

# NEWFOUND • OWATONNA Call of the loon



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SPRING 2024



## The Heart of Camp

SETH JOHNSON, Executive Director

Camps Newfound and Owatonna have a rich history and legacy that has provided an excellent Christian Science summer camp experience to a far-reaching camp family for over 100 years.

As I think about this summer of 2024, I'm so very grateful for all the committed people who come to camp each summer, finding their way to the shores of Long Lake in Maine. They are, you are, the ones who make camp the amazing place that it is. From cabin and activity staff, to program directors, to trippers, to kitchen staff, to our maintenance team, you all make camp the place where we love to gather each summer. You come and serve and give unselfishly to make camp the place it is – a place where we serve God, and Christian Science is lived and loved in a practical and tangible way, where we make new friends,

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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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grow spiritually, and have fun. Our year-round staff work to enroll and staff camp, but our work wouldn't be important if you didn't all make your way to Maine each summer! We have expanded our camp family and in recent years have had campers and staff from Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, China, Germany, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, as well as many states in the US.

I'm very grateful for the campers who come to camp and their families who send their children to camp each summer. I'm very grateful to the many people who support our camp from afar with their prayers as well as with financial contributions. We even have 4th generation campers and staff, who represent the love and generosity expressed over many years by families, parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. The camps have blessed so many, for many years. Our camp cherishes each individual, wherever they are in their journey, with love. This is certainly an idea worth supporting and participating in.

I'm thinking back, and I'm thinking forward, and I'm very grateful for all the campers and staff who come to camp each summer. This past summer, we had 565 campers and staff come through camp, including Family Camp and Creative Arts, and we are looking forward to an even more full, active, and busy summer in 2024.

In order to continue the rich legacy of Camps Newfound and Owatonna, we need your help to spread the word about camp, its purpose, and mission. Tell your church members, friends, and neighbors. We want every possible individual to join our camp family. The journey of camp can be lifelong from Family Camper to Newfound and Owatonna camper, to counselor, to alumni, to attending Creative Arts and reunions. Speaking of reunions, we have a joint Newfound and Owatonna Reunion for all who have ever been associated with camp over the years as alumni, families, trustees, and friends: It's coming up on Labor Day Weekend August 29-September 1, 2025. Mark your calendars!

Please know you can always be in touch with us if you'd like to connect with your camp family. You are always welcome to stop by camp if you are in the area. We would love to hear from you, and we'd love to see you.





# The First-Time Camper Experience

JOHN FELKNER

My son Liam, age 13, was fortunate to be able to attend Owatonna as a first-time camper in June 2023, and he had a fantastic experience. This was his first-ever experience both attending camp away from home, and for him to be around so many other young Christian Scientists in a loving environment. I viewed this as a tremendous blessing for him to have the exposure to many other Christian Science children at Camp Owatonna and experience that camaraderie in a loving environment, and most importantly see other kids actively using Christian Science.

Camp was an important opportunity to participate in inspiring Christian Science services and testimony meetings, to be immersed in an environment where he is taught and shown how to use Christian Science in his daily life, and for him to see other kids his age or older using it. Although we are active members in our local Christian Science church, there have been almost no other young people in the Sunday School for the ten years that we've been attending. Consequently, over the last few years, Liam has repeatedly asked me if we could attend a church with more children. Thus, I felt that the Owatonna experience would be very meaningful for him, not only in giving him exposure to other young Christian Scientists, but also because the older boys would provide superb role models for him, at an age when older male role models could be impactful. Given the prevalence of negative male role models presented in society, I felt this would be powerful for him, as it was for me when I attended Christian Science youth camps as a teenager. Finally, my son loves sports, and I felt that Owatonna's fantastic array of sports options on a beautiful campus and in a beautiful setting, with superb instruction and facilities, would be a wonderful experience for him that would bring him a lot of joy.

The camp experience for him fully met and even exceeded my hopes. My son loved camp, and he bonded with a group of friends with whom he has kept in contact over the last year. He told me that the camp experience was transformative for him in many

ways, including opening his eyes to seeing how his peers could and are using Christian Science, and for exposing him to friends from other regions of the country outside of Florida where we live. He has proudly said to me, "Dad, I now have a group of friends from all over the country!" He has also said to me, "Dad, I think Owatonna taught me discipline," referring to how he was required to clean his cabin and make his bed daily and keep his clothes and personal items clean and well organized.



