

# The Weekly Pineneedle



## Week 5 At A Glance

By: Owen Shaw

Following Visitor's Weekend, Week Five ushered in a fresh start as the second session campers arrived last Sunday.

Despite being the beginning of the session, the week was anything but slow-paced. Activities included the Ski 4 SCOPE fundraiser, along with Group 2 embarking on their white water rafting trip and Group 1 heading out for their Noah's Ark Trip, not to mention the Oneida paintball outing.

Additionally, this past Saturday we also had our first competition of second session against Camp Timberlane which went well for the Braves of Kawaga.

Even though we're past the midpoint of summer, the atmosphere at Camp Kawaga remains vibrant, with high spirits and campers determined to maximize their remaining time here.

## Campers of the Week

### Guiding Principle: Enthusiasm

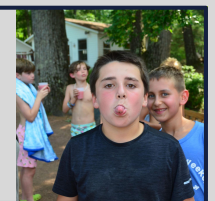
With the beginning of Week Five comes a wave of new campers. This week, we were looking for those campers who continued to bring enthusiasm to every endeavor as the summer entered its second half.



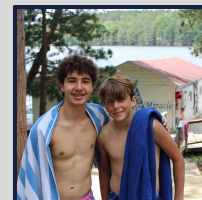
**Chippewa**  
**Brody**  
**Benowitz**



**Sioux**  
**Benji**  
**Goodman**



**Mohawk**  
**Max Kalish**



**Oneida**  
**Jarett**  
**Goldblatt**



# 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 Specy):** 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.



# Oneida Ultimate Game

By: John Menfi

During lunch, the second session leagues for all of camp were announced. After rest hour, Simon Shapiros' and Josh Zirins' teams headed out to D2 for a game of ultimate frisbee. After quick warmups, the game got underway. Both teams started out pretty slow as there was great defense on both sides. However, both teams began to figure it out and got into the endzone.

After some back and forth scores the game was tied at 4-4 going into the end of the first half. For Josh Zirins team Phil Kaplan played a great game as the frisbee handler. Dominic Tanzi was hustling all over the place and had some great defense. Drew Stecker had some big time catches and Jordi Mokhatarian was a stud on defense. For Simon's team, Josh Feig and Will Geribaldi both played unreal as handlers. Luke Winshall was a force on both sides of the field. Sam Rahimzadeh did a great job at locking up one of the other teams best players.

As the second half went on, the game stayed tight. Both teams put up 2 to make it tied with about 2 minutes left. Will threw a bomb to John who came down with it to go up one. The clock ran out and Simon's team won the game. It was a close match with a great time had by all.



## My Miracle Story

By: Alex Miller

Last night, I finally got my 2 ski miracle. Here's how I did it. I started water skiing last year at Kawaga. One of my friends finally told me I should try water skiing. So I did, and it didn't go very well as expected. I fell immediately every time. But it was also super fun. Since I liked it a lot, I decided to go again. I fell 3 times out of 4 right away, My fourth try I got up for a couple of seconds but fell. So some time after, I decided to try water skiing club. Now I had a great feeling that I would get my miracle, but I was wrong.

First couple of days didn't go so well. I got up for a little bit but would always fall. On the last day of the club, I was determined to get it. Next thing you know I fell on the last turn. It just got so bumpy and wavy that I had no other choice but to fall. I was so upset. I decided to wait until this year. I was thinking before I came to camp that I would get my miracle in ski club, but I was wrong.

The night of ski-4-scope I got it. Everyone in camp had to try water skiing. My first attempt, I fell right away, my second attempt I was up for a while and basically got halfway but then I fell again. Two attempts left. Third attempt I fell. Now the pressure was on, I had to get it on my final attempt. I got up cleanly, and... I got my miracle!!! I was so happy. I was getting hi-fives and cheers. One of the best camp days of my life.



