

# The Weekly Pineneedle



## Week 7 At A Glance

By: Eli Rodgers & Tyson Adelman

A busy Week 6 means an even busier Week 7 for Kawaga, with many trips and fun events happening all around.

The week started off with a short competition against Camp Timberlane for Boys on Monday.

All Sioux and Oneida campers went on trips this week, with highlights including the Group 1 trip to Noah's Ark Water Park and the Group 2 white water rafting trip.

On Thursday, campers journeyed over to neighboring Camp Agawak for girls for a beach day-themed social, including sno-cones, a dunk tank, and swimming!

The Annual Ski Tournament saw camps from around the area coming to Kawaga to compete in Slalom Skiing, Wakeboarding, and Barefooting.

The Blue-Gold Cup began, as campers were split into two teams and competed in a variety of sports and events.

Finally, there are no leagues standings in this week's edition of The Weekly Pineneedle as playoffs are currently underway for all leagues. Final standings will be included in Issue 8.

As the summer continues to wind down, campers look to make the most out of their final week on the shores.

## Campers of the Week

### Guiding Principle: Fellowship

By Week 7, campers have fully embraced the camp experience and deepened their connections, fostering lasting bonds. It is in this spirit of camaraderie that we have chosen the concept of fellowship to symbolize the enduring friendships forged on these shores.



# Week 7 Special Feature: Excerpt From Program Director Bri Fowlie

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**April 18th, 2017; May 3rd, 2018; May 13th, 2019; January 20th, 2022; April 12th, 2022;** each of these dates is meaningful to me because each of these dates is representative of when my visas allowing me to come back to camp each year were issued.

Many people don't realize that I'm actually not American - likely on account of my very neutral and chameleon-like accent. It's hard to really pinpoint what I am. I was born in England. My father is Scottish. My mother is Nigerian/German. But I grew up in Dubai (11 years) and Thailand (5 years). What does that make me? My mum would say a citizen of the world, and I'm kind of okay with that.

In terms of camp, what all of that surmounts to is that any time I want to come and work over here in America, I have to apply for a work visa. I've now been through the process of applying for four different visa classifications when trying to come back to the States. I've been on your classic "tourist" type visa for when I come over just to visit. I've been on two different types of J1 visas, allowing me to return to camp each summer. But most recently, I went through a very lengthy process of applying for my H1B1 visa. The process included a complete application, adding copies of my school transcripts, outlining why my degrees apply to the work I do here at Kawaga, justifying why my skill set is worthy of a visa, and so much more. And, it wasn't just me contributing to what seemed like the never-ending work required for this visa...

The Daube family was integral in securing my traineeship visa on April 12th, 2022. They're a significant part of why I was able to be at camp for the summer of 2022. I am so thankful to them for helping me through such an uncertain period of my life and providing opportunities I wouldn't have experienced otherwise. Ty and Lauren continue to take me in and help me wherever I need. They've let me crash at their house, they've provided home-cooked meals, they've helped me move into my apartment, they've taken me in and given me family when mine was so far away - the way in which they support me can't actually be put into words, but it's unconditional, and I will always be grateful. And last but certainly not least is Ben Fisher, who, if we're all being honest with ourselves, essentially carried us over the finish line (and actually throughout the whole race) of this H1B1 visa process. He guided me through the paperwork, he was consistently communicating with legal teams, he was dotting all the Is and crossing all the Ts - and never let me forget it!

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But, on **July 30th, 2023**, it was all worth it. A piece of paper came through the mail and stated my “request for a change of status has been approved.” We succeeded and earned the H1B visa. So what, right? So, I now have employment eligibility to work in the US for up to 3 more years before even thinking about applying for another visa. And on top of that, I have the opportunity to extend this new visa by up to 3 more years. If you’re following the math, that means I potentially have up to 6 more summers, stress-free from visa paperwork and processes, that I could be spending at Kawaga.