One final point that I'd like to make: My wife and I felt that it would be important to communicate to our son before going to camp that whether or not he returned for a second year or more would be up to him – totally his choice. After his first camp experience, we gave him plenty of time to reflect on and digest the experience before asking him if he wanted to return. To my delight, he has told us that he definitely wants to go back this summer, and he has talked repeatedly about how much he is looking forward to it and how much he misses his Owatonna friends. I am more than delighted by this.

I am very grateful to Owatonna and to the Christian Science camps for providing these wonderful, transformative experiences for children and adolescents. They are more important than they've ever been.

# A Life-Changing Summer

MARY RANKIN, Newfound Director

Imagine a place where the air buzzes with laughter, where the sky stretches over miles of sparkling blue water, and where every face you meet is lit up with the joy of growth. This amazing place exists, and it's called Camp Newfound. This isn't your average summer camp: It's a place where girls are transformed. It's a place where knowing God, loving oneself, and giving to the world aren't just lessons learned – they're life-changing concepts.

School teaches us the essentials, the academics, the clear-cut skills. But Camp Newfound? It's where we discover who we are, how magnificent life is, and how to be a light in the world. Transformation goes beyond learning. It's an expansion within one's understanding that is powerful and permanent. Transformation means that you start seeing the world in a radically different way. At Newfound, girls aren't just learning skills; they're coming face-to-face with challenges and experiences

that are catalysts for deep personal and spiritual growth. A growth that expands their understanding of themselves and their connection to Divine Love. A growth that inspires them to give to the world.

From the moment they step into this nurturing environment, girls feel a profound sense of love and belonging, from their counselors and also from their cabinmates and friends. This is not by accident, but by design. To grow, one must first feel safe. Safety is not just physical but emotional and spiritual. In the warmth of this community, girls find a place where they are accepted, understood, and cherished. This sense of belonging creates an environment where they can explore, make mistakes, learn without fear, and thrive.

Love and belonging are the seeds from which growth sprouts. At Newfound, girls embark on a journey to discover their innate worth and learn how to love

themselves just as they are. Knowing and loving oneself as a spiritual, beautiful idea is fundamental to building a life of resilience, happiness, and finding an authentic connection with others. Learning to love oneself is a light that helps us break through feelings of doubt and fear. Girls at Newfound learn that they are worthy, not for what they do or what they have but simply for who they are. This revelation empowers them to reach for their dreams, to stretch their capabilities, and to embrace growth not as a challenge but as a joyful exploration.

I'll never forget when a camper stood up at a morning meeting last summer and shared that she felt she had finally learned to love herself. She went on to explain that she had always made it a priority to love God and to show love to others but that deep down she did not love herself. However, as she reflected on the camp metaphysical theme from Luke

10:27, which focused on loving God and loving "thy neighbor as thyself," she realized she couldn't fully love God or her neighbor without also fully loving herself. She understood that she needed to extend the same grace and compassion to herself that she would to anyone else. She ended by quoting Romans 12:2: "Be ye not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." "I feel transformed," she said.

The journey at camp goes even beyond loving oneself and others. The most profound transformation happens when these girls realize that life is expansive and interconnected and that they







# The Value of Competition

REID CHARLSTON, Owatonna Director

As I sit down to write this, it is Major League Baseball's Opening Day! Although my beloved St. Louis Cardinals are not projected to be strong World Series contenders this year, I'm still wearing my jersey and ballcap to show my support. Some may say this impulse is just the remnants of my backyard dreams as a little leaguer, but I would argue that it is something bigger than that. Being part of a team is a special bond with some powerfully positive side effects. It is one of the things I most appreciate about Owatonna. The opportunities that camp provides for boys to compete with a team is one of the best vehicles we have to promote their growth each summer.

Owatonna has four teams - the Blues, Golds, Greens, and Reds. Each boy is put onto that team for life, and together they compete for the ultimate prize: to turn the plaques at the end-of-summer banquet and see a 1st under their team's name. Throughout the summer, they compete for team points in a wide variety of activities. They rake trails, wash vans, and clean the lodge on Saturday mornings. They play sports during team competitions on Saturday afternoons. They run through the woods on Flag Trip, swim during the Water Carnival, give presentations around the fire on Saturday nights, and do almost every camp activity during Team Week.

Competition is an important part of the Owatonna experience, and it should be because Owatonna is about growth. Competition is an incredible vehicle for growth, and here are some examples why.

## IT BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN US

Every year on the 4th of July we bus all the kids to nearby Bridgton to run in the 4 on the Fourth Road Race, and every year I take up my position on the final straightaway about a quarter mile from the finish line. As I cheer on our runners, I am always inspired by watching them pick up their pace and push through to the end. The best part is, it isn't just the runners who do it. Kids of all levels of running experience grit their teeth and push themselves a little harder than they thought was possible. I like to think that they are uncovering the hidden strength that each one has within themselves, and they likely will be able to tap into that just a little more easily when they face their next challenge.

