

NEWFOUND • OWATONNA Call of the loon

SPRING 2025



Something I learned...

SETH JOHNSON, Executive Director

We know that the value of camp lasts a lifetime, and Camps Newfound and Owatonna have been demonstrating this value for over 100 years! When I think about what our primary role as a camp is, I think about how Newfound and Owatonna provide children with a great summer experience based on the teachings of Christian Science. Every summer campers enjoy our many program offerings, learn new skills, deepen friendships, live surrounded by nature, experience the freedom of being away from cell phones and social media, grow in confidence, have fun, and live and love Christian Science.

And camp's impact doesn't end with the end of the summer! Campers take their growth home with them, so they can continue to thrive in their schools, on their teams, and in their communities. We always see clear growth in our campers while they are

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PROGRAMS

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

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
Deb Hensley, Creative Arts Director

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at camp, and they also can see growth in themselves. Here are some of the responses from our 2024 campers when asked about what they learned from their time at Newfound and Owatonna:

Something I learned this summer:

- That I can always express joy
- How important it is to be a good role model and to help in any way I can
- If you keep an open mindset, anything can be enjoyable no matter how challenging!
- More about Christian Science and getting closer to God
- I can be far away from home and still be really happy.
- How to be more understanding and kinder
- That I'm capable of doing anything! I grew in confidence this summer.
- The importance of expressing gratitude
- How to be a better friend and listener
- The importance of being kind to everyone
- How to pray more effectively
- How to lead and to follow
- To be more selfless
- That trying new things isn't that scary
- The discipline and excellence it takes to do something well
- How to be humble
- There are different ways of being the best.
- To be patient and to put others before yourself
- How much I love the camp community and being with my cabinmates and new friends.
- To trust God

The campers' words themselves tell the story of the real essence of camp. Every camper's highlights are unique, but they all learn new things, grow spiritually, laugh, love, and have so much fun. We want every child to experience the lifelong benefits of a summer at camp and to be able to bring that home with them.

And we want you all to share in these amazing camp benefits, too! Please join us at our Newfound and Owatonna Reunion – open to all camp friends and family – on the shores of Long Lake over Labor Day weekend, August 29 – September 1, 2025. Come for all or part of the fun!

We appreciate your dedication to and love for Camps Newfound and Owatonna, Family Camp, and Creative Arts. We hope to see you, your children, your grandchildren, and your camp friends in Maine this summer. Come to Newfound-Owatonna, Family Camp, Creative Arts, and the 2025 Reunion – there is a place for everybody at camp and the growth and learning really does last a lifetime.

Come Home to Camp

MEG REEHL, Reunion Coordinator

When starting to plan the reunion I asked myself, “If I had three days at camp, how would I spend them?” The list I made of favorite camp activities is long, but even more enjoyable than the activities themselves, is the flood of memories that come with them – memories accumulated over decades with cabinmates, counselors, staff, and the friendships we forged along the way.

Take canoeing, for example. I can close my eyes right now and picture the little swirls that form on the surface of the lake after pulling a paddle through the water, and the sound of the droplets falling as the paddle is primed for the next stroke. In today’s busy world, few things sound more peaceful to me than a sunset paddle in the cove by Hairbrush Island.

As a counselor for the youngest cabin, my co-counselors

and I once loaded our campers in canoes on a cabin night, and I can still picture their wide eyes in awe of the loon that swam beneath our boat, shooting like a dart through the water. A few years later in the same spot, I was in an absolute laughing fit with my newly assigned co-counselor during a pre-camp, pirate-themed paddle that ended with “someone” intentionally capsizing our canoe (it was me!).

So what tops your list of favorite camp activities? I hope you’ll join Terry and me at the reunion this fall and seize the opportunity to relive the memories of your time on Long Lake. I know one activity at the top of my list is gathering around the campfire and sharing in the joy and gratitude for such a special place for us ALL to call our “home away from home.”

TERRY COOLIDGE, Reunion Coordinator

Recruiting is underway for the 2025 reunion! I’ve already been in touch with camp alums representing six different decades, and I’m encouraged that we will have another great turnout like we did in 2021. I imagine we will attract many who were with us for the Owatonna Centennial, and we would love to see the faces of those who couldn’t make it last time. We sure hope you’ll join us.

It’s so much fun to reconnect with friends we haven’t seen in a while, and even more fun when it’s been a really long time. A photo from 1980 (almost 45 years ago!) prompted me to track down one of my Owatonna friends, someone I had not been in touch with since the early 1980s.

