

NEWFOUND • OWATONNA Call of the loon



SPRING 2026



Summer Highlights

SETH JOHNSON, Executive Director

Before long our staff will arrive for pre-camp training, and eager campers will follow soon after. The athletic fields will be lined for games; the lake will be filled with swimmers, waterskiers, and kayakers; and camp songs will ring through the lodges. I think this summer – my twelfth as Executive Director – will be the best one yet! I'll be retiring from camp after the summer, so as I think about camp this year, I am also looking back and thinking a lot about some highlights from the recent years. I love watching our campers compete against other camps – last summer Newfound and Owatonna both had fun games against local camps and the campers got to play with friends of all skill levels – just for the love and joy of the sport, not for a state title or the pressure of a club team. And every 4th of July, I look forward to watching our runners (and joggers ... and walkers ...!) participate in a local four mile road race. I plant myself about a quarter of a mile from the finish line, so I get to cheer on each camper and

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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

2026 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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As many of you know, Seth “Chic” Johnson will be retiring as Executive Director at the end of the 2026 summer season.

We would love to gather notes of gratitude, memories, photos, and reflections from our camp family to compile and share with Seth at the end of the summer. If you would like to contribute, send an email to jenny@newfound-owatonna.com

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counselor who goes by – from the front-runners to the “sweepers” at the very end of the race. There are so many waves, cheers, and smiles as they near the finish line.

I also love being a part of camp’s wilderness trips program. As Executive Director, I sign off on each trip that leaves camp, so I get to understand the routes up mountains, the islands that will be reached on ocean kayaking trips, the lakes and rivers that will be explored in canoes. And even better, I love to see the campers and counselors when they return, so proud of their accomplishments and with so many stories to share.

I also loved the two recent reunions camp hosted. The 2021 Owatonna reunion celebrated Owatonna’s first 100 years, and last summer’s joint reunion brought back alums, friends, and family from all over the world. So many camp songs were sung around the campfire on the Newfound ski beach, so many Congo bars and s’mores were eaten, and so many friendships were started or rekindled.

I really enjoy teaching Sunday School and attending Morning Meetings and Wednesday Evening Testimony Meetings (WETM). I have taught a counselor Sunday School class, and listening to the young staff members think deeply and share honestly about their spiritual growth has been a highlight of each summer. And Morning Meetings and WETMs might just be my favorite times of the week – the thoughtful sharing and clear thinking of campers and counselors is always inspiring.

And every day I get to just walk around both Newfound and Owatonna and observe camp in action. As I do so, I deeply appreciate what I’m witnessing. I see campers challenging themselves on the high ropes course, passing their Big Float Test for the first time, mastering getting up on one waterski, learning to light a one-match fire, painting a landscape, building up their stamina to swim to Cherry Island ... and so many more fun and inspiring activities every single day at camp. Every morning before breakfast, the camp repeats the annual Metaphysical Theme as a way to start the day. This summer our metaphysical theme is from Isaiah 54:13:

“All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children.”

For me, this Bible passage embodies what Camps Newfound and Owatonna are all about, why they exist and why we all work for camp. Our beloved camps are places for children of all ages to learn about their relationship with God, to grow spiritually, grow in their understanding of Christian Science and experience the healing power of divine Love.

I’ve had the privilege of supporting our youth for many years by helping provide an excellent educational experience for children and families. I so appreciate all the year-round and summer staff who I have worked with to continue to make camp such an important experience. There is a place, and an embrace, for everyone at camp, and we hope that you can join us at Newfound and Owatonna for children, Family Camp for adults and children, and Creative Arts for adults. If you are in Maine this summer, we would love for you to stop by for a visit.

