ever.

It wouldn't be right to ignore the challenges of the past year. We have all spent too much time on Zoom calls and too little time interacting face-to-face with our friends and family. There has

been seemingly constant uncertainty, and at times when it felt like we should all be coming together to support one another, our country has seemed as divided as ever. It is a lot harder to trust a face on the other side of a screen than someone who is present with you. This is why Camp is so important this year. Camp has always been about one thing – helping our children grow into resilient, empathetic, courageous, and reliable people who will bless our world community by building on their foundation of confidence in God's loving We come to Camp each summer to make friends and have fun, but the real blessing a summer at Newfound-Owatonna brings comes when a camper overcomes a challenge, sees someone or something in a new light, or discovers a new quality he now can claim as his own. At Camp, these happen every day

and guiding care for all His children.





and we celebrate them for the important moments they are in our progress through "Earth's preparatory school."

It would also be wrong to say that these victories have not happened this year. Each one of us can give gratitude for the moments of strengthened courage and discovered dominion we have had as our world has worked through these unpredicted obstacles. That being said, too often this year, these moments have gone unnoticed or unshared, and there can be a temptation to undervalue them. But not at Camp! At Camp, we live for these moments. We announce them every evening at flag pole to a round of cheers from our peers. We give out arrowhead awards each week to let their example shine. We give gratitude for them in our cabins every evening before going to bed, and these celebrations help solidify a willingness to take on hard things and trust God to lead the way.

# MEET NEWFOUND'S summer staff cabin counselors

Caroline Abouchar - Waterloo, Ontario Zahra Baldauf – Saudi Arabia Izzi Barton – Harvard, MA Mia Caviness – San Rafael, CA Hanna Edwards – Lake Forest, CA Kaya Equevilley – Goldston, NC Kate Foy – Baldwin, MD Emma Franklin – Town & Country, MO Kannon Gill – Exton, PA Julia Golder – Hanover, NH Avery Hanson – Yorktown, NY Anya Hooper – Swarthmore, PA Sara Lang – Tuscaloosa, AL Louisa Longshore – Yarmouth, ME Lily Maggio – Naples, FL Mackenzie McCarty – Crystal Lake Park, MO Dylan Ouderkirk – St. Louis, MO Katherine Rein – Ballwin, MO Laura Rein – Ballwin, MO Geena Richards – Princeton, MA Emme Schaefer – Palos Verdes Estates, CA Sadie Strelow – Ladue, MO Elena Trevithick – Brookline, MA Henri Waltz - Concord, MA Isabel Wesman – Chautauqua, IL

## head staff

Sanaya Baldauf – CIT Head, Dhahran, EP Saudi Arabi Yana Wood – CIT Head, St. Louis, MO Skip Schneider – Boat Director, Braintree, MA Jennie Webster - Waterfront Head, Winter Park, FL Lindsay McManus – Camp mom, Ballwin, MO Grace Hardy – Art Studio Skye Ferris – Art Studio (2nd session)

## trippers

Lilah Foster – Saratoga, CA Zoe Wade – Decatur, MI

# kitchen

Mindy Warren McNeill - Head Cook, La Jolla, CA Debbie Warren Smith – Head Cook, Tucson, AZ Assistant Cook – Susanna Hooper – Swathmore, PA Assistant Cook – Tiana Ismirnioglou – Carlsbad, CA Amaia Ariail- Orlando, FL (2nd session) Lily Binder - Gladstone, NJ (1st session) Avery Cobb- Columbus, OH (1st session) Annika Harris- Maclean, VA (2nd session) Molly Higgins- Orlando, FL (2nd session) Nick Ismirnioglou-Carlsbad, CA Kealani P - Carlsbad, CA Olivia Steele- Elsah, IL (2nd session)

Join us in supporting Newfound and Owatonna's metaphysical theme for this summer:

# "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Mary Rankin, Newfound Director, Braintree, MA

## SENIOR STAFF



Madeline Hardy, Assistant Director Favorite evening activity: hymn sing **Favorite spot at Camp:** the boat dock, getting to sail on Long Lake is something I dream about all year long.

Favorite camp meal: strawberries and waffles. I love breakfast at camp, fresh fruit and bacon almost every morning is such a treat!

Favorite social theme: Superheroes

Favorite special event: Christmas in July

## Kelsey Bettman, Head Counselor

Favorite evening activity: Stratego but I always have a good time when sock attack rolls around.

Favorite spot at Camp: The back porch of the reading room. It is so peaceful and beautiful and a lovely place to sit and read on a rainy day.

Favorite camp meal: Saturday night spaghetti and meatballs or breakfast pizza!

Favorite social theme: Superhero social. Dressing up as Batman never fails to be a good time!

Favorite special event: Opening Day!