As the phone rang, I wondered if I would recognize a voice after approximately 43 years, especially since the last time we spoke he was 15 and I was 10. I’m not kidding you when I tell you that his voice, while maybe slightly different, was totally what I remembered! It was amazing! We had a wonderful phone conversation lasting over 45 minutes, during which we shared some wonderful memories of our time at camp together and our mutual appreciation of all the good that was a result of our Owatonna experience.

I was extremely gratified that the conversation was so warm and congenial, and that he sounded very likely to register for the reunion. You can be sure I will follow up with him to ensure he does indeed register!



Our conversation reminded me of the great conversations I had four years ago with the folks who participated in the previous reunion and how joyous those visits were. Whether on the Owatonna Lodge porch, while riding down the Newfound hill on a golf cart, or while sitting and singing around the fire pit outside of the Newfound Lower Lodge, those reconnections were fantastic, heartfelt, and heartwarming. Brief or extended, it didn’t matter ... they all were more than worthwhile.

Please join us this Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 29 – Sept. 1, 2025, won’t you? Visit www.newfound-owatonna.com for more details and to register.



Say Yes to Growth

MARY RANKIN, Newfound Director

What if I told you that one of the bravest things someone did started with a suitcase ... and a quiet little “yes”? She was nervous. Unsure of what lay ahead. It had been a whole year – or more – since she’d last been there. And still – she came. She left behind her friends, the certainty of what each day would look like, the scroll of social media, and the familiar rhythm of home. And she boldly stepped into the unknown.

This is the story of so many campers and counselors who come to Camp Newfound each summer. Many return year after year, but even for them, it takes courage. Coming to camp means choosing growth over comfort. It means leaving behind predictability and things that feel like safety nets: phones, familiarity, relationships, or just the certainty of knowing what to expect moment to moment. And for first-timers? It’s a giant leap of faith into something entirely new. But they take it. That brave little “yes” they offer? It’s not just a decision, it’s

the first sign of something much deeper and transformational: a desire to grow.

In today’s world, comfort is often mistaken for happiness or safety, and “easy” is too often interpreted as “good.” But the truth is, resilience and confidence don’t develop in easy places. Real growth doesn’t happen in the predictable or the comfortable. When we choose challenge over ease, when we stretch beyond what is familiar, and when we trust in God’s constant love and support, we grow.

Camp teaches us that doing hard things is transformative. When we rise to a challenge and discover what we’re truly capable of, something shifts. We’re stretched, strengthened, and grounded in a quiet, deep-seated confidence. A confidence that is rooted in something lasting and powerful: our relationship with God. It’s that trust, the kind that anchors us in the Truth that allows us to stand still, listen deeply, and lean into the good that’s unfolding.

This summer’s metaphysical theme comes from Exodus 14:13: “Fear ye

not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today.” What a powerful invitation to pause in the face of difficulty or challenge, to stand still, listen, and trust more deeply in God’s care. When we understand our oneness with God, fear loses its grip, and courage steps in.

Courage leads us to do hard things. Hard things build resilience. And that’s where deep, meaningful growth begins: the kind of growth that raises leaders – girls and women who walk through the world with strength and grace, who lift others up, who lead by example. These are Newfound women.

This summer, we’re introducing a new question we’ll be asking around campfires, in cabins, and during those quiet one-on-one moments: “What was the bravest thing you did today?” Not simply, “What was your favorite activity?” or “Did you have fun?” But “What did you overcome?” or “What did you try, even though it was hard?”

Courage doesn’t always look

Owatonna: From Start to Finish

REID CHARLSTON, Owatonna Director

Maybe because this will be my tenth summer as director, or maybe because my oldest son – who began as a scout – is about to start his last camper year before becoming a CIT, or maybe because I’ve been hiring staff for this summer who I’ve watched grow up at camp, I’ve been thinking a lot about the impact the entire Owatonna experience can have on a boy. The blessings from each individual summer are wonderful to see, but the impact of going through the entire Owatonna experience - from scout to counselor - is something unique, special, and worth spending a little time here sharing about it.

To be clear, anyone beginning camp at any age will feel embraced and included, and have great opportunities to grow. That being said, the complete Owatonna experience helps a boy navigate his journey from boyhood to manhood, both humanly and spiritually.