Please Welcome Our Next Executive Director: Mary Rankin

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Mary Rankin will be our new Executive Director. Mary has a deep connection to camp that spans more than 30 years from her days as a camper and counselor to serving as the Newfound Director for the last 17 years. Her love for camp, dedication to Christian Science healing, and thoughtful, effective leadership style have consistently shone. Mary expresses a love and loyalty to our camp traditions, as well as a remarkable energy to ensure that camp continues to progress and grow. In our conversations, she emphasized that camp is a place that people call home – where they can draw closer to God, live Christian Science, and feel loved, supported, and challenged. Mary's clarity on camp's purpose will guide her new role and serve the whole camp family well.

Mary will serve as the Newfound Director throughout summer 2026 and will officially step into the Executive Director position on October 1, 2026. We are incredibly grateful for Seth 'Chic' Johnson's leadership as Executive Director over the past 12 years. His stewardship of camp has been an era of progress and prosperity. There will be a thoughtful transition process between Chic and Mary over the coming months.

Lastly, the Board is tremendously thankful for the support of the entire camp community throughout this search and transition process. We are grateful for everyone who expressed an interest in the ED position and to each of you for keeping Camps Newfound and Owatonna in your prayers.



Throughout the search process, the Board has witnessed and rejoiced in countless wonderful expressions of dedication and selfless love from many members of our camp family.

Please join us in congratulating Mary and extending a heartfelt thank you to her husband, Skip Schneider, and their family for their combined years of dedication and service to Camps Newfound and Owatonna. We look forward to much good to come!

As we conclude the search process and begin the Executive Director transition over the coming summer, Hymn 65 from the *Christian Science Hymnal* continues to echo in our thought, as joyfully as ever:

*"From glory unto glory, From strength to strength we go,
While grace for grace abundantly Doth from His fullness flow."*

A Love for Camp

Mary has been attending Camp Newfound since she was a camper. Much of her life has been dedicated to education and youth development, starting as a counselor and Senior Staff member at Newfound, followed by working as a Montessori teacher for seven years. In 2009, Mary became the Director of Camp

Newfound, where she helped to define the 'Newfound Woman,' articulating the beautiful qualities that each Newfound camper and staff member strives to express, as well as mentored thousands of Newfound campers and staff. Over the years, Mary has served as a Sunday School teacher and First Reader at Christian Science branch

churches, and of course, teaches Sunday School at camp every summer. She is married to Skip Schneider, who shares a similarly impressive tenure at camp, including serving currently as camp's Boating Director. When not at camp, Mary, Skip, and their dog Cricket live in the Greater Boston Area.



KANNON GILL

A Letter to the Summer Ahead

MARY RANKIN, Newfound Director

Camp doesn't actually begin on opening day.

Not when you pack your trunk.

Not when you arrive.

Not when you step onto the dock.

It begins earlier than that, in quieter ways
you might not even notice at first.

Maybe it begins the moment camp crosses your mind ...

Or when someone asks,

"Are you excited for summer?"

Because the truth is ... camp doesn't just begin in June.

It begins long before.

It begins the moment something starts to shift ...

When anticipation grows, and you begin,
little by little, to step into something new.

To the Girls ...

You might be excited.

You might be unsure.

You might be a little bit of both.

(That's pretty normal, by the way.)

You might be thinking about your cabin ...

Who will be there ...

What it will feel like to walk into a place where
some things are familiar and some things are not.

And whether this is your first summer or your
seventh, there is something I want you to know:

You are already exactly who you need to be to come to camp.
And ... you are going to grow.

This summer will ask things of you.

Not in a heavy or overwhelming way ...

But in small, meaningful moments.

Moments where you try something new.

Moments where you do something
that feels just a little bit hard.

Moments where you discover something about
yourself that you didn't fully see before.

And in those moments, something shifts.

You begin to see your strength.

Your voice.

Your place.

You begin to realize:

I can do this.

I am capable.

I belong.

And here's the beautiful part ...

You are not coming to become someone different.

You are coming to more fully be who you already are.

At Newfound, we talk about something
called The Newfound Woman.