# Why Kawaga?

By: Zac Oseran

My first year on the shores was 2021. I knew nobody except my cousins and my brothers. I was nervous and I had no idea what camp was about. In 2021, there were pods. In pods we had to stay with our age group because of Covid, so I couldn't even see the people I already knew. Getting on the bus, I was nervous to say the least. But after we found out our cabins, a counselor brought us to the Piazza (the grass field outside of Sioux City). He started to play music and all the kids started to sing along. It ended up with a mosh pit and all of us smiling. I felt home at Kawaga already.

Later in the summer, we were released from pods and joined together as a whole camp in the mess hall. I still vividly remember how loud the mess hall was. Every person was screaming each cheer at the top of their lungs. Even though I didn't know all of the cheers, I stood up, clapped along, and had a great time on this reuniting day.

When it was time for me to return home, even though I had an unusual summer, I wanted to return to Kawaga. I had so much fun that I wanted to go more than four weeks the following summer.

When I made sachem in 2023, my sachem reflection was about meeting people. I wrote that the year after my first was when I met the most people and connected with my age group. It's true in a way, but every additional year I spend at camp deepens my connections with them. It wasn't just one year that influenced how close I became with my friends but all of our years and experiences together.

The deal I had with my parents was that every summer I went back to camp, I had to do something that I could not do at home. They told me that it was good to shoot hoops on the omni, but I couldn't do that everyday. The goal of this was to push me out of my comfort zone. Before camp, I had never shot a bullseye, caught a fish, or gotten up on two skis. But after being at camp, I could do all of those things. My parents weren't the only people that wanted me to leave my comfort zone. My counselors constantly pushed me to try new things. They taught me that learning to leave your comfort zone can help you grow as a person.

To connect back to the title, there's a reason campers and counselors keep coming back to Kawaga year after year. It's because of the environment. The Kawaga environment is nearly impossible to match. All of those stories and memories that I shared were moments that I felt painted the true picture of the environment.

The people, energy and place to try new things are all a part of it. Because of how amazing Kawagas environment is, it makes camp feel like home. That's why everyone says hi when they see a new person walking by. That's why the mess hall gets so loud during meals. That's why kids and counselors leave this place with a smile on their face. It's because of the Kawaga environment.



## Counselor Olympics

By: Kyle Oseran

The night started off with a long evening open areas. After evening open areas, we all went to the side of the omni where John Haines walked out with a torch and counselors followed with flags of countries, they then announced it was counselor olympic night. We all then received betting sheets and placed our bets.

The first game was ball throw, and my cabin got all three top placements correct! The next part of counselor olympics was the opposite hand ball throw. For this one my cabin didn't get one right. Our record was 3/6 so far. The next competition was the 50 yard dash. It was super close in the race between Sean Gooze and Josh Levitan, but Josh got a false start call and Sean won, so, again my cabin got all 3 correct.

The event after this was the Dizzy "trout" Dean race, the CIT '21s and '22s both were doing very well. It went back and forth but the '22s pulled away with the win. My cabin got 1 out of those 3 bets correct. Everyone was very excited for the 3-point contest. It started with Evan Gold doing very well and making 12 3-pointers. Next up was Noah Youdarian. Noah came up very strong but ended with 3 3-pointers. Beckham was expected to do well but didn't quite meet those expectations. Up after him was Angela, Angela did very well and hit 11 3-pointers. A special guest appearance by Ryan Daube at the end was followed by 12, 3-pointers to tie it up with Evan. They went into a half court shootout to settle it and Evan took it home.

Next up was the home-run derby. It was very close, but Kappy ended with the win. My cabin got 2/3 bets correct in the derby. The final event was the egg toss, Quinn and Spencer took it home and my cabin got 1 correct. Counselor Olympics was very fun and my cabin ended up getting 10 out of 21 placements correct. Great time had by all.





