

# NEWFOUND • OWATONNA Call of the loon



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SPRING 2020



## A Strong Foundation

SETH JOHNSON, Executive Director

Camps Newfound and Owatonna have been in operation for over 100 years, and we continue to treasure the love, light, and spiritual depth Camp has brought and continues to bring to our world and mankind. The situation in the world this spring has been trying and challenging, but having the bedrock of “grace, expressed in patience, meekness, love, and good deeds” is a very helpful support (*Sc&H*, 4). Every week, session, and summer that children and adults have spent at Newfound and Owatonna, both in recent summers and summers long ago, are important now as a strong foundation upon which we can always rely.

*Continued on page 2*

## 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*

Almost 100 years ago, in 1922, Charles Stanley established Ropioa as a Christian Science camp for boys and a brother camp to Camp Newfound. The naming of Camp Ropioa was given by taking the first letter in each word of the sentence "Reflection of Perfection is our Aim." Elizabeth Horton, affectionately called "Aunt Elizabeth," had founded Camp Newfound, a Christian Science camp for girls, in 1914 in New Hampshire and moved Newfound to the shores of Long Lake in Harrison, Maine, in 1917. Five years later, Stanley purchased the property "just up the hill" where Owatonna is today.

Stanley ran Ropioa as a private Christian Science camp for boys for the next 18 years till his passing in 1939. Mrs. Stanley ran Ropioa until 1941; Ropioa continued through 1955 but was not affiliated with Christian Science. Then in 1955, a group of Ropioa alumni under Stanley purchased the property and again established a Christian Science camp for boys. The camp's name was changed to Owatonna and opened as a non-profit Christian Science camp for boys in 1957. Summer 2021 will be the 100th year anniversary of Charles Stanley's opening of Ropioa.

Newfound and Owatonna continue today to have the solid foundation Elizabeth Horton and Charles Stanley established 100 years ago. Newfound and Owatonna continue to provide an excellent camp experience based on the teachings of Christian Science. Camp still strives to develop the God-like qualities and depth of character in campers and staff that was established a century earlier. Whether it's in the cabin, on a team, in an activity area, or on a trip, the opportunities to develop character and grow spiritually are substantial, transformative, and last a lifetime.

Today, Camps Newfound and Owatonna continue as camps whose primary purpose is to be a place where campers can learn, grow, and have fun in a Christian Science atmosphere. Newfound celebrated its first 100 years in 2013, and Owatonna/Ropioa will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Labor Day Weekend, September 3-6, 2021. Preparations are already underway for the reunion, so all alumni and friends, mark your calendars now! We want everybody to feel welcome coming back to Camp, wherever their journey has taken them.

It has been through the dedicated work and vision of many individuals over many years – trustees, directors, staff, family, alumni, and friends – that our beloved camps have thrived on the shores of Long Lake. This past summer's enrollment continued to grow, and campers came from 26 states and six countries and staff came from over 20 colleges and universities from across the United States to Harrison, Maine, for a great summer camp experience where Christian Science is practiced, lived, and loved.

We are grateful for the many years our camps have served and look forward to the many years they will continue to serve our campers, staff, alumni, and friends.

**Owatonna/Ropioa will celebrate its 100th Anniversary September 3-6, 2021**



# Congos Forever

Congo bars have long been a favorite dessert at both Newfound and Owatonna. The warm chocolate, the chewy inside, the golden crisp coating... a perfect part of every summer Saturday at Camp! But it's not just today's campers who get to enjoy them: Jody Brown, Newfound's head cook from 1967 to the late 1970s, baked huge batches of Congo bars with this recipe to the delight of many summers of campers. This recipe has been passed down to other Newfound and Owatonna cooks, including our current

[@campkitchenmoms](#) Mindy, Debbie, and Susanna, who continue to churn out these amazing treats every Saturday at Camp. To really experience what it's like to bake for a full camp, try quadrupling the recipe!



MINDY MCNEILL

## CONGO BARS

3/4 cup of softened butter  
2 1/4 cups packed brown sugar  
3 eggs  
1 tsp of vanilla

**Cream above ingredients together**

### **Add:**

2 1/2 cups of flour  
1 tsp salt  
2 1/2 tsp baking powder

**Mix well**

### **Stir in:**

1 cup of chocolate chip

Preheat oven to 350

Spray a standard cookie sheet with baking spray (or butter and dust with flour) then spread batter on tray.