When our youngest campers arrive at camp for their first opening day, many of them are about to spend a significant period of time away from their family for the first time. This will give them a great opportunity to begin to learn that Father-Mother is God. As they navigate the challenges of living with others, learning to respect personal boundaries, developing problem solving and communication skills, and taking more responsibility of their belongings than most of them have had to do before, they start to glimpse that the qualities of guidance, patience, encouragement, and love their parents

have showered on them are really qualities of God that can be expressed toward them from a variety of people who don’t look anything like parents. They also have opportunities to put into practice the lessons on prayer and listening to God that they have been learning about in their Sunday School classes, reinforced and supported by their counselors during their morning study of the stories in the weekly Bible Lesson.

As these boys transition into their upper-elementary and early middle school years, they start navigating new challenges. They are beginning to contemplate who they are and who they want to be. Social status starts to become more important, and there are often a variety of social and emotional challenges. But, at Owatonna, they have counselors who help them learn to solve conflict, who encourage them to look for the good in everyone they interact with, and who teach them that their true identity as an expression of God is perfect and complete and doesn’t need to change according to peer influences or societal trends.

For seventh and eighth graders, who are often starting to test boundaries, finding their own sense of humor, encountering moments of peer pressure, and being exposed to more mature content and topics, camp provides them with a place to build on the right foundation. By celebrating moral courage and innocence, and by providing examples of Christ-like manhood, the counselors help the boys put those concerns in perspective. They get to see that everyone has to figure out this “growing

From learning to waterski to teaching another generation of campers

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THE NEWFOUND-OWATONNA
2025 STAFF

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING NEWFOUND AND OWATONNA

“Fear ye not, stand still
of the Lord, which he v

EXODU



ONNA'S METAPHYSICAL THEME FOR SUMMER 2025

l, and see the salvation
will shew to you to day”

S 14:13



The Inside Scoop

JENNAI HUFSTADER, Family Camp Director

Each year in the Call of the Loon we share how wonderful Family Camp is – that it is the best vacation you can take. There's no cooking, cleaning, or entertaining the kids. Instead, there's three meals prepared for you each day. There are activities for the entire family. There are old friends to visit with and new friends to make. There are helpful counselors waiting to guide you through activities and ready to play with the kids. There's morning quiet time and morning meeting where you can connect and share with others. And the list goes on. But now we thought it was time for our two oldest children to share their favorite parts of Family Camp with you. This idea to have them share came during a road trip. The kids were getting restless and wild in the back seat, and we still had another two hours to go. I started asking them different questions about Family Camp, and they happily answered questions for almost 45 minutes (and before we knew it, we were at our destination!).

AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR TWO OLDEST CHILDREN:

Describe family camp in one word.

Kid 1: "Awesome!"

Kid 2: "Amazing!"

Favorite food at Family Camp?

Kid 1: "Oh this is way too hard. It's impossible to pick one food. Okay fine, if I have to pick one, I'll pick Friday night lobsters."

Kid 2: "Everything. All the food." (Mom: "Pick one.") "Okay, Chick-Fil-A day."

Favorite activity at Family Camp?

Kid 1: "Moose." (A morning activity led by counselors for kids 5 and up that is different each day.)

Kid 2: "All of them." (Mom: "Pick one.") "Fine, arts and crafts."

Zipline or rope swing?

Kid 1: "Mom, there's too many impossible questions. I don't know. It's too hard. (Mom: "Pick one.") "Zipline."

Kid 2: "This is a hard one. Zipline."

Favorite Moose activity?

Kid 1: "I'm between three: Discovering Hairbrush Island, Olympics, and Mega Raft. (Mom: "What do you do on Hairbrush?") "Walk on the sandbar, swim in the water near the rocks, walk on a trail on the island, make a big nest and forts, and pick blueberries. It's so fun!"

Kid 2: "Ninja warriors."

Congo bars or s'mores?

Kid 1: "S'mores because you get to make them outside and roast them with other people around the fire. But also Mom, what about ice cream sundae night where you get to choose your toppings?"

Kid 2: "Congo bars."

Favorite thing to do on the Big Float?

Kid 1: "Slide."

Kid 2: "Slide, but I also really like the high platform too."

Bun run or triathlon?

Kid 1: "Triathlon. But I like both!"

Kid 2: "Bun run. But same, I love both!"

Anything else to mention about Family Camp?

Kid 1: "Playing with all of my friends and the counselors."

Kid 2: "I love playing street hockey with everyone after lunch and dinner."

Do you like coming to family camp every year?

Kid 1: "YES!"

Kid 2: "Mom, why are you asking that? Of course I like coming every year. I love it! We wait for it every year!"