Why am I telling you all this? There are two reasons. The first is because it can be hard when I go back home to the United Kingdom to explain that Kawaga almost instantly offers a community you are a part of. But the Daubes, the Simpsons, the Fishers, and so many more at Kawaga treats me like family. They’re willing to bend over backward, jump through hoops, and dedicate their personal time towards helping me – just a girl that never experienced camp before Kawaga. I hope they know they’re also my family, and I will always return the favour. Until coming to Kawaga, I had never experienced a community like that. To be part of the Kawaga nation means gaining a constantly growing family.

The second reason is to help demonstrate the work it takes for an international staff member to return each summer. It’s not a walk in the park, but it’s a walk I would take every day if it meant having the opportunity to be at Kawaga. At Kawaga, even on the most challenging days, our shared experiences here are far more rewarding than some of the most incredible days elsewhere. Each moment and each activity is an opportunity to achieve, grow, and make memories that will last a lifetime. Let’s make these last days not a countdown but a crescendo. Camp isn’t just a place; it’s a feeling, a connection, a family. It’s never too late to achieve your goals and make memories you will cherish forever. Thank you to everyone at Kawaga who continues to make it somewhere I strive to want to be.



*Brianna "Bri" Fowlie is from Scotland and is this year's Program Director. She earned her masters in high school mathematics from Cambridge University after getting her undergraduate degree in psychology. This is her seventh year on staff.*



# Week 7 Highlight: Camper Pineneedles

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For Week 7, we wanted to highlight some of the excellent work that campers have been doing writing pineneedles about various events around camp. Over the next few pages, we have four of what we believe to be the best examples of camper writing.

## Mohawk BCS Football

By: Cooper Aronoff, Cabin 21

After a long day of Menominee tryouts and the fun events of a typical day at Camp Kawaga, it was time for the Evening Program. Jonah Satyr announced that it was going to be tribal EPs! We found out that the Mohawks were playing BCS Football! We all got our cleats on and headed to Diamond Two. Then Jonah Satyr also told us our teams, and I was on the University of Texas.

Our first game was against Georgia. Leo Demetriou and Zachary Zwick were throwing dimes back and forth to score the first touchdown for Texas. Then, Georgia got the ball and tied up the game. But after a deep throw, Leo Demetriou jumped up and got the interception to seal the game.

Then, two minutes later, we were set to play Ohio State. They got the ball first and ran in a touchdown. Later when Texas had the ball, we scored a touchdown of our own to tie the game. Sadly, after another set of touchdowns, Ohio State was able to take the win.

Our next game was against Texas Tech. This was the most one-sided game. They scored a touchdown on the first play, and Texas then threw a pick to get eliminated from the tournament. It was an overall enjoyable event, and everyone had a fun time.

## Gold Rush

By: Kol Lebowitz, Cabin 25

Anticipation is at an all-time high as the campers of Camp Kawaga wait on the Omni for the E.P. (evening program) announcement. Out of nowhere, Sean Gooze and other counselors appear while fighting with swords looking for gold. The looks on all campers' faces changed as they knew that they would be playing Gold Rush. Gold Rush is an E.P. in which campers compete for Kawaga Cash. Kawaga Cash is a form of "money" that you earn by winning or competing in specific Evening Programs. The idea of the game is to find either gold chips worth 150 Kawaga Cash, gold rocks worth 500, or a treasure chest for 1250. The campers of Kawaga then make their way up to the rec hall. This is due to the "vikings," or counselors, who attempt to pull our socks through Scalp Wars, which is trying to pull an extra pair of socks off someone's waist.

When the counselors finished hiding the treasure, the E.P. Director blew a horn, and the campers were off. My cabin, Cabin 25, split up and went to two places around camp looking for gold. We went to the Arena courts and D2. My group went to the Arena Courts. Some group members include Caleb Teitelbaum, Max Schoenbaum, Aaron Levey, and Drew Steckler. As we dashed towards the Arena, the Vikings (counselors) attempted to pull our socks, so we had to give up some of our gold. Eventually, we collected around five gold rocks and twelve bags of gold chips. Gold Rush is an exciting and enjoyable E.P. that puts a smile on every camper's face.