Bake at 350 for 15-20ish minutes.  
DO NOT OVERBAKE.

Enjoy!

# The Lost Art of Handwritten Letters

MARY RANKIN, Newfound Director

**R**ummaging through a box labeled “Camp,” I found all sorts of sentimental keepsakes. I smiled as I detangled a stack of old team headbands (Go Green Hemlocks!), flipped through pictures of me bumper tubing with friends, and counted the number of beads I’d earned swimming to Cherry Island during my CIT summer. But of all the memories that were tucked away in my little box of summer camp treasures, I spent the most time with the handwritten letters. There were letters between my family and me from the summer months and letters that

camp friends had written to me during the school year.

**Letter from a camp friend, 1992:** “I’m sitting on the airplane headed home from Camp. I miss you (and everyone) already! It’s going to be a long year without you guys, but you will write to me, won’t you? We were singing camp songs in the van all the way to the airport; Adam was singing the loudest. I wonder if I will get a meal on the airplane? I loved Camp’s breakfasts so much; at home I usually just have cereal – Frosted Flakes or Kix. Love you forever, write soon! Your friend [name].”

In this day and age of texting, snapchatting, and posting selfies, the thoughtfully crafted handwritten letter is hard to come by! Unlike the glow of a cell phone screen, a handwritten letter is something that arrives in an envelope to be opened with anticipation and touched, folded, and savored. It can be tucked under a pillow, carried in a pocket, and filed away in a box for years to come. Of all the different types of letters out there, one of the most precious to both the sender and recipient is the camp letter. In fact, the camp letter might be one of the last forms of communication that hasn’t been replaced by texting and emailing.

I realize that for parents it can be challenging to wait for news from their child, particularly when we are used to sending a text and getting almost an immediate response. The author of *Homesick and Happy*, Michael Thompson says, “The time between sending and receiving a letter is a valuable opportunity for both parent and child to think about one another without having to do anything with or for each other” (249). Thompson encourages parents to relax more when it comes to sending packages and checking online photos. Instead, he advocates for letter writing, explaining in an interview with Anne Fishel that “You want your children who are campers to think about you when they write a letter twice a week and NOT think about you the rest of the time. They should be thinking about their friends, their counselors, their activities, and the fun they are having.” Most often, by the time a letter has arrived home, the camper has already moved on to new adventures. A camper who might







# My Owatonna Home

REID CHARLSTON, Owatonna Director

ONE of my favorite memories as a camper was a Monopoly game we had in our cabin that went on for five days.

With all the running around we do at Camp, you have to fit board games into the moments in between, which is what we did. Every time it was “recall to cabin” before lunch or dinner we would get a few turns in. Each night we would play until taps (and sometimes after), trying to see who the ultimate winner would be. Each morning we would carefully move the board onto our counselor’s trunk so that we could clean for inspection. It was precarious. The board usually got bumped by someone during the day and we would have to figure out where all the hotels really belonged, but each night it was the eight of us sitting on our trunks pulled around the board trying to avoid landing on Park Place or Boardwalk.

The best day at Camp each summer is

July 4th. For years Skip has been waking Owatonna up with a perfect mixtape of USA-themed songs. We wolf down a bagel and some juice and then load into vans to be taken over to Bridgton to run the 4 on the Fourth road race. We get there about an hour before the race; and in the Food City parking lot Newfound and Owatonna campers and counselors pass around the red, white, and blue paint to decorate ourselves before the race. There is a special energy, and as you look at all the campers sporting their patriotic spirit and their Newfound and Owatonna shirts, you feel part of something big and wonderful. Follow that up with the Freedom Festival at Newfound with ribs, watermelon, and a giant American flag cake, and it’s a day that can’t be beat.

So, what is the connection between these two aspects of Camp? Together they highlight one of the most unique parts of the Owatonna experience. Camp

is set up in a special way that is both intimate and broad at the same time, and this range is one of the things that truly makes Owatonna the special experience that it has been for almost 100 years.

There are so many summer camp options out there. Some are small. Others are big with a huge number of programs taking campers in all sorts of different directions at the same time. What makes Owatonna special is that we have found the balance between the intimacy of the small camp and the energy and opportunities of the larger camp.

