

The Weekly Pineneedle



Week 5 At A Glance

By: Eli Rodgers

Coming off of Visitor’s Weekend, Week Five marked new beginnings for many as the second session campers arrived on the shores this past Sunday.

Even though it was the start of the session, it was by no means a slow week, filled with events like the Ski 4 SCOPE fundraiser and the departure of the Mohawk A Mohawk Madness trip to the MLB MN Twins vs. Chicago White Sox game.

Additionally, this week saw campers begin to try out for our annual competition against Menominee. Juniors, Seniors, and Intermediates went out for a variety of sports, ranging from football to tennis, all in hopes of winning next week.

Even though the summer is more than halfway through, things are still heating up at Camp Kawaga, with spirits high and campers determined to make the most of their remaining time at camp.

Campers of the Week

Guiding Principle: Enthusiasm

With the beginning of Week Five comes a wave of new campers. This week, we were looking for those campers who continued to bring enthusiasm to every endeavor as the summer entered its second half.



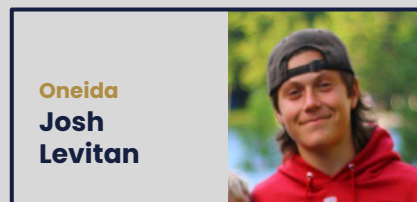
Chippewa
Cole
Cheresnick



Sioux
Alex
Miller



Mohawk
Eli
Goodman



Oneida
Josh
Levitan

Week 5 Special Feature: Excerpt From Chip/Sioux Unit Head Sean Gooze

An Unlikely, But Not Entirely Unexpected, Friendship

By: Sean Gooze

For many parents, Kawaga is an opportunity for their children to grow without the natural comfort of a parent beside them. This includes a growing sense of independence, competency, and arguably the most important skill, the ability for their child to connect with new people and make new friends. Lou Ehrenreight, the son of Camp Kawaga's founder and long-time director would often say, "The best way to have a friend is to be one." Many of my greatest friends today were people that I was not close with during my time as a young camper. Simply the act of being in a confined space with people that are different than you helps you come to appreciate their differences as well as appreciate the similarities that all of those at Kawaga share. But, this principle does not only apply to campers.

In the summer of 2018, my first summer on staff, I was lucky enough to have my uncle, Marc Appell working as the Assistant Director. Having family at Kawaga is a remarkable experience and one that I'll never forget. For about two weeks during the summer, I was able to share this special place with another member of my family, my grandma, Bubbi Sybil. To this day, my Bubbi will tell you that being the "Camp Grandma" was one of the greatest experiences of her life. Despite being able to share her grandson and son's happy place with them, she will tell you that one of her favorite parts about her time here was spent conversing on the porch of her cabin with a Junior Counselor she had never met before.

For evening programs (EP's), the special programming that takes place after dinner, there are often counselors assigned to border patrol. Counselors are stationed on docks, shorelines, and backwoods areas where their job is to make sure campers don't wander past them into areas of camp that are not open. This is a relatively boring job for staff as they sit for about an hour and a half in one area. During the summer of 2018, a fellow 2017 CIT of mine named Ben Gordon, better known as BG, was assigned to the Southwest Woods border patrol. This was right next to my Uncle and his family's home for the summer. Every evening, my grandma would enjoy the beautiful sunset off the lake from her porch. On this particular night, BG was stationed right outside her cabin. While I couldn't tell you the exact contents of an hour-long conversation between a 17-year-old and a 70-year-old, what I can tell you is that this most unexpected conversation has grown into a friendship between one of my best friends and my grandma. Throughout the rest of her 2-week stint on the Shores, my Bubbi continuously requested for BG to be assigned to SW Woods Border Patrol and BG requested the same.

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

To this day, one of BG's first questions he asks me when we see each other is "How is Sybil doing?" and one of my Bubbi's first questions she asks me is "How is BG doing?" In the few times they have seen each other over the last few years they always meet in a warm embrace. While this relationship is certainly a unique one, at a place like Kawaga relationships such as this one are not entirely unexpected. I have found that Kawaga has this special ability to streamline connections. In my 13 summers at Kawaga, I have experienced countless incredible moments and experiences, but I continue to be surprised by this place's ability to push people towards a deeper connection with everything that surrounds them. Everything from the way our typical day is structured to the geographic layout, to cabin dynamics promotes connection. Connection to our cabinmates, to our counselors, to the Kawaga alumni who have come before us, to the nature around us, to Kawaga itself, and to the 70-year-old grandma of one of your best friends. It is our staff's amazing ability to connect with campers that makes Kawaga so great, but evidently, this ability goes beyond campers.

The truth is that you never know when you'll meet a new friend, it could be someone halfway across the world or triple your age, but if we never open ourselves up to the possibility of connecting with others we'll never know what could be. Every day I am reminded of the power of connection, why it's so important to appreciate it, and how easy it is to connect with another. I have learned many things at Kawaga, perhaps one of the most profound lessons I have learned is that every interaction is an opportunity for connection. And once every interaction becomes an opportunity, no friendship becomes too unlikely or too unexpected.



Sean Gooze is a 2017 CIT, and the Unit Head for the Chip and Sioux tribes. This is his thirteenth year at Kawaga, and sixth on staff.

Talk The Talk: A Guide To Kawaga Lingo

Kawaga has many of its own unique terms and phrases that will pop up frequently throughout publications of the newsletter, so we thought that we'd include a short rundown here for easier reading.

Note: We included this page in the very first Weekly Pineneedle this summer, but as new readers join us for second session, it felt important to include it again.

Honorary Tribes: A point-based merit system that rewards campers for honing their skills in different areas of camp and provides a goal for campers to achieve.

Mawanda: The first honorary tribe campers have the opportunity to gain entrance into, requires achieving 150 Mawanda points over as many summers as needed.

Sachem: The second and more challenging tribe to gain entrance into: requires 100 points in a single summer, translates to "chief" derived from multiple native tribes including: Algonquin, Iroquois, and Narragansett.

Ski Miracle: Successfully skiing around the Kawaguesaga Bay.

2 Ski Miracle: Doing so on 2 skis, denoted here as 2S

Drop Ski Miracle: Going out on 2 skis, dropping a ski, and slaloming the rest of the way around the bay. Denoted here as D.

Coursing: Successfully completing the slaloming courses set up in Kawaga's Miracle Bay. To complete a course, one must successfully cut around the outside of each buoy set up in order. There is the less difficult green course and the more difficult red course, and clearing each at higher speeds is more difficult.

Slalom Miracle: Slaloming around the bay on one ski, demoted here as S.

Inspection: Cabin cleanup period: each cabin is checked by an inspector and points are awarded for clean cabins.

Leagues: Competitive sports played between teams that are set throughout the summer.

Clubs: Instructional periods for campers to grow and develop their basic skills.

EPs: Evening programs: the final activity before campers go to bed.

Tribal Officers: Leaders voted upon by their respective tribes to represent them throughout the whole camp.

Chip Burgers: Ice cream sandwiches, a fan favorite of many: coined "overrated" by some.

The Kawaga Spectacular (The Speccy): A competition of many campers grouped as colleges who battle in sports, individual events, tug of war, and song and skit in order to receive a commemorative plaque in the mess hall.

ABI: All boats in: the bugle call played over the loudspeaker which represents the closing of an activity.

Visitor's Weekend

In the days between the end of first session and the beginning of second session, the parents of first session campers had the option to come up to camp and see their kids. The families spent time together both in and out of camp, and even got to experience a Saturday services!



Bay Swims: A Kawaga Tradition

The tradition of swimming the bay has been a part of Kawaga for decades, and serves as a benchmark for the aquatic abilities of campers. After swimming across the bay and ringing the bell on the shore, campers gain permission to water ski, sail, paddleboard, and swim in the advanced tank.



Big/Little Brothers

On the very first night of camp, every new camper receives a camp "Big Brother." This person is typically someone who has been attending camp for several years, and is meant to serve as a mentor figure for the new campers. These big brothers are some of the first friends that each new camper will have when they arrive on the shores. As an added bonus, on Wednesday night, there was a Big + Little Brother Pizza party, where the pairs met in the Mess Hall after rounds to eat pizza and and hang out!



Week 5 Highlight: Ski 4 SCOPE

On Wednesday July 19th, Camp Kawaga participated in the 2023 Ski 4 SCOPE awareness day! The day was intended to bring attention to how lucky we as camp-goers are to have the opportunity to ski and bring attention to the great work that Summer Camp Opportunities Promote Education (SCOPE) does to help kids experience the joys of camp!



Leagues Standings

Chip Blue/Gold League

Team Name	Win	Loss
It's a Bluerade Inside My City	0	2
Golden Goats	2	0

Chip Breakfast League

Team Name	Win	Loss
The Crunchy Crew	2	1
Huxley Sennott's Team	2	1
Jack Abelson's Team	2	1
Eggs, Bacon, Gritt	0	3

Sioux Meat League

Team Name	Win	Loss
I Filet With the Breath Given to Me	1	0
Beef Steaks for Beefy Men	0	1
Better Call Saulami	1	0
Let Them Lead by John U. Bacon	1	0
The Most Important thing to a parent is their MEAT	0	1
Marco Friedman's Team	0	1

Sioux Blue/Gold League

Team Name	Win	Loss
Teams Gold	1	2
Bluederians	3	0
Gold to Lunch in a Blueish Community	0	0
Gold Gold Power Rangers	2	1

Leagues Standings

Mohawk Fish League

Team Name	Win	Loss
They Don't Know Me Sunfish	0	1
That Kois a Liar	1	1
55 Walleye, 55 Bass, 55 Pike, 100 Muskie	1	1
Frying Nemo	1	0
Filet-O-Swish	2	0
Let Him Hook	1	1
Meyer Rosenthal's Team	0	2

Mohawk Blue/Gold League

Team Name	Win	Loss
David Goldgins stay Blue	1	0
Indigold	0	1
Lil Bluezi Vert and Playboi Gold	1	0
Mountain Blue	0	1

Oneida Cheese League

Team Name	Win	Loss
Eric Say Cheese Walsh	1	2
Brie Harvey Oswald is a Munster	3	0
Feta Wap: The One Eyed Cheese	0	3
AHHHHH CHEESE	4	0
Destroy Provalonely	1	2
Shoutout Robert Kraft Fell in Love with the Cheddar	1	2

Oneida Blue/Gold League

Team Name	Win	Loss
Ain't That What They Blue	1	1
They Ain't Bluelive in Us. Gold Did!	2	0
Blues Gonna Carry the Boats	0	2
Beckhams Got a Big Bluety	1	1



Eli Rodgers' Saturday Sermon

Saturday, July 22nd, 2023

Good morning,

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Eli Rodgers. This is my seventh summer at camp and first on staff. Some of you second-year campers may find this a bit confusing. After all, I'm not a familiar face from last summer, so how can this be my seventh? Simply put, that is because I took a year off.

Last summer, I made the difficult decision to take a hiatus from camp to focus on my college application. I did all sorts of things, from college summer programs to volunteer work. While the other things I did were great experiences and important for my college application process, I couldn't help but wonder what I would have been doing at camp.

Having to turn down the position of counselor last year, a job I would've been doing in the most incredible place on earth with some of my best friends, I realized something difficult; life happens. No matter how much I would love to return to this place every year, it's not something I can say with certainty will happen.

Some of you might know my brother Moses. This summer, he would be a CIT. Unfortunately, he couldn't make it to camp this year. Now, nothing especially tragic happened; he simply needed to spend this summer focusing on his college application and hockey. While he would love nothing more than to be up here for eight weeks with his brothers, both literal and figurative, it simply wasn't in the cards. Once again, life happens.

My favorite quote from any Kawaga sermon was in Sean Gooze's Visitor's Weekend sermon in 2021, my CIT summer. Though I do not remember the exact wording, he said something along the lines of "If Heaven is so great, then how can it be forever?" In his sermon, he presented the idea that part of what makes camp so special is that it's only for eight weeks each summer. The impermanence, and the certainty that we will eventually have to leave at the end of the summer, makes each day so meaningful.

Continued from Page 11

I first came to camp in 2015 after being introduced by a friend named Sam Wolkstein. Though I returned year after year, I didn't love camp that much. I had friends from home who I came here with, and we mostly kept to ourselves, not engaging with the others in our age group too much or enjoying the camp experience.

All of that changed during my Group Two summer. For various reasons, all three of my friends from home would not be back on the shores for the summer. That meant it would just be me and a bunch of other guys I didn't know that well for four weeks. Though it was tricky at first, those four weeks changed the trajectory of my time at Kawaga. I went from this quiet, standoff-ish kid to someone trying to get my table to start cheering in the mess hall. If you had told me in 2018, my Mohawk A summer, about the person I would be by the time I was a CIT in 2021, I would never have believed it. I can say without a shadow of a doubt that camp, my counselors, and my fellow campers all played an instrumental role in making me the person I am today.

All of this is to say, in a long-winded way, that I love camp. Even still, no one in this room can say with one hundred percent certainty, myself included, that they will be back next year. Most of us can say that we will definitely be back given the opportunity, but none of us can predict the future. What can I say? Life happens.

If you asked me where I would be in the summer of 2022 during my CIT summer, I almost certainly would have told you back here. Moses certainly didn't think he would be looking at Menominee and Speccy updates on Instagram, checking scores for games he would've been playing in.

Camp is not forever. That's what makes it so great. We all have limited time here, so we need to make the most of it. It's always just a leagues game until suddenly, it's your last leagues game. Another Speccy block until you're the one around the fire, singing iPod shuffle to signal the end of your final Spectacular. Another typical day until there are no more days left, and we're all back home, scattered far and wide.

Today marks the final day of week five. As the cliché but ever-true saying goes, the days are long, but the weeks are short. So to close, I will leave you with a question and a challenge. How will you make the most of these last twenty days? How will you ensure that when you look back on the summer of 2023, you can genuinely say that you lived it with no regrets? I challenge you to give your all in every endeavor from this point forward. Be the loudest voice in the mess hall. Spend your Open A's doing things you can't do at home with your friends. Play that leagues game like it's your last. After all, life happens, and before long, it really will be. Thank you.

Notable Achievements

Birthdays:

Jacob Stillman (14)
Bryan Gnehm (20)
Oren Guttman (17)

First Fish:

Denise Murphy

First Bullseye:

Tripp Mulcahey
Wesley Saber
Alex Miller
Grant Hirschfeld
Gideon Korach
Levi Wolf
Landon Huttner
Miles Geisler

Miracles:

Eli Clayman-Smith (S)
Jude Holzer (2S)
Teddy Kaplan (2S)
CJ Turbinsky (S)
Ari Stollman (2S)
Asher Kalff (2S)
Jade Mimwrough (2S)
Levi Cohen (2S)
Brody Benowitz (2S)
Chase Hirschfeld (2S)
Jake Zemnick (2S)
Huck Hinson (2S)
Jackson Gold (2S)
Louis Rahimzadeh (2S)
Cooper Aaronoff (2S)
Max Muslin (2S)
Jax Israel (2S)
Wesley Saber (2S)
Maxwell Schrimmer (2S)
Ezra Cohen (2S)
Max Daniel (2S)

Miracles Cont.:

Julian Abbas (2S)
Connor Klerk (2S)
Jonah Seeskin (2S)
Brody Lorber (2S)
Parker Cohen (2S)
Parker Pomerantz (2S)
Sammy Schimmel (2S)
Marvin Sundick (2S)
Solomon Rodgers (S)
Johnny Byron (D)
Ben Spector (S)

Note: For the miracle portion, 2S denotes a 2-ski miracle, D denotes a drop-ski miracle, and S denotes a Slalom miracle.

A Look Into Next Week

With the start of second session, campers and counselors alike both look to the Men of the East who are set to face off against the mighty Kawaga Braves this upcoming week. The rivalry is fierce and long standing with both sides having a win and a loss in the last two meetings. In 2022, however, Menominee came away with the victory which is why the 2023 competition will mark a very important battle in the historic rivalry for Kawaga.

CK Leisure Corner

Funny Photos This Week



Word Scramble

awakag
asumtdi
aehscm
ddelap
omin

iraman
mrelaci
orrtewftna
raryhce
kobos

Kawaga History Blurb



Kawaga "Key Staff" standing with the Ideal Plaque circa. 1976

Weekly Forecast

Mon 24	80°/57°	Partly Cloudy
Tue 25	81°/61°	Partly Cloudy
Wed 26	86°/65°	Partly Cloudy
Thu 27	87°/64°	AM Thunderstorms
Fri 28	85°/57°	Scattered Thunderstorms

Editor-In-Chief: Eli Rodgers
Assistant Editors: Ethan Levine, Tyson Adelman
Camper Assistants: Philip Kaplan, Ari Schulman, Beckham Boymel