

The Weekly Pineneedle



Camp Kawaga Newsletter

Volume 1 · Issue 4

Date: 7/12/26

Ideal Reflection, By Hal Steinberg

A line in the Kawaga ideal that stands out to me is: "The simplicity of true greatness." Those words have not stood out to me in years past because they are at the end of the ideal. Just like these words being at the end of the ideal, I as a CIT am at the end of my career as a camper. When you think about greatness at camp, you think about winning the Spectacular, winning Blue Gold, and of course beating Menominee. In the real world, it can be seen in things like getting promoted, winning championships, and helping an organization achieve a goal. At the beginning of my camping career, I always saw greatness as beating Menominee or being voted as a tribal officer. I realized as I got older that it was the older campers who truly made those moments great. I realized that I am the camper who is in charge of making greatness. One does not need to go out of his way to create a moment of greatness. Greatness is as simple as the ideal says; it wasn't until this year that I fully realized that. Since the start of my Group I summer, my goal has always been to stay as present as possible and live in the moment no matter the event. That is something I struggled with during my early years on the shores. I was always waiting until the next time I could achieve greatness in a stereotypical manner. During clubs I didn't enjoy or evening programs that didn't excite me, my head was daydreaming about a moment that probably never took place. As I have grown older, I have started to pick up on the little moments at camp. Ten minute conversations before a meal, evening open areas knock-out games, and the half-conscious walk down to Polar Bears are just a few. There is no other place than camp where those events take place so frequently. That is what makes Kawaga so great. Greatness is in front of our eyes at every moment. Every event is great in its own way. My mind has grown over time to appreciate the perspective of each moment. Changing your outlook is not an easy thing to do while at camp. Even if an outcome is not the one I had hoped for, I take a second to look around and remember that this is the place I dream about being at for 10 months of the year. You may be sad in a moment, but nobody has ever made 100% of the shots that they took. I go about camp with the mentality that if I give my all, then there is an opportunity for greatness in any situation. The greatness comes from moments of the day, as there is no other place where you can fail in the morning and be the hero of the afternoon. Where else can you disconnect from the worries of life with your 25 best friends 24/7 for 2 months? That is the greatness of Kawaga: The smiles, the hellos to someone you saw 2 minutes ago, and the ability to have the lowest lows and the highest highs in the matter of seconds.

Campers of the Week: Sportsmanship



Chip: DJ Suarez



Sioux: Hugo Payne



Mohawk: Jonas
Hirschfeld



Oneida: Cooper
Aranoff

Principle Summary

This week's guiding principle was sportsmanship. After a hard-fought Spectacular, these campers deserve to be recognized for their outstanding efforts on and off the field. They are elite players who play even better by supporting their teammates and respecting their opponents. They have been proud and unbending in defeat while remaining humble and gentle in victory. Congratulations to