# Visitor's Weekend

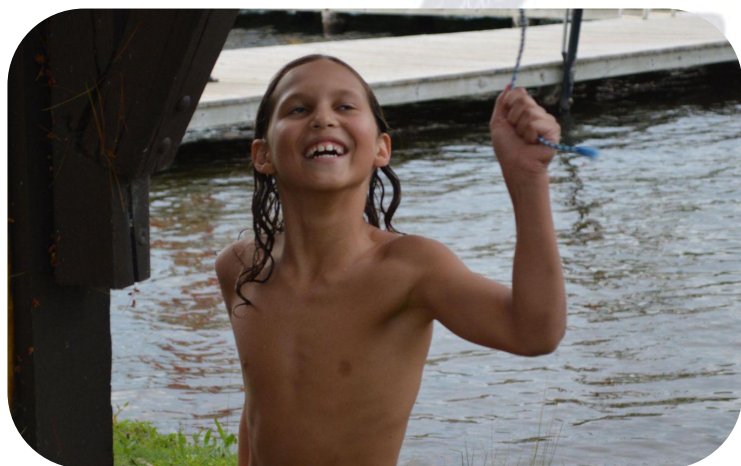
In the days between the end of first session and the beginning of second session, the parents of first session campers had the option to come up to camp and see their kids. Families had the opportunity to spend time both in camp and outside of camp, while in camp all areas were open and a great sermon by Quinn Korach was delivered.





# 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 Brother Pizza

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 17th, Camp Kawaga participated in the 2024 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!





# League Standings

## Chip Blue/Gold

Team Name

	Win	Loss
J. Alexander + J. Villalobos:	2	2
N. Brouder + A. Jimenez:	3	1
S. Simon	3	1
J. Bellentani + L. Tsoelipe	0	4

## Chip Breakfast

Team Name

	Win	Loss
B. Boymel:	3	0
S. Kwartowitz:	1	2
N. Youdarian + M. Tshabalala:	2	1
C. Sakadeles:	0	3

## Sioux Blue/Gold League

Team Name

	Win	Loss
J. Levitan:	3	0
T. McSweeney:	0	3
T. Ocelli:	2	1
T. Busch:	1	2
E. Gold:	2	1
C. Watson:	1	2

## Meat League

Team Name

	Win	Loss
J. Daube:	2	2
E. Metz:	3	1
L. Stein:	2	2
J. Swift:	4	0
A. Brandenstein:	2	2
G. Lowell:	0	4
O. Guttman:	1	3
E. Kaufmann:	2	2

# League Standings

## Mohawk Blue/Gold League

### Team Name

J. Haines:

M. Rosenthal:

T. Adelman:

J. Messe:

Win

Loss

0

3

2

1

2

1

2

1

## Fish League

### Team Name

H. Sennott:

J. Friedman:

F. Kaplan:

E. Levine:

J. Gottlieb:

C. Kosner:

Win

Loss

3

1

2

2

1

3

3

1

1

3

2

2

## Oneida Blue/Gold League

### Team Name

S. Shapiro:

O. Schneider

J. Zirin:

N. Delman:

L. Flater:

J. Satyr:

Win

Loss

1

1

2

0

0

2

1

1

1

1

1

1

## Cheese League

### Team Name

J. Jacobs:

O. Shaw:

A. Fenster:

J. Levitan:

M. Newmark + D. Lapins:

ID. Dyner:

B. Gnehm:

J. Decker:

Win

Loss

0

2

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

2

0





# Owen Schneiders' Saturday Sermon

Saturday, July 19th, 2024

Good Morning,

My name is Owen Schneider, and it is my 11th summer at camp, and 3rd as a counselor. When trying to tell my friends why I am coming back to camp as a 19 year old it is super difficult, because the answer would be the traditions but that isn't really an answer I could give. When I think about traditions, or "Kawaga's Heritage" it can sometimes be overwhelming. To think about a place that has run continuously for 109 camping summers is sometimes intimidating. Many wars including two world wars and of course the recent pandemic would have ended many camps, at least for a summer, but not here. How this happens is almost unfathomable. I was rotting at home from March 10 up until the first day of camp on June 28 in 2020. That's 110 days of life being on hold. Still being able to come up here and weather the storm was truly an indescribable experience. Yet, this feeling couldn't be captured into words and brought out of here. Nothing I could tell others would do this place justice.