At Owatonna a boy is in a cabin with four to seven other campers. This is his group. They spend all the “in between moments” of camp together, not to mention some awesome cabin nights each Sunday. But that cabin is part of a larger division including one to three other cabins. The boys move through their activity periods with these divisions,

# Top Reasons to Be a Counselor

Newfound-Owatonna is an amazing place to be a camper – campers master new skills, develop more independence and confidence, make life-long friends, and learn about God’s all-encompassing love. Camp, however, is also for the counselors. Our counselors are excellent teachers, leaders, and role models, but they also come to Newfound and Owatonna to grow and learn themselves. Through their selfless giving, they gain professional skills and experience while having the best summer of their lives. We reached out to last summer’s staff to ask them what the best part of being a counselor is, and here are some of their responses:

The brotherhood/sisterhood you feel as a member of staff!  
Working with a great staff where you meet and become close with such amazing people. Other staff members will become your greatest support system during the summer of a lifetime!

I love going back to the most loving place in the world.

Being a camp counselor is so rewarding. As a counselor, you have the opportunity to inspire and even change the lives of young people. That’s incredible! It’s a serious job, but a seriously fun job.

The chance to change others’ lives, including your own, for the better by being a part of an environment that fosters growth in Christian Science!

Being a counselor pushes you to grow as a person!

You’re setting the example for a lot of people, so it pushes you to be your best self for them. It’s a selfless job; it gets you to think outside yourself constantly.

It’s a job where you’re constantly learning as you’re doing. You learn more about your campers, your job, and even yourself each day.

It’s a super fun job, but like the kind of fun you can only experience when you’re willing to get outside yourself and your comfort zone. The best kind of fun!

Being able to spend your summer at the greatest place on Earth.

Being part of an outstanding staff with my best friends that teaches me to be a better person and hold myself to the highest standard.

Getting to watch your campers grow and mature over the course of the summer! Not only will you experience growth, you can see the impact Camp has on the campers at Camp and it is incredible to witness.

The ability to collaborate and be co-workers with a truly incredible group of people.

Spending the summer in the little slice of heaven that is Maine.

Extra Congo bars after all the campers go to bed on Saturday night :)

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Join us in supporting Newfound and Owatonna’s metaphysical theme for 2020:

“What we most need is the prayer of fervent desire for growth in grace, expressed in patience, meekness, love and good deeds.”

SCIENCE AND HEALTH, 4







# Only at Family Camp

ALEXANDRA BUCHANAN

Family Camp is a unique blessing that enables us to spend quality time with not only our own family members but also with kindred people from across the country who become your new friends. Mary Baker Eddy writes, “Christian Scientists must live under the constant pressure of the apostolic command to come out from the material world and be separate” (*Science and Health*, 451). To come together with other individuals who strive to live by this standard in their daily lives, in the quintessential camp atmosphere of Newfound-Owatonna, is a truly special gift. We’ve all made the choice to retreat together in a place that cherishes goodness and promotes peace.

I had not been to a camp in over a decade and was so excited to feel like a camper again. Introducing my young family to camp in this way felt natural and sweet. They made instant friends and had an absolute blast. I was thoroughly impressed with how genuinely the staff cared for us, and how they went above and beyond to ensure we were enjoying ourselves. I’ve never seen such a big group of people so eager to help with smiles on their faces.

My daughter is a social butterfly, so she was in her element! On the last full day of Camp a friendly woman I had not yet met jokingly said to me, “If you don’t know where your daughter is tomorrow, she’ll be in my car with me.” My first thought was that this woman would be turning around pretty quickly! But my second thought was how unique this was that my daughter had been able to walk around in this safe, secure, and loving atmosphere and form her own little relationships. Only at Family Camp!

My son was warmly embraced by the other young boys, most of whom were camp regulars. They enthusiastically

made him feel like a part of the group. I cherished watching them have “real” fun. He loved sock attack, becoming a “flying squirrel” in the ropes course, and splashing around on the beach. After we returned home, nearly every time we got in the car Cash would ask, “Mom, are we going to Family Camp?” What a testament to his experience!

Being from the Midwest, it was a refreshing change to spend part of the summer in the Northeast. The tall pines, crisp mornings, clean air...it’s a beautiful setting worth experiencing. When we were playing on the beach with our family and noticed a bald eagle soaring in the distance, it felt like we were in a storybook. We also loved the way fun was so convenient at Camp. Long Lake was just a few steps outside of our cabin and the sports courts were just a quick stroll away. It was very easy to navigate for our little family.