#### Grace Barton, Program Director

Favorite evening activity: I'd have to say Counselor Hunt. Favorite spot at Camp: Up in the high ropes course Favorite camp meal: German Pancakes for sure! Favorite social theme: Decades is so much fun! Favorite special event: I love Christmas in July! Breakfast in my PJs!

Reid Charlston, Owatonna Director, St. Louis, MO

### SENIOR STAFF



Duncan Wilder, Assistant Director Favorite evening activity: Junior Division Night Favorite spot at Camp: HQ Porch Favorite camp meal: Grilled cheese + tomato soup, and any dessert Andrew makes! Favorite social theme: Caveman Favorite special event: The Great Race!



Todd Zimmerman, Head Counselor Favorite evening activity: Club Night!!! Favorite spot at Camp: Coomber Field Favorite camp meal: I'm a big fan of McDonalds night for dinner. And of course Congo Bars for dessert! Favorite social theme: Superhero!! Favorite special event: Hands down Mountain Man!



# MEET OWATONNA'S summer staff

Magda Saenz – Head Cook, New York, NY



# What's Your Favorite Thing **About Family Camp?**

**TAT** e know what *we* love about Family Camp, but we thought you would enjoy hearing from our Family Campers: "What's your favorite thing about Family Camp?"

Our favorite part about Family Camp is the program versatility for all ages. When our entire family visits we have ages ranging from babies all the way to seniors. There is an activity for everyone to enjoy each day. That's what makes it feel like a true vacation for all!

The beautiful, peaceful views. The timeless, loving atmosphere. And the opportunity to take a "time out" from daily life to prayerfully reflect on past progress and what's needed for future growth.

Family Camp is a place and time where we can leave the day-to-day bustle and grind behind and reconnect with each other, with nature, and with God making new friends and memories at the same time! It's been a pivotal point in our family's focus on life, bringing the joys and experiences of camp to the forefront every time we make a batch of Congo Bars, load up a kayak, or put on a Family Camp t-shirt.

Not a week goes by where someone doesn't mention, "Remember at Family Camp when we..."

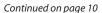
Access to outdoor fun! Archery, swimming in Long Lake, canoeing through morning mist, whist hearing the loons call to one another, seeing bald eagles, having awesome conversations with other family campers, the fun staff, riding in the speed boats, the smells and sounds of the pines swaying and the lake lapping against the shore. The list goes on.

It's a magical experience to see your child delight in everything you also loved as a young camper and to then be able to do it all together is the cherry on top

The feeling of the MOST warm and wonderful community - everywhere you look is a smiling, welcoming person to engage with. And...Pickleball! It's a week of deep spiritual refreshment with love expressed all around.

Spending an afternoon in the water on the Hairbrush sandbar.

Having a good chat on the swing at the Point. The sunsets. The loons.





# Take 1. Take 2. ... Take 20!

DANIS COLLETT, Creative Arts Director

Take 1. September 2001 was the first-ever Creative Arts Weekend. Those three days and three classes brightened the L landscape of life with imagination, delight, and determined love. And it's continued up to ... Take 20! August 2021, we are ready to head to Camp for the 20th session of Creative Arts - a full week of proactive good! Here's what's coming:

#### THEATER

The art of the actor and the "grand human capacities of being" Hone your skills for stage and screen and for how you act every day! Led by acting coach, actress, and director, Dawn Arnold.

#### PAINTING

Exploring watercolors and Brilliance of color Explore making gorgeousness - for beginners and experienced painters, with painter and teacher, Carol Carter.

#### WRITING

The inner logic of writing Discern which idea is a good idea and go from there. With play-

wright, writing teacher, and master juggler, Russell Davis.

#### SINGING

Vocal bungee-jumping and *Lyrics and tunes—songwriting with heart* For complete workshop descriptions and to register, go to Express yourself musically two ways - experimental group singwww.newfound-owatonna.com/creative-arts ing for experienced singers, and songwriting for all. Led by singer and songwriter Deb Hensley.

#### **ENVIROMENTAL ART**

Environmental art: moments in time Get outdoors to see what you want to create from what you find there. Guided by landscape designer, poet Susan Els.

### **SUMMER 2021**

#### WOODCARVING

Woodcarving

Sketch, chisel, whittle, sand, and finish a piece of wood into something beautiful! With master carver Bonnie Bower.

#### PRINTMAKING

*Expressed: hand-pressure printmaking* Adapt new and traditional printmaking processes that can be done at home. With printmaker Carey James.

#### **CULINARY ARTS**

*Grilling arts and good meals* 

Take it outside and learn expert grilling – and how to design whole meals including soups, salads, and sides - omnivorous or vegetarian. With Chef Todd Jacobs, this year's cook, you will help feed the whole crowd! (This class is full.)