So there you have it! I promise these kids know what they are talking about! Family Camp is one of the things our family looks forward to most each year, and we would love to see you all there this August. The cabins and cubies will be ready, the ski boats will be running, and the campfires and s'mores will be waiting!





Polly Castor

"...less illusion and more Soul."



DEB HENSLEY, Creative Arts Director

This is our theme for Creative Arts this year. Here it is in context: "The recipe for beauty is to have less illusion and more Soul, to retreat from the belief of pain or pleasure in the body into the unchanging calm and glorious freedom of spiritual harmony" (*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 247:31). At Creative Arts we're committed to following this recipe, and witnessing the unique ways we each express "...the unchanging calm and glorious freedom of spiritual harmony." Through music, performance art, visual art, daily interactions, and spiritual refreshment, teachers and students alike work to perfect the deeper meanings of beauty – not as an illusory, fleeting human concept, but as the very substance of Soul.

HERE'S WHAT WE'RE COOKING UP THIS YEAR:

Movie Making – Learning and practicing the skills needed to make a short film – including scripting, creating a shot list, camera fundamentals, editing, sound design, and lighting – students will have supported freedom to create their own short film.

Songwriting Comes Alive – This class offers a safe on-ramp for the songwriting novice as well as a lift to experienced songwriters. Students will go under the hood of their favorite songs, see why they're drawn to them, give their ears a fun tune-up, and build a foundational sense of songcrafting that may change the way they listen to music forever.

The Art of Cooking – This immersive experience is divided into two sessions: a morning cooking class focusing on beautiful, locally sourced foods, and an afternoon session dedicated to documenting what you create. Join us to enhance your culinary repertoire, develop your artistic skills, and, if you so choose, leave with a beautiful recipe book filled with your unique creations.

Savor & Sketch – This class offers a fun, flexible space for artistic exploration. Students will sketch fresh ingredients, prepared meals, or memorable moments; add vibrant color with watercolor, markers, or colored pencils; design borders or decorative elements inspired by flowers, doodles, or nature; incorporate photographs; and leave with a personalized recipe journal or a collection of artwork that celebrates their creativity.

Read to me, please! – Through addressing individual aims and

learning from one another, students will explore what makes for nourishing and engaging reading aloud. They'll practice getting thought off themselves and into the ideas they read. Losing artifice and overdramatizing, they'll see how clarity and animation can flow easily and learn to read with more believability and understanding.

Cartooning – In this fun and engaging class, students will get to know some of the great cartoonists of our time and times past such as James Thurber, George Booth, and Roz Chast, inspiring them to get cracking on their own work with confidence – maybe even publishing a daily cartoon issue for sharing at breakfast!

Dancing with Ideas – Accessing the movement concepts embedded in "Laban Effort Actions" and "Viewpoints," students in this class will explore ways to use those movements and writing "tools" to investigate emerging themes, discover what we want to say, and create an original piece of movement art.

Oil Painting – This class will find students joyfully entering into the celebration of painting as a life-long process. Cutting the frills, seeing the big shapes and subtle transitions, they'll take ideas and work with them in several different ways, thus bringing their own unique views to the surface.

Special workshops on Saturday only

Needle Felting

The Art of Children's Book Illustration



Newfound continued from page 4

like a gold medal or reaching the top of the ropes course. Sometimes it looks like walking into a cabin full of strangers. Leaving your phone at home. Saying goodbye to your parents. Trying something new. Sharing at Morning Meeting. Letting someone really see you. Letting yourself be seen. These small, vulnerable, and brave moments? That's where real growth begins and leaders are cultivated.

And here's the beautiful part: just choosing to come to camp at all – that's already a brave step. It's already leadership. These girls and young women may not realize it yet, but when they say yes to camp, they are saying yes to courage. Yes to challenge. Yes to trust. Yes to growth. They aren't coming to become brave – they are coming because they already are. That quiet "yes" is the beginning of something powerful. Because that's what leaders do. Leaders step forward, even when it's hard, and they grow through the choice.

So to end where we began – in a world that often steers us toward comfort and celebrates ease, camp offers something far more meaningful. It quietly dares us to grow. It says: Hard things are worth doing. Growth is worth seeking.

And the girls who choose camp – whether they realize it or not – are already choosing a path of purpose, resilience, and trust: in themselves, in each other, and in God.