## IT BRINGS OUT THE WORST IN US

During my first pre-camp as director, I introduced a new game to camp called Saturn Ball. It's a crazy game with a crazy ball played on a basketball court with soccer goals, and it has quickly become a camp favorite. Our staff loves to compete and sometimes as they play hard the emotional temperatures rise. During that game it started to get a little heated. I stepped back and watched to see how they would resolve it. It was clear that many of them might choose to handle the situation differently on their teams back home, but they knew we don't solve things with anger at camp. Instead of allowing it to escalate, they paused the game, discussed the issues, and came up with a rule change that eliminated the point of contention. It was such a special example of the value of camp in

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE  
THE NEWFOUND-OWATONNA  
2024 STAFF

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING NEWFOUND AND OWATONNA

“Thou wilt keep h  
whose mind is



An aerial photograph of a serene lake landscape. In the foreground, a dense forest of green and yellowing trees covers a hillside. The middle ground features a large, calm lake with a prominent, forested island in the center. A layer of white mist or fog hangs over the water and the distant, rolling hills. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, suggesting a peaceful morning or late afternoon setting.

ATONNA'S METAPHYSICAL THEME FOR SUMMER 2024

him in perfect peace,  
stayed on thee ...”

IAH 26:3



# Let the Games Begin

JENNAI HUFSTADER, Family Camp Director

This summer, the Olympic Games will be taking place at the same time as the first week of Family Camp. While most of us won't have the opportunity to go to the Olympics in Paris, we actually can have a lot of "Olympic" experiences at Family Camp! Family Camp and the Olympics may seem worlds apart at first glance, but when you look a little closer, there are many parallels between the two. Importantly, both Family Camp and the Olympics revolve around shared activities and communal experiences that foster a sense of camaraderie and unity among participants.

Let's consider the activities first. So many of Family Camp's activities are also featured in the Olympic Games! Family Camp offers a wide variety of sports from swimming, rock climbing, and archery to canoeing, sailing, tennis, and a triathlon. Participating in these activities gives family campers a chance to engage in friendly competition, share experiences, and bond over shared interests. And, of course, there are many other activities such as arts and crafts, talent shows, and group games for everyone as well.

Next, let's think about the sleeping accommodations at Family Camp. We could say that the cabins family campers live in make up our own "Athlete's Village." Just as athletes from different nations come together in the Olympic Village to live and interact, families from all over the country (and often other countries, too!) live side-by-side in the cabins at Family Camp. The cabins serve as a hub of social interaction, where families form or strengthen friendships, exchange stories, and create lasting memories together. And just as the Olympic athletes sleep well after a hard day of training or competition, we guarantee all family campers will sleep well after a full day of activities at camp. And don't forget, an added bonus of Family Camp cabins is that family campers get to fall asleep listening to the sounds of Long Lake waves and loons calling in the distance.

And you can't talk about Family Camp's activities and sleeping in the cabins without also mentioning the dining hall. Just like the



athletes' dining hall at the Olympics, Family Camp's dining hall not only serves delicious food three meals a day, but it also serves as a communal gathering spot for families to come together and connect with one another.

The sense of friendship that develops among family campers mirrors the bonds formed among Olympic athletes. Just as athletes from different countries come together to celebrate their shared love of sport, families at Family Camp come together and celebrate their shared love of camp, community, family, and Christian Science. Fortunately we don't need to wait four years to gather at Family Camp! Every August, Family Camp is ready to welcome you home to camp, and we hope to see many of you this summer!





# Get Creative!



DEB HENSLEY, Creative Arts Director

**H**ere we go! Another heart-opening, creative adventure awaits on the shores of Long Lake this August. We'll be painting, moving and acting, illuminating, making books, journaling, collaging, leathercrafting, singing, and jamming. Not to mention sailing, kayaking, swimming, and otherwise happily romping outdoors. And to top it off, we've got some special events you don't want to miss! All of this happens in a loving atmosphere supporting spiritual growth. You can find all the details on [www.newfound-owatonna.com/creative-arts](http://www.newfound-owatonna.com/creative-arts) or scan the QR code above. If you're new to Creative Arts and don't know anyone yet, no worries. Our gang is wicked fun and so full of love you're already part of the family. We can't wait to meet you!