She isn't a version of you that you have

An Opportunity for Growth

REID CHARLSTON, Owatonna Director

Summer break is an interesting phrase. For children, it genuinely offers a welcome respite from school – a time for play rather than classroom lessons. For parents, however, it can often feel like the opposite of a break, as we juggle a full work schedule with coordinating and transporting our children to keep them busy.

More importantly, the word “break” can be misleading when we consider our fundamental parental duty. A change of pace from the school year is beneficial, but it doesn’t give us a break from our true responsibility: guiding our children to become successful men and women. In fact, if we’re not vigilant, this “break” period can actually undermine the positive skills and habits they’ve worked to build during the school year.

The importance of our children’s ongoing education is something that should be in our thought each day of every year, until they leave the nest and launch into their own adult lives. Summer break presents a great opportunity for growth that will both prepare them for the greater challenges of the upcoming school year as well as strengthen their foundation for success in life.

For many reasons, a summer at Owatonna (or even part of a summer) is a perfect opportunity to help your son continue his growth from youth into manhood. Each morning, he will practice teamwork, communication, and attention to detail as he and his cabinmates make their beds and clean their cabin for

inspection. This is followed by group and individual spiritual study time with the Christian Science Bible Lesson, where he will increase his familiarity with the Bible stories, deepen his understanding of the teachings of Christian Science, and practice quiet, prayerful communion with his Father-Mother, God. During his activities throughout the day, he will be encouraged to challenge himself to overcome fear on the rock wall or behind the ski boat, to discover his creativity in arts and crafts and blacksmithing, to appreciate the natural world around him in woodsman, to uncover his athletic abilities during team sports, and to grow as a friend by supporting and encouraging those around him throughout all these activities. At mealtimes, he will develop his in-person, face-to-face communication and relationship-building skills with friends of different ages. And in the evenings, he will build the habit of expressing gratitude for the good he has been given while also reflecting on the opportunities he had to do good for others – and all of that is just one day! This list hasn’t included learning to work as a team to achieve a goal on team day, finding new levels of perseverance and reliance on God on trips, or possibly even finding the courage to stand up for the first time at a Wednesday Evening Testimony Meeting to share gratitude for a healing.

Sports camps, summer travel, summer jobs, time spent at home with friends, and other options all offer growth in some of these areas, but you will have a hard time finding any of

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE
THE NEWFOUND-OWATONNA
2026 STAFF

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING NEWFOUND AND OWATONNA

“All thy children shall
and great shall be the

ISAIAH



be taught of the Lord;
peace of thy children.”

54:13



Come Home to Family Camp

On the shores of Long Lake, families of all ages come together to unplug, reconnect, and experience the joy of camp—together.

JENNAI HUFSTADER, Family Camp Director

Summer is just around the corner and our preparations for Family Camp are well underway! Whether you are joining us for the first time this summer, returning for another great summer, or are thinking about attending but haven't signed up yet, we look forward to having all of you at Family Camp this August. While you might not be the right age to be a camper or counselor at Newfound or Owatonna, you are always the right age for Family Camp! There really is something for everyone at Family Camp.

When my boys were smaller, I would ask them what they were most excited about for the upcoming summer at Family Camp. Their responses were usually something like this: "Everything! The food, the giant slip 'n' slide that goes down the big hill, the counselors, the Moose program, our friends!" Asking them today, one boy's response was, "Arts and crafts, bumper tubing, archery, and playing with counselors," and the other's

was, "Waterskiing, sock attack, and the food." What struck me was that while many of their favorite activities have changed over the years, their excitement and love for being at Family Camp has not.

Because Family Camp offers such a wide variety of activities, your own camp experience can evolve right alongside your family, just as mine has. Maybe during your last visit, your youngest spent time in our childcare, but now they are old enough to climb the rock wall or ride the zipline while you watch or participate alongside them. Or maybe this summer you'll have the chance to read on the ski beach while your older children go bumper tubing or head to the archery range on their own. Or maybe you'll finally go on that day trip (led by camp's trippers) off camp property to enjoy one of Maine's many beautiful hikes or rivers. There's a seemingly endless amount of activities for the entire family to participate in together or separately at Family Camp.