# Camper Pineneedles Cont.

## Hunger Games

By: Jarett Goldblatt, Cabin 23

After a delicious dinner following a typical day at camp, Quinn Korach entered the mess hall in a wetsuit and threw a water balloon at Jonah Satyr to announce that it was Hunger Games! Quinn announced all the teams, and we were all sent to change into our team's shirt color. I was on the yellow team with 3 CITs and Sam Rahimzadeh. We met at our team meeting spot, the Arts and Crafts building, and waited for the round to begin.

We ran to the stadium the moment it started to get as many supplies as possible. We grabbed shields, water balloons, and dodgeballs. The blue team came to stop us, but we quickly scared them away and got many out in the process.

Next, we ran to D1. Unfortunately, our team separated in the process, leaving me and Sam alone with some younger guys. Five different groups surrounded us. People were getting out left and right, including Sam and some of my other team members. The remaining members ran to the middle of D1 to get the other teams out. We were getting lots of people out, but our team was getting out too. Eventually, Teddy Kaplan and I were the only ones left from the yellow team. We ran to the volleyball pits to stay within the game boundaries. When all hope seemed lost, we saw the team members we had separated from earlier in the round by Sioux City. We ran over to meet them, happy we had a better chance in this game. The round then ended, so we went back to Arts and Crafts.

When the second round began, we went to the stadium courts again, only to be met by two other teams. We grabbed as much as we could and ran away. We ran to D1 and started getting as many people out as possible. We started closing in on the backstop where the black and green teams were. I sprinted at Dean Menfi to pull his flag, and he ran away, but I cornered him and got him out. In the process, however, his teammate got me out. The EP ended on my walk to the rec hall, ending my fun night. Great time had by all!

## Min-aqua Bats

By: Kyle Oseran, Cabin 9

Today, Camp Kawaga went down to miracle dock to watch the Min-aqua Bats for a private show. It started with some cool tricks like the flag show, which was someone holding a flag with their left leg up and right down. After that, three people went water skiing at forty miles per hour. They all quickly face-planted, and it was really funny. After that, Ty, Tommy, and two Min-aqua Bats went barefooting. Ty and Tommy did really well and beat the Min-aqua bats. Ty won the barefooting competition. The MC was hilarious and made jokes throughout the entire show.

The next trick made was pretty cool. A guy named Troy Rice was slaloming while carrying someone. Then, Josh Levitan, or "Josh Levinson," as they called him, did a deep-water start barefooting against a Min-aqua Bat. A deep-water start when barefooting is when you start on the dock and get pulled on your back at forty miles per hour. The Min-aqua Bat quickly fell when it began, but Josh stayed up, so he won the competition. Then, Tommy did the coolest thing in the entire show. Tommy was wakeboarding, and he did a side flip while wakeboarding! Everyone was going crazy, and it was super cool. The show ended with someone doing a headstand while being pulled on a saucer. It was a great show and a great time had by all.



# Agawak Beach Day

On Thursday, campers took advantage of the beautiful weather by spending an afternoon at Agawak for a beach day-themed social. Siblings reunited, new friendships were formed, and everyone got a chance to cool off!





# Annual Ski Tournament

On Friday, camps from around the area including Red Pine, Red Arrow, Agawak, and Chippewa, came to Kawaga to compete in the Annual Ski Tournament. After great performances in the Slalom, Wakeboarding, and Barefooting categories, Kawaga ended up bringing home the victory, but a great time was had by all!





# Timberlane Competition

After a summer of fierce competition, Kawaga's Braves capped it off with one last battle against the boys of Camp Timberlane. In a series of just six games, both camps gave it their all, and the final score reflects the intensity of the competition as a whole.

## Timberlane

**Senior Frisbee:** 13-1 Timberlane

**Senior Soccer:** 6-1 Timberlane

**Senior Pickleball:** 3-2 Timberlane

**Junior Newcomb:** 2-0 Kawaga

**Junior Basketball :** 36-25 Kawaga

**Junior Soccer:** 5-1 Kawaga

## Final Score: 3-3





# Trip Week

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Week 7 saw Kawaga's braves scatter across Wisconsin as many campers went on their camping trips, including the Sioux going to a range of campsites, the, Group 1s going to Noah's Ark Water Park, and the Group 2s going white water rafting.