My husband and I enjoy reminiscing about how special the entire experience of Family Camp was and how that was epitomized on one particular morning. Now, I’m not a huge fan of cinnamon rolls in general; but when you wake up early in the morning and canoe with your family through the mist as the sun is rising to get to them... wow! These types of moments, with the people you love, in this atmosphere ... it is the type of good, clean fun we desire to give to our family. This line from Hymn 144 of the *Christian Science Hymnal* sums up our experience at Family Camp best: “In atmosphere of Love divine, We live, and move, and breathe.”







# “...the grand human capacities of being” \* Let’s Do That!

DANIS COLLETT, Creative Arts Director

When I first read the title of our acting teacher’s workshop (below) I thought, “YES! I want to do that – I want to experience and express the ‘grand human capacities of being!’” And my next thought was, “Everyone will want to!” Not necessarily in an acting class, but that’s OK, there are so many ways. “Such as?” you ask.

## SUMMER 2020 WORKSHOPS

### 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 actress, director, and acting coach, Dawn Arnold from Chicago.

### PAINTING

*Exploring watercolors and  
Brilliance of color*  
Explore making gorgeousness – for beginners and experienced painters, with painter and teacher, Carol Carter from St. Louis.

### WRITING

*The inner logic of writing*  
Start by discerning which idea is a good idea, and go from there. Russell Davis is an active playwright, writing teacher, and serious juggler from NH.

### SINGING

*Vocal bungee-jumping and  
Lyrics and tunes – songwriting with heart*  
Express yourself musically with two approaches to song – experimental group singing for experienced singers and songwriting for everybody. Led by Deb Hensley from ME.

### ENVIROMENTAL ART

*Environmental art: moments in time* will take you outdoors to see what you can make from what you find and can envision there. Landscape designer Susan Els from VT will be your guide.

### WOODCARVING

*Woodcarving*  
Sketch, chisel, whittle, chip, sand, and finish a piece of wood into something beautiful and new with Bonnie Bower from UT!

### PRINTMAKING

*Expressed: hand-pressure printmaking*  
Experiment and adapt new and traditional printmaking processes that can also be done at home. With printmaker Carey James from Los Angeles.

### CULINARY ARTS

*Creating a good meal*  
Learn what makes, and how to make, well-rounded meals, whether omnivorous or vegetarian. With Chef Todd Jacobs from Long Island. Your efforts will help feed the whole crowd!

Come find your grand capacities with us from  
**Tuesday, Aug. 25—Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020.**

\* *Science and Health*, 200.

feel homesick in the letter writing moment, has not only moved on by the time the letter reaches home, but has learned to navigate the situation all on her own, which is what Camp is all about: independence, confidence, and growth!

When I recently told my parents that I was reading through old camp letters, they were quick to pull out their own box of cherished camp notes. Here is what they found ... my first summer at Newfound, 1989:

**Letter #1** "Dear Mom and Dad, Camp is ok. I cried a lot the first night. I miss everyone, and it makes my heart hurt ...you're not going to believe this, but I have to write a letter home every Wednesday and Saturday in order to get my dinner; it's called a 'meal ticket' ... the water is cold in the mornings; I hope it gets warmer ... I miss you a lot. Write to me soon. I love you."

**Letter #2** (about 2-3 days later) "Camp is great! Camp is wonderful! I have lots of friends. I've had lots of healings. I took archery today, windsurfing, and jazz ... tomorrow is Sping Dong Day and you have to dress crazy ... I saw Chris (my brother) yesterday and thankfully he didn't ignore me ... I might be homesick sometimes, but I'm also having fun. P.S. I left my toothbrush at grandma's house."

I can only imagine the look on my parents' face when they discovered I was days into Camp and had no toothbrush. However, by the time they received that letter, I had already problem solved and discovered for myself that I could get a new toothbrush from the camp store. Despite the discipline and patience it might take to wait for letters to come and go, we end up treasuring these letters for decades. Camp letters are not only a great opportunity for sentiment and intimacy, they are also a gift!