I must also mention what is always constant at Family Camp: the high quality of counselors and the uplifted atmosphere. Our encouraging and energetic counselors are a huge part of what makes camp so successful. They are always ready to lead activities, play with the kids, and offer a helping hand. Our counselors make even the simplest activity unbelievably fun through their abundant creativity, enthusiasm, and joy. And the uplifted atmosphere at Family Camp encourages everyone and showcases the harmony present in all camper activities and interactions.

Family Camp is always a highlight of my family's year, and I hope that those of you who have been thinking about coming to Family Camp sign up for a week this summer. I promise it will be unforgettable! Start packing your bags – we'll see you in Maine in August!





MARIAN



MOLLY MENSCHEL

**“And then the day came
when the risk to remain tight in a bud
became stronger than the risk it took to blossom.”**

—Anias Nin



DEB HENSLEY, Creative Arts Director

Sometimes the day arrives entirely unbidden. Sometimes it shows up as a joy you simply can't ignore. Or it might emerge as a simple urge to join others who are leaning into their own blossoming. However it comes for you, Creative Arts is a place for you to nurture this creative unfoldment; to give it real attention beginning with the divine quietness that's always at the heart of any original, artistic endeavor.

Our fine teaching artists this year are preparing for this even now. Here's the line up of classes coming up at Creative Arts this summer. Full class descriptions are on www.newfound-owatonna.com/creative-arts/ or scan the QR code above.

2026 CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS

Marian's **Portraiture** sessions will offer students the exciting opportunity to learn both the fundamentals and essentials of building a portrait, using graphite in the morning and oils in the afternoon.

Molly's photography **Visual Storytelling** class invites students to study and explore the photojournalistic elements that make up a visual narrative. In her afternoon class, **Photography as Self Reflection**, students use visual imagery to expand their relationship with nature, one another, and the divine.

Corie's **Pine Needle Art** class, covering basic stitches and techniques of this intricate and beautiful craft, is great for both beginners and experienced pine needle artists.

Monica's morning **Scene Study and Improv** class focuses on foundations of acting with an emphasis on partner connection and active play. And in her afternoon class, **Journey into Musical Theater**, students engage in a variety of vocal exercises and theater games to support freedom of expression through song.

Paul's **Writer's Workshop** welcomes writers of all levels to explore their creativity, share their stories, grow in community, help one another deepen their craft, and discover new possibilities on the page.

Beverly's class, **Talk to me, please**, invites students to explore their specific interests in developing, maintaining, and engaging

in meaningful, artful conversations. This safe and secure place will have students trying new, creative ways to converse, recognize and practice individual contributions to the conversations we have each day.

Nate's **Moviemaking** class is a joyous, challenging opportunity to explore the fundamentals of short-form film making using smartphones. Students learn scripting, making a shot list, camera fundamentals, editing, sound design, and lighting.

In Jeff and Deb's afternoon **Toast and Jam** session, students will have many opportunities to sing lead and/or back up harmonies, learn new instrumental, rhythmic, and vocal riffs, and explore ideas for song arrangements. Local musicians will sit in throughout the week.

In Julie's **Fabric and Fibers** class, students will use thread, textiles, dyes, paint, and ink to create surface designs on textiles, then embellish them to create wall art or sculptural pieces.

Come along and bloom with us, August 25 to September 1!

See you there!

to earn or become someday.

She is who you already are.

She is confident, kind, radiant, and strong. Not because of what she achieves, but because she knows her worth.

She knows she can never be separate from God, from Divine Love ... and because of that, she is already whole, already complete, and already enough.

And when you begin to understand that, even just a little, you start to move through the world differently.

You try things more freely.

You include others more naturally.

You lift people up instead of comparing yourself to them.

You shine ... and you help others shine too.



This is who we are at Newfound.