When looking back at my time at camp, it is hard to not start at the beginning. July 13, 2014 was my first day as a camper, and while a lot has changed, many things have been untouched. My older brother, Gray, was an eight-week camper so I came for the Sunday morning of visitors. I was so excited I jumped out of the car, hardly giving my mom any attention as I ran up the hill. After putting my bags down in Chip 4, I aimlessly wandered around. I was so excited after hearing Gray talk about this place but now I was lost. I didn't know anyone except for Gray and his two school friends, but they were doing their own thing so I was alone. Or so I thought. Eli Schroyer welcomed me into a game of pros vs joes football catch on diamond 1 and those feelings of being lost vanished.

Soon after, I received my big brother, Eric Gandelman. This is a great tradition we do here and I feel super fortunate the way it worked out for me. As he noted in his own sermon, when he was driving me to the airport early my CIT year to get back to school, I told him "You started and ended my camp career". Ric was my counselor for four summers after he had been my big brother. When I came to camp as a wide eyed little fellow, he was the one who showed me what this place was all about. He was even the head of CIT excursions nine summers after he was my big brother.

It would be impossible to think about this place's traditions without our ideal. The most important part of camp is our ideal and living it. I have carried around the same card in my wallet for years. The words are faded, but I have long memorized them. I don't remember too much from my second year, but one vivid memory I have is standing at the ideal board next to the counsel ring learning it every day for a week.

I would proceed to make sachem the night after saying it. When I was learning the Ideal, it was simply a sachem requirement to check off. It took a little longer before I truly began to appreciate what the Ideal meant.

Ironically, this is now the question that I ask campers when they say the ideal going for sachem. Anyone who has said the ideal to me for sachem when I was at the books knows I ask the same question, I pick a line from the ideal and say what that line means along with why it is important enough to be in our ideal. Campers may not realize when I ask them, but I am asking them what the ideal means to them. In asking why said line is in our ideal, they must understand the meaning of the ideal. Being the head of the books gives me another reason to feel that the ideal is important. Not only is it the sachem requirement that I mentioned, but it is tremendously important to campers going for mawanda. There are plenty of campers who feel they have achieved the 150 points necessary, but the non-athletic requirement seems to stump many hopeful mawandas. Given that those who go for mawanda are newer campers, it may seem daunting to try to learn something as long as the ideal. It is definitely worth it, however. I have made how I feel about the ideal clear, but even if you don't feel the same way that I do, it is a great way to achieve mawanda and be one step closer to earning your sachem name.

Another underappreciated tradition we have here is trips. As a camper, it was part of the tradition to complain about trips. To me, trips have always been fun, at least as I got older. I know there are various reasons as to why people do not like trips, but getting myself out of my comfort zone has always been rewarding.

As I write this sermon, I am sitting next to a fire on a trip as everyone else sleeps. I am listening to the playlist I would often play last year in the cabin, teaching the kids to love country music like I do. Five of the kids on this trip were my campers last year, and three of them have mentioned that they now primarily listen to my favorite songs. All of them made it in passing, thinking little of it. It was, however, a pretty cool moment for me. As mentioned, Eric Gandelman was my counselor for a majority of my mohawk and Oneida years. I was never anybody's Eric. I have never had the same camper twice. I am with the age of the campers I had two summers ago, but with no cabin overlap. I have learned to appreciate this as time goes on. There is no doubt that being with kids while they grow up is cool. As a camper, this was something that was always pretty awesome to me. Almost knowing who my counselor was year in and year out was comforting, and there truly were few people I was closer with for two months out of every year. On the other hand, I feel honored to have a total of 18 different campers. All of whom were at camp this summer. I hope that each of these 18 campers appreciate all I tried to do for them, because I appreciate all they have done for me. Outside of some kids from my age group, my campers were and still are the people that I talk to the most.