## CREATIVE ARTS SUMMER 2024 WORKSHOPS

***Painted Illusions with Morgan Wright*** – Trompe l'oeil techniques have been used for thousands of years in mosaics and paintings all over the world. There is often an element of surprise and whimsy involved. This only adds to the fun. What will you paint?

***Theater Movement with Hilary Harper-Wilcoxon*** – Using simple exercises based on Laban Effort Actions, improvisation techniques to free the body and make creative movement choices, as well as simple text exercises, we will explore the fascinating and stimulating world of Theater Movement!

***Photography and Activism with Dave Oakes*** – Photos can call forth emotion, spur conviction, and impel action. This class will explore three strands: photography that evokes emotion, the technical aspects of capturing a compelling image, and developing an image portfolio that inspires action.

***The Illuminated Journal with Suzie Newbold*** – Creating an illuminated journal offers a marvelous opportunity to discover what you love most. Using prompts from the local landscape, you'll create your pages, learn about pen and ink, watercolor, collage, print-making, and explore methods for integrating text. Finally, you'll combine illuminated pages into a treasured artist book, and finish it off with a unique, coptic binding.

***Layered Landscapes with Laurie Carswell*** – Laurie's creative paper art uses magazine clips and fabric swatches to build beautiful, artistic landscapes. This class will present the fundamentals of her

process and offer helpful principles of color theory so students can collage their own landscapes based on photographs of their choice.

***The Skill and Art of Leather Crafting with Duncan Clarke*** – Cut and finish a belt, create a sheath or scabbard for a pocket knife, a multitool, or phone! Skills learned in this class include the use of knives, molding tools, harness needles and thread, and finishing tools. These introductory skills can then be used to produce other leather-crafted items as desired.

***Toast and Jam with Playin' Possum*** – Explore arrangement ideas, hone your performance skills, learn about jam-etiquette and practice singing both lead and harmony. As you step up to the mic, you'll discover how much fun it is to sing with instrumental backup. David, Gigi, and Peter love to play music and look forward to doing so with you!

***Painted Paper Collage with Polly Castor*** – This class is an exploration of "expression, outline, form, and color," where you'll practice the design principles that make any abstract painting successful. Come play with contrasting colors, shapes, textures, pattern, and line, and learn to trust the unfoldment!

***Solo Quest: Your Independent Project*** – This session offers the student the opportunity to read, study, explore, wander, write, paint, sketch, sew, sculpt, and write on their own and at their own pace.



are integral parts within God's allness. These young women come to understand their divine nature, knowing themselves as children of God, inseparable from the universal ever-presence of goodness and Love. This spiritual perspective teaches them that their existence is not just about personal achievement but about contributing to the greater whole.

*"I feel a connection to God that I've never felt before."  
- Newfound camper, 2023*

The culmination of this transformative journey is the recognition of one's spiritual identity and a purpose higher than self. At Newfound, girls learn to use their growth and self-discovery, not just for their own benefit but for the growth of the world. They are encouraged to pour their love, their strengths, their talents, and their understanding into actions that uplift others. Newfound inspires these

young women to express Divine Love, to be agents of change in a world that is seeking more kindness and connection.

At camp, transformation is not just a concept but a lived experience. It's in the quiet moments of reflection by the lakeside, in the triumphant cheers at the end of a team challenge, and in the heartfelt conversations under the stars in the night sky. Here, girls learn that to be their best selves is to know their relationship to God and to enrich the world with the light of their being.

*"I'm grateful that camp is here to push us to be better people."- Newfound camper, 2023*

While schools are essential for educational development, Camp Newfound is vital for nurturing each individual, shaping character, and igniting a lifelong passion for personal and communal growth. It's a place where learning is not confined to a classroom but is interwoven with every breath of fresh air, every splash in the lake, and every shared story and laugh. This kind of learning and growth penetrates us in a different way than any other learning experiences.

*"I've grown more at Camp than ever before in my life."  
- Newfound camper, 2023*

In this nurturing environment, girls learn that transformation is about becoming more fully

themselves, embracing their true nature, and sharing their unique gifts with the world. They leave Camp Newfound not just as better individuals but as young women equipped with the love, understanding, and courage to make a difference. Girls at Camp Newfound don't just learn for life – they transform for a lifetime.



## 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](http://www.newfound-owatonna.com/giving)
- Use the enclosed envelope
- Scan the Venmo code





their lives because they showed they had dominion over their experience and they allowed their true identity, complete with a Christ-like sense of manhood, to solve the problem. At Owatonna, these moments do happen, and we are ready to meet them head-on and use them as teachable moments for important growth.