A place where girls support each other.

Encourage each other.

Celebrate each other.

A sisterhood that doesn't compete, but lifts.

A place where you are known, loved,
and accepted exactly as you are ...

And at the same time, gently invited to grow
into an even brighter version of yourself.

This summer, our metaphysical theme reminds us:

*"All thy children shall be taught of the Lord;
and great shall be the peace of thy children."*

Don't you just love knowing that you are not
figuring everything out on your own?

There is something steady guiding you.

Divine Love is teaching you, shaping you,
supporting you ... every step of the way.

And that's what allows you to grow with
confidence ... steadily and naturally.

To let go of fear.

To release doubt.

To step into who you truly are.

So as you sit here in this "before" moment ...

Wondering, imagining, maybe even questioning ...

Know this:

You are stepping into something
special. Something life changing.

A place where you will grow.

A place where you will feel at home.

A place where you will be part of
something bigger than yourself.

A place where you will rise, thrive, and lift others as you do.

And to you, as Parents ...

We know what it takes to send your child to camp.

There is excitement ...

But also trust.

There is anticipation ...

But also a quiet letting go.

And we don't take that lightly.

While your child is here, they will be known.

Not just by name, but by who they are.

They will be supported, encouraged, and
gently stretched in all the right ways.

They will be surrounded by a community rooted in love, in
care, and in a deep understanding of each child's inherent worth.

At Newfound, we don't just focus on what campers do ...

We focus on who they are.

And helping them see themselves as confident, capable,
and deeply valued. Not in comparison to others, but as
unique expressions of something beautiful and whole.

For All of Us ...

Whether you are coming for the first time ...

Returning to a place you already love ...

Sending your child into this experience ...

Know this:

You are part of something special.

And something good is already unfolding.

We cannot wait to welcome you home this summer.



ELIAS BASHOR

Owatonna continued from page 5

them that can more comprehensively contribute to your son's growth than time spent at Owatonna. The biggest reason for this is that Owatonna begins by seeing your son as already complete and works to help him discover it for himself. Best of all, with a program that offers bigger challenges, leadership opportunities, and adventures to take on each year, this impact is compounded as he continues to come back to camp.

A parent once said to me, "The best parenting I do all year is when I send my kids to camp!" While I don't want to discount the great and vital work you are all doing with your children, he was touching on something important that

is hard to encapsulate in a short article. Camp Owatonna is a special place with a special ability to help our young boys transition into young men. They are surrounded by friends in a safe but challenging environment, they are given opportunities to lean on God regularly, and they are guided along the way by strong role models who have seen the value of this growth in their own lives. The results are profound and can be seen in the many Owatonna alumni who are having a big impact in the world.

As you prayerfully consider the best way to help your son continue his preparation for life, I encourage you to deeply consider whether some time at

Owatonna might be the best thing for his development. The lessons he will learn, the friendships he will create, the new skills he will develop, and the deeper trust in God that he will gain, will all help him to grow his understanding of his complete identity as God's child – and there's nothing that can have a greater impact on his success than that.



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
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Newfound-Owatonna Call of the loon



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Find Your Place on the Lake

Discover the program that's right for you

2026 CAMP PROGRAMS & DATES

Camps Newfound and Owatonna

1st session	June 21 – July 10
Two-week session*	June 21 – July 5
2nd session	July 12 – August 7
Full session	June 21 – August 7
CIT	June 21 – August 7

* For new campers

Family Camp (50% discount for new FC campers Week 2)

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

Creative Arts August 25 – Sept. 1



JOIN US AT FAMILY CAMP

Days on the water. Campfire nights under the stars.

Time together in between.

FIRST-TIME FC CAMPERS RECEIVE

A 50% DISCOUNT OFF WEEK 2.

info@newfound-owatonna.com

Memoria Day

volunteer work weekend at Camp

May 22–25

Families, alums, 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

WWW.NEWFOUND-OWATONNA.COM