With that being said, it is impossible to overstate how important my age group has been to me. The first real friend I had at this place was James. Me and him were the two chip 8 weekers in 2015, so we each had many "gos" off of the high dive. Something as goofy and inconsequential as repeating this line over and over while jumping in brought us closer than I could've ever predicted at the time. James of course is a massive player, but far from the only one. Every Friday night I rock with Logan in the meetings. Sunday shaves with Huxley for the past few years. Sr. Ball with Delman, Simon, and Lapins. Neighbors with Jono at school and for first session here. I golfed with Chance and Dynner. I sit at a table with Fenster. All of these little things that combine to make up the 2018 Mohawk A's who are still at camp. I haven't forgotten my friends who haven't come back to camp this year. From staying with Eric Slavin every year the night before camp, to playing catch with Marco once a week without missing a week for all of my Oneida years, and many more. All of these little things, these traditions, are truly special. They make this place what they are. At the end of the day, I came back for these. I love the competitions: Menominee, Ojibwa, Spectacular, and Blue Gold, but that's not why I am here.

You can't come back for a few days out of the year and enjoy the entire summer. It just won't work. The summer is too long and monotonous if you come back just for the big events. You need to enjoy the little things and our traditions if you want the full experience. With all of that being said, the worst tradition we have here is staff growing up and aging out of camp. As I stand here, I cannot guarantee to myself or to anyone else what next year holds. The past two summers were no guarantee for me to come back, but this is the first time in my life where I have started to think about what next summer can hold that is

I will end this sermon with a final emphasis on tradition. There is no way to ever tell someone who isn't here what this place is about. For my whole life I have wanted to get some home friends up here. When trying to sell them, however, I was never able to articulate to them the WHY. I could explain fun stories, but trying to tap into the American Indian traditions we have here is impossible. I could never articulate the weight that our pow wows, honorary tribes, and taps have. It was never worth trying because there is no way to experience Kawaga without being here. Words could never do this place justice. As I reflect on my time here, it is harder than ever to imagine me spending a summer away, despite knowing that if it's not next year, it is likely the year after. I will conclude this in the way my own chief speech does, as its words become truer to me with each passing year. "For at the heart of the brave is Kawaga, and at the heart of Kawaga is the brave."

Thank you.

# Notable Achievements

## Birthdays:

Harrison Frei (11)  
Jacob Stillman (15)  
Bryan Gnehm (21)  
Oren Guttman (18)

## Miracles:

Harvey Colianni (D)  
Jonah Seeskin (2s)  
Franklin Marx (2s)  
Theo Browne (2s)  
Eli Kates (2s)  
Asher Adler (2s)  
Levi Miller (2s)  
Trey Berman (2s)  
Miles Gurovitsch (2s)  
Will Saber (2s)  
Ben Cohen (2s)  
Harley Gross (2s)  
Alex Miller (2s)  
Noah Marks (2s)  
Sam Ott-bono (2s)  
Gideon Korach (2s)  
Max Mysel (2s)  
Hudson Rosenbloom (2s)  
Mason Weiner (2s)  
Ryan Kornblatt (2s)

## First Bullseye:

Jonah Hirschfeld  
Reid Kinast  
Leon Cohn  
Trey Burman  
Ryder Edelston  
Theo Browne  
Brody Bremen

*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, we had a lot of trips go out as well as out of camp activities. This following week the majority of camp will be present, with the majority of our last typical days falling into this next week. Team tryouts will be taking place in preparation for our annual competition against Camp Menominee. As the excitement spreads around camp intensity will pick up as the anticipation for the competition begins to form.

# CK Leisure Corner

## Funny Photos This Week



2	6	3	5		1
5	4				6
	3		4		
4	2	6	1	5	3
6		2		1	4
				2	5

Kawaga History Blurb

A photograph of four people (three men and one woman) standing outdoors next to a wooden historical plaque. They are all wearing dark polo shirts. The plaque is mounted on a wooden post and has some text on it.

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

Weekly Forecast

Mon 22	78°/59°		PM Thunderstorms
Tue 23	69°/53°		Scattered Thunderstorms
Wed 24	73°/48°		AM Clouds/PM Sun
Thu 25	78°/53°		Mostly Sunny
Fri 26	81°/57°		Sunny

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