The kind of strength they discover here doesn't fade when the summer ends. It goes home with them. It shapes who they are becoming. And it reminds them, again and again, that they are more capable and more courageous than they ever imagined.

P.S. Whether you're a camper, staff member, alum, or supporter, consider asking yourself (and your family) this simple question: "What was the bravest thing you did today? What did you overcome? What did you try, even though it was hard?" You might be surprised by what surfaces. And you might just discover how much courage has been quietly growing in you all along.



YOUR 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
- Use the enclosed envelope
- Scan the Venmo code



up stuff” and the most important thing is to focus on goodness. We also help them see their most valuable asset is listening to God and using His guidance as their compass.

When the boys reach freshman and sophomore year, they often are thinking about the other draws of life - sports, dating, their future, their first jobs, and more. It is a time when many of them start to want more independence, and also when the impacts of social media and their online presence

start to take on a more significant role in their lives. Sometimes that “I’m too cool for that” attitude tries to show up, too. This is where Owatonna, with its focus on childlike fun, purity, brotherhood, and a screen-free time in nature, can provide a great break from all the pressures of their school

lives. It is also an important time to help them feel good about Sunday School and Christian Science. When many of their peers at home are starting to voice their own opinions on subjects from politics to religion, having a significant amount of time spent with friends and mentors who are striving to understand God and Christian Science better can go a long way in helping them continue to find value in their faith.

As they finish their sophomore year and reach the CIT program, they are primed for one of the most impactful summers of their lives. These boys, who are starting to take on more

responsibilities and move into leadership positions, have the opportunity to spend seven weeks focused on learning about and practicing the skills that will help them be successful in so many aspects of their lives. They learn about and practice giving feedback, making tough decisions, being aware of the needs around them, and much more. As they go through lifeguard training they begin to see the level of focus it requires when someone’s safety is your responsibility



(a great lesson for them as they begin driving!). As they travel to The Mother Church and Longyear Museum, they see the impact that a Christian Scientist can have when they take leadership roles in our movement and in our world. All of this is working to support them as they use their last two years in high school to prepare for college and beyond.

I have often said the greatest impact Owatonna can have on the world is with its counselors. Above and beyond the multitude of life skills they develop as they work with the kids is the impact camp has on their spiritual lives. These young men, who are striking out into the world, have

the support of camp to help them stay the course in a society that questions much of what they have valued for their whole lives. Some of them are struggling to find a Sunday School or church in their area, and others have trouble making the time within their busy schedules. So, Owatonna becomes a grounding opportunity to help them refresh and strengthen themselves as they go into the next year. The daily time to pray and study the Bible Lesson, coupled with the responsibility of helping

teach their campers how to use these tools, helps them learn to practice Christian Science at a deeper level than many of them have before. Every summer, I have counselors tell me how grateful they are to have this time and how excited they are to keep it going throughout the year.

To be clear, there are many other elements that impact our children as they grow up, but

hopefully, I’ve made a strong argument that the pathway from scout to counselor at Owatonna is exactly what your son needs to help him navigate all the stages as he grows from a boy to a man. Many of you reading this have witnessed the Owatonna experience impact your own sons in these ways, and, hopefully, some of you have young sons who will come to camp and see it bless them year after year until they move out into the world as confident leaders, spiritual healers, and men of high character. If you haven’t signed your son up yet, there is still room available, and we would love to support him no matter where he is on his journey!

Newfound-Owatonna Call of the loon



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MAKE A NOTE OF IT

Come to Camp!

2025 CAMP PROGRAMS & DATES

Camps Newfound and Owatonna

1st session	June 22 – July 11
Two-week session*	June 22 – July 5
2nd session	July 13 – August 8
Full session	June 22 – August 8
CIT	June 22 – August 8

* For new campers

Family Camp (50% discount for new families Week 2)

Family Camp Week 1	August 11 – 17
Family Camp Week 2	August 18 – 24

2025 CNCO Reunion Aug. 29 – Sept. 1

Creative Arts Sept. 2 – 9

2025 REUNION

Calling all friends of camp! Come back to the shores of Long Lake for the 2025 Reunion on Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 29 – Sept. 1.

See page 3 for more details.

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

Memoria Day

volunteer work weekend at Camp

May 23–26

Families, alumni and friends ... join us at camp to help get camp ready for the summer!

We have projects for all ages and abilities.

We supply the basics – yummy food (starting with breakfast on Saturday),

cozy cabins, warm showers –

and you supply the elbow grease.



Please let us know if you are planning to attend: info@newfound-owatonna.com

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