When my grandparents passed away, I received a stack of old letters with a rubber band around them. They were the letters I had written to my grandparents during a decade of summers spent at Newfound. My grandparents had carefully folded each letter back up, placed it in its original envelope, and put it in my grandmother's desk drawer for safekeeping. My letters never



said much; I carried on about things like watching the rain drip through a small crack in the cabin window, burning my marshmallow while trying to make a s'more, finding a spotted salamander next to my cabin, or the joy I felt upon peaking a mountaintop. But my grandparents cherished every

word. I, too, have kept each of the letters my grandparents sent to me, along with the letters that my brothers wrote to me from their bunk beds at Owatonna (just a short hill climb away), and the letters my parents sent from sunny Florida. I loved reading my granddad's letter asking, "You know something? I never went to camp when I was a boy. My brother did, but I missed out on it. Maybe you could give me some canoe lessons?" My grandfather knew full well how to canoe, but he wanted me to feel proud of all that I was learning at Camp. And I laughed when my grandmother's letter told me about the time the horses ate all of the berries she had picked to make elderberry jam!

The practice of letter writing at Camp is truly a gift that keeps giving. Just as I am able to revisit my grandparents through the letters they sent to me each summer, I will be able to pass along to the younger generation in my family the joy of seeing Camp through my eyes when I was a camper. There is something to be said for taking time to slow down and share our thoughts and feelings with each other. This just doesn't happen in the same sweet way through a text, snapchat, or Instagram post. I hope you hang on to each and every letter that your camper sends to you this summer, and I hope you encourage your children to do the same because those letters tell a story that will be adored for years to come.

\* Do you have a favorite letter to share or part of a favorite letter? Email it to [info@newfound-owatonna.com](mailto:info@newfound-owatonna.com) and we will publish it in an upcoming newsletter. We'd love to hear from you!



Owatonna continued from page 5

which allows them to expand beyond their cabin to make friends with a variety of guys in their same age range. Then on most evenings we have all-camp evening activities. These bring all the divisions together for a game of capture-the-flag, sock attack, or mission impossible, to name a few. With all the boys running around together, it isn't unusual to see a couple of the youngest guys following around a CIT or a pack of guys of all different ages standing guard over their flag zone. And then, on Sunday afternoons, we bring Newfound and Owatonna together for beach party and have over 200 campers running around together on the Newfound peninsula.

Why is this important? There are so many reasons! In those intimate moments, friendships become lifelong brotherhood; in those broader moments, campers feel they are a part of something bigger than themselves. Having the opportunity to interact with boys of various ages and in groups of various sizes helps each boy continue to develop his social skills and teamwork. On team days when the boys are working together



on community service projects with all the other campers on their teams, the older boys are learning how to set an example and be leaders, and the younger campers are watching those examples and learning from them. And on Wednesday nights, when we are all together at the amphitheater, boys and girls of all ages get to hear how their friends, just like them, are practicing Christian Science, turning to God in prayer, and finding healing.

This balance of intimacy and breadth is also seen in our camper to counselor interactions. Unlike some camps who have staff coming and going throughout the summer, most of the Owatonna counselors are there for the whole seven weeks. This allows them to get to know each camper better. When a camper comes to an activity area for a second, or third, or 20th time, they will have that same counselor there helping them individually to develop their skills. At the same time,

campers get to rotate through all the activity areas, so they can learn from every counselor on staff. This is especially true for those campers who are fortunate enough to come for all seven weeks.

Last year I was driving with my seven-year-old, and I asked him who he would put into his cabin if he got to choose. The first name out of his mouth was one of our oldest campers from the upcoming summer. I was expecting a list of boys his age, but his response was proof that at Owatonna nobody is a stranger and everyone can be your new best friend.

So, if you are looking for a summer experience for your son that will give him the opportunity to grow deep friendships with a small group of campers, give him individual training in a wide variety of activities, and still help him see that he is part of a big group of like-minded individuals, then sign him up today!



## 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](http://www.newfound-owatonna.com/giving) or use enclosed envelope

# Newfound-Owatonna Call of the loon



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## Make a note of it

## Be a camper this summer

### 2020 CAMP PROGRAMS & DATES

#### Camps Newfound and Owatonna

1st session	June 20 – July 11
Two-week session*	June 20 – July 4
2nd session	July 12 – August 8
Two-week session*	July 12 – July 25
Full session	June 20 – August 8
CIT	June 20 – August 8

#### Family Camp (1/2 price for new families Week 2)

Family Camp Week 1	August 10 – 16
Family Camp Week 2	August 17 – 23

**Creative Arts** August 25 – Sept. 1

\* For new campers



#### 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](mailto:info@newfound-owatonna.com)

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[WWW.NEWFOUND-OWATONNA.COM](http://WWW.NEWFOUND-OWATONNA.COM)