# Blue/Gold Cup Begins

On Friday night, the capstone event of the summer, the Blue/Gold Cup, began. With new campers sorted into their teams by a Harry Potter-esque sorting hat and t-shirts and hats being distributed, competition was off to an exciting start. Over the course of the next few days, campers will face off in a variety of sports and events, but in the end, only one team will prove victorious.







# Sean Gooze's Saturday Sermon

Saturday, August 5th, 2023

Shabbat Shalom,

My name is Sean Gooze and this is my 13th summer at Camp Kawaga. I spent 7 years as a camper and this is my 6th on staff. I would like to begin this sermon in the same way that all of us started this summer: packing. When I started packing for this upcoming summer something happened to me that has never happened before. While deciding which shirts to pack for the summer, I was unexpectedly overcome with emotion and began to cry. At first, I couldn't quite figure out why. I quickly realized that embedded in the threads of each Kawaga shirt I was folding were vivid memories of struggle, accomplishment, and pure joy that collapsed on me like a tidal wave. I realized at this moment that this Airforce shirt, this Geraci Open cut-off, this 2014 Kawaga staff shirt, this shirt I am wearing in front of you today, and so many more are truly priceless to me. No \$2000 T-shirt could find anywhere near as much value as these \$20 shirts laid out in front of me. I also began to recognize that most of these memories that were so vivid in my mind were not my own. Many of my most animated, emotional memories were experiences that I did not experience myself but that I witnessed. These were other people's memories, other people's struggles, accomplishments, senses of joy. Of my best friend completing the triathlon he did not think he could finish Mo A summer, of a ragtag group of Group 2's coming together to finish 3rd in the Spectacular, of my former campers growing into fantastic staffers and many more. These bracelets here on my wrist have similarly become invaluable. Not because they remind me of my own experiences on boundaries, but because they remind me of the shared experience canoeing through the slash of the rain, and the warmth of friendship around the campfire after a long day's journey. I dread the day these bracelets will eventually fall apart.

I often get asked the question why do you keep coming back to camp? The truth is that I continue to return to this place because I am really, really happy to be here. I wake up most mornings tired, yes, but always happy. I go to sleep most nights tired and sometimes stressed, but always happy. Even in the hardest, most stressful, rainy days, moments of pure happiness shine through.

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Camp Kawaga has instilled in me more life lessons than I can count, but over the last few summers, I have become acutely aware of its lessons in happiness. As I grow older, Kawaga has continued to teach me that the happiest people in life are not those reared in the paths of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenges, those who feel they have earned what they have, contributed towards purposes larger than themselves, and because of that, have come to better appreciate the little things in life. I am happy at camp because embedded in this place and all these people in front of me are the memories of so many campers and counselors' successes, struggles, and the most profound life lessons, many of which we've heard right here in this room.

Camp Kawaga is full of awesome facilities, equipment, and nature at every turn. Just a few weeks ago, Tucker and I were able to witness a baby bald eagle attempt its first flight. Yes, there are awesome things at camp, but what makes this place truly special is its ability to invoke that sense of awe in everything we do, regardless of how significant or insignificant that thing is. The happiest people in the world don't have the most, they are best able to appreciate what they do have: living in a constant state of awe, sharing in the collective joy of others.

Here at camp, not a day goes by where I am not overcome with awe. In the same way that a beautiful sunset affects me, so too does seeing campers rise and walk towards their morning polar bears, playing voccer during evening open A's, or seeing a camper fall in love with Kawaga just as I did many years ago. My own happiness is rooted in this sense of awe and this physical place, but it doesn't end here. I carry my memories, and all of your memories, here on my wrist, on my chest, and in many ways, in my very soul. These are constant reminders not only of what I am capable of, but that every moment and interaction, both here and outside of camp, has the potential for greatness and a lasting memory. Swift Fox is not only who I am at camp but has become embedded in who I am outside of it.