#### **IT UNIFIES US**

One of the highlights for many boys has been the competitions against other local camps. Whether it is sailing in a regatta against Takajo, golf against Camp Cedar, basketball against Winona, or ultimate Frisbee against our biggest rivals, Wigwam, the boys love playing for Owatonna. In 2021 and 2022 we weren't able to play these games, but they were back in 2023, and it was a highlight of the summer. I didn't realize how big an impact they had on camp as a whole. Everyone cared about how we did. Older campers walking to their activities would stop and cheer on the younger guys. Senior staff members would do updates over the radios so guys on the ski boat could hear how the games were going. It was a really special atmosphere all across camp, and the boys - including the staff - loved being a part of it. Whether playing or cheering, we were all part of the team!

#### **HELPS US CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE**

One of our two highest awards is the Black Feather. The Black Feather recognizes outstanding athletic ability along with exemplary sportsmanship and humility. There's a reason our society reveres great athletes like Steph Curry, Caitlin Clark, and Messi. They show us what excellence looks like. To see someone perform at the highest level is inspiring and helps us to push ourselves to get a little closer to that. The reality, though, is that it isn't just the

top performers who can inspire us. Many of us have fond memories of the heroics of teammates we played with or players we watched at our own schools and on our own teams. Although few of them went on to play professionally, they still inspired us to try to be more like them. This is clearly seen when it comes to athletes, but the same is true about all areas of life - friends, teachers, business people, etc. At Owatonna we appreciate the opportunity to celebrate excellence because it encourages us to recognize the God-given excellence we are capable of.

#### **HELPS US CELEBRATE SPECIAL MOMENTS**

While watching the top performers is great, some of the most inspiring moments come from celebrating the people who succeed when they weren't expected to. Maybe it's the kid who knocks the rebound in for a goal on the soccer field or the last kid in dodgeball who catches the ball to bring his whole team back in. One of my favorites was the guy who had never gotten a square corner right in his life who woke up early on a Sunday morning to make a personal-winning bed to help his team win the inspection race. He knew his buddies cared about winning the competition and that they couldn't do it without him. These are often the most remembered moments when people reflect back on their camp experience, and for those boys to get that one chance to shine can make a huge difference in their self-confidence, their self-worth, and maybe with their beds now that they know what they are capable of.

#### **HELPS US FEEL PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER**

We are all looking for meaning in what we do and to know that our work has value. Kids are no different. Being part of a team can provide that. Seeing how our actions positively impact the final result encourages

us to do more. One of the best parts at camp is that there are options for everyone to contribute, no matter what their age or skill level may be. One of my favorites is the origami napkin folds at the head table done by the teams during team cleanup on Saturday mornings. I don't know who the first boy to do that was, but at some point in the past someone suggested the idea, and now the teams do it every week. That guy, whoever he was, saw an opportunity to help the team get a higher score, and as a result he started a tradition that has continued at Owatonna. At camp, we try to give as many opportunities as possible to give each boy the chance to contribute to their team's success so that, regardless of skill level or athletic prowess, everyone has an opportunity to help the team succeed.

If your child is super competitive, then clearly Owatonna is a good fit, but as a camp director, and a PE teacher before that, I have often heard parents say, "My child doesn't have a competitive bone in his body," and I've had parents concerned that camp might be too competitive for their son. To that I will say two things. The first is, there are still a ton of camp activities that aren't competitive - arts and crafts, rope swing, free swim at the beach, woodsman, blacksmithing, rock climbing, and more, so no boy is going to feel like he is competing every moment of camp. The second is, even for those boys who don't love competition, there is still incredible value in giving them the Owatonna experience where they can learn what it means to be part of a team, to learn how to compete and what competition brings out in them, and to give them all the opportunities for growth that competition provides. I hope every boy gets the chance to have an Owatonna experience and to take what he learns back home with him at the end of summer 2024!



# Newfound-Owatonna Call of the loon



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## MAKE A NOTE OF IT

### Come to Camp!

#### 2024 CAMP PROGRAMS & DATES

##### CAMPS NEWFOUND AND OWATONNA

1st session	June 16 – July 5
Two-week session*	June 16 – June 29
2nd session	July 7 – August 2
Full session	June 16 – August 2
CIT	June 16 – August 2

\* For new campers

##### FAMILY CAMP (50% discount for new families Week 2)

Family Camp Week 1	August 5 – 11
Family Camp Week 2	August 12 – 18

##### CREATIVE ARTS

August 20 – 27



#### 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)

## Memorial Day

volunteer work weekend at Camp

**May 24–27**

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

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