*We are so grateful for the excellent leadership of Danis Collett in* her six years directing Creative Arts with love, passion, and energy. Danis's professional life has taken a new turn, and this summer will be her last summer as Creative Arts Director. We extend rounds of applause to Danis for her years of inspired service to Camp and to the Creative Arts program.

#### Newfound continued from page 4

unconditional love; we learn to know Love so fully that we can look at challenging situations or adversity and feel love anyway! A camp parent shared, "You feel it, you feel the experience of God and you feel the experience of the oneness of everything and everyone, and that's a profound thing for kids to have, and what they take away from that becomes a resource throughout the year and really forever." Camp helps us discover and prove that we can never be separated from Love.

I'll never forget something a camper said a few years ago on the last day of the summer. This young lady's demeanor was quiet and reserved throughout her time at Camp. She stood up to share at our final Morning Meeting and said, "I am incredibly grateful for my time at Camp; this summer I learned how to love myself." I had no idea that self-love was something she had been struggling with, but I remember feeling overwhelmed with compassion and joy for her. She could barely get the words out without crying, but what a moment of freedom, courage, and triumph for her!

This is a BIG deal! I hope that Camp is a place where every one of us can feel embraced by Love. A place where we experience love as inclusive, accepting, exhilarating, liberating, and healing! We may not know how the current state of the world will evolve, but what we do know is that the campers and the staff at Newfound and Owatonna will move forward with the greatest tool of all - an understanding of unconditional Love.





#### *Owatonna continued from page 5*

Also, there is nothing remote about Camp. You can't have another screen open on your desktop looking up the latest scores while you ignore the Zoom class you are supposed to be paying attention to. Camp is in the

moment, present, now. If you are on the high ropes course, you can only be there. If it's team day and vou're on the field fighting for a win for your team, you can't disengage. If you are tacking in a

There have been boys coming to camp on our property for 100 summers and this may be the most important one yet. You won't want to miss it!.

sailboat on the lake, you can't pause for a moment to check Instagram and come back to it. And the feeling that comes from being present, living in the moment, and holding your attention to the task at hand



#### Family Camp continued from page 8

Playing speed scrabble on the dining hall. Being with family and Two words: Big Float. not having to cook!

#### Making new friends.

Hearing the loons at night. breakfast on the lodge porch - how quiet the lake is. Sunsets from the canoe dock. Paddling a canoe around Cherry Island.

It's like a family reunion where everything is taken care of for you. There's a shared sense of wonder and enjoyment.

The highlight of each summer at Family Camp has been experiencing the staff's selfless love and commitment to spiritual growth that pervades each activity. I've felt the selfless love that infuses everything from the cheers at the triathalon's toilet paper finish line to the audience applause at the talent show to the table-pounding recognition of the cooks.

The feeling of coming home ... and sock attack.

is refreshing and invigorating. I could easily find reports and statistics to prove that this is what our children need more of right now, but frankly, it is intuitive enough that I think we all can see it.

Owatonna in 2021 is going to be the strongest it has ever been. We are all coming to Camp with a greater appreciation for exactly how special a place it is, and I don't think anyone is going to take that for granted. Will there be challenges? Yes. Will there be new obstacles to overcome? For sure. But Owatonna has always been about facing them head-on and charging ahead straight as an arrow to prove our God-given

dominion over them. The results bless not only us but the whole world, which needs the good we are doing, as well.

I am counting down the days until June 19 when campers will drive down Route 35 and turn left into Camp, smell that new-mulch and pine tree smell, and see the faces - in person - of all their friends, old and new. There have been boys coming to Camp on our property for 100 summers and this may be the most important one yet. You won't want to miss it!

## **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 and consider Camp in your Planned Giving.

#### To donate:

www.newfound-owatonna.com/giving or use enclosed envelope



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Please recycle the Call of the loon.

# MAKE A NOTE OF IT

# Be a camper this summer

### 2021 CAMP PROGRAMS & DATES

### **Camps Newfound and Owatonna**

1st session	June 19 – July 10
Two-week session*	June 19 – July 3
2nd session	July 11 – August 7
Full session	June 19 – August 7
CIT	June 19 – August 7
* For new campers	

Family Camp (1/2 price for new families Week 2)	
Family Camp Week 1	August 9 – 15
Family Camp Week 2	August 16 – 22
Creative Arts	August 24 – 31
Owatonna/Ropioa Reunion	September 3-6



JOIN US FOR FAMILY CAMP! Experience the most enjoyable vacation your family will ever take. First-time families receive a 50% discount off Week 2.

info@newfound-owatonna.com

## COME HOME TO CAMP

We want everyone who has a current or past affiliation



with Camp to join us for the Owatonna/Ropioa Reunion September 3-6, 2021. Everyone is welcome! For more information, check out our website at https://www.newfound-owatonna.com/info/100-year-reunion

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