As a Unit Head, I have the pleasure of holding an immense amount of responsibility. I can humbly say that there are very few 22-year-olds who hold anywhere near as much responsibility as I do. I am happy here not because my life is easy, but because I work so extremely hard for a purpose larger than myself, mentored by the most incredible and driven people in Ty, Lauren, Kappy, Bridget, Ben, Ryan, Brandon, Tucker, and more. People often talk about wanting to make the world a better place. What better way to make the world a better place than to start with the people. That is what we do here, we make people better. Like many of you, there are no words more holy to me than our Kawaga Ideal. How lucky are we all that this place is guided by such incredibly positive and focused words. That our culture is so deeply rooted in growth and character building. That this place's bible emphasizes nothing more than building a son. The very best part of my job, day in and day out, is that I am rewarded with the happiness, positive experiences, and growth of all of you.

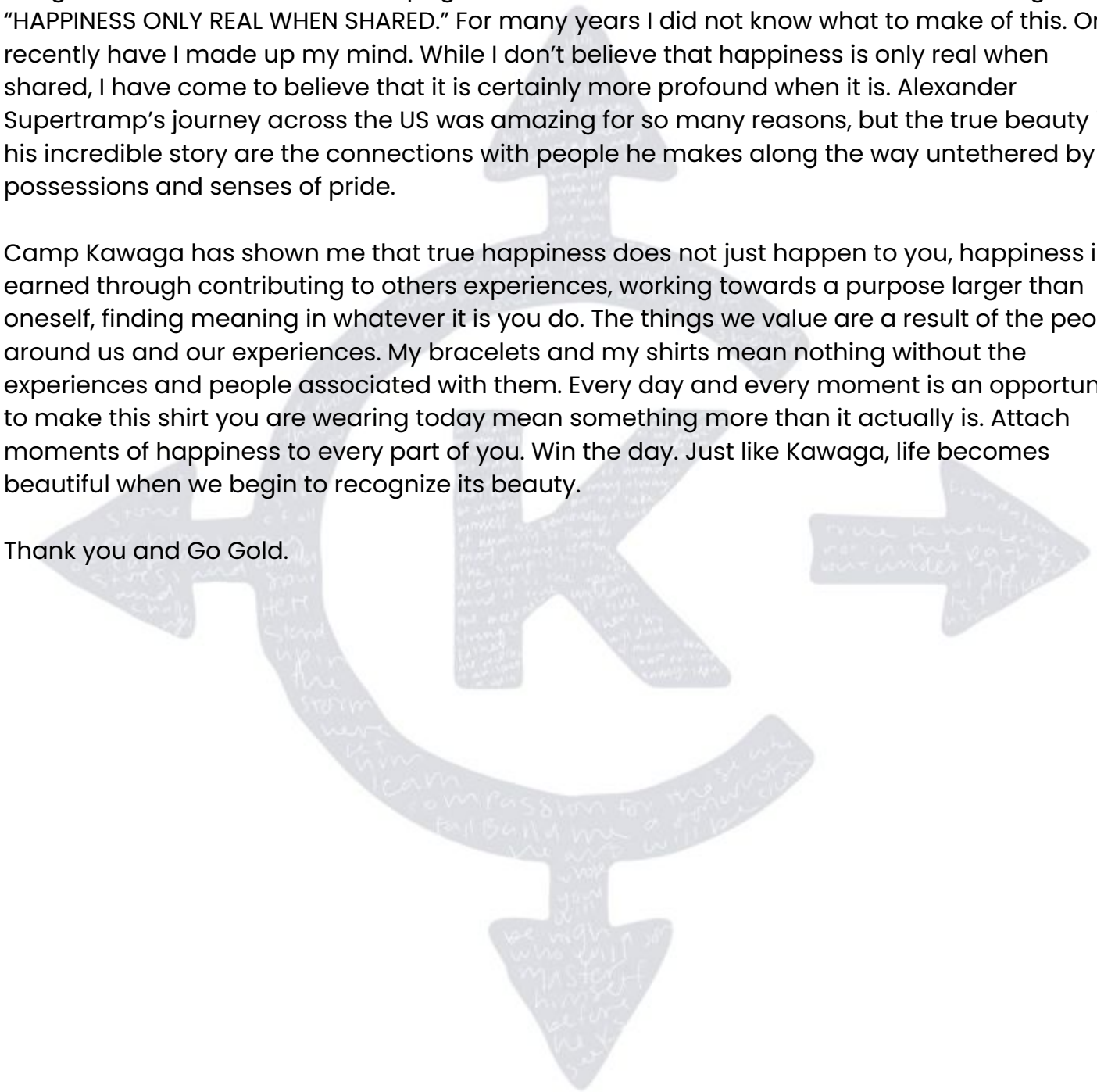
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I am going to conclude this sermon as I did my last sermon three years ago with a quote. At the end of my favorite book, *Into the Wild*, a young man going by the alias Alexander Supertramp meets his untimely end after traveling across the United States with the hope of living off the land in Alaska. In the pages of one of his books he leaves one final message, "HAPPINESS ONLY REAL WHEN SHARED." For many years I did not know what to make of this. Only recently have I made up my mind. While I don't believe that happiness is only real when shared, I have come to believe that it is certainly more profound when it is. Alexander Supertramp's journey across the US was amazing for so many reasons, but the true beauty in his incredible story are the connections with people he makes along the way untethered by all possessions and senses of pride.

Camp Kawaga has shown me that true happiness does not just happen to you, happiness is earned through contributing to others experiences, working towards a purpose larger than oneself, finding meaning in whatever it is you do. The things we value are a result of the people around us and our experiences. My bracelets and my shirts mean nothing without the experiences and people associated with them. Every day and every moment is an opportunity to make this shirt you are wearing today mean something more than it actually is. Attach moments of happiness to every part of you. Win the day. Just like Kawaga, life becomes beautiful when we begin to recognize its beauty.

Thank you and Go Gold.





# Notable Achievements

## Birthdays

Landen Hutner (11)  
David Whittenbarger (14)  
Amelia Neofitou (19)

## Miracles

Zach Oseran (D)  
Jack McMurrough (D)  
Grant Connelly (D)  
Will James (2S)  
Caden Klein (2S)  
Max Noren (S)  
Julian Abbas (D)  
Anders Stenberg (2S)  
Des Kinast (D)  
Cooper Aronoff (S)  
Rhys Rosh (D)  
Graham Montpetit (S)  
Vinny Colianni  
(Deep-water start  
barefoot, cleared spray)

## Basic Sailor

Troy Oseran  
Oakley Daube  
Harry Steiner  
Grant Levinson  
Parker Pomerantz  
Jasper Addie  
Moe Woll  
Chris Bickers

## First Bullseye

Jonah Seeskin  
Will James  
Sammy Schimmel  
Sammy Oltmans

*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

Week 8 signals the end of another summer on the shores for Kawaga's campers. It includes the end of Blue/Gold, packing, cabin time, and finally, the campers' departure.

# CK Leisure Corner

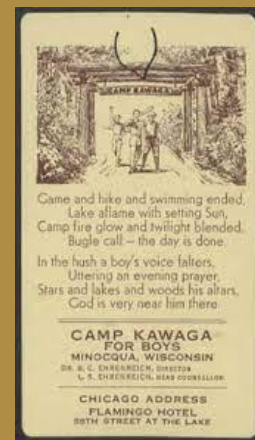
## Funny Photos This Week



## Paper Fortune Teller



## Kawaga History Blurb



*Newspaper ad for Kawaga,  
year unknown*

## Weekly Forecast

Mon 07	79°/52°		Mostly Cloudy
Tue 08	80°/55°		Partly Cloudy
Wed 09	79°/53°		PM Thunderstorms
Thu 10	77°/53°		Partly Cloudy
Fri 11	72°/52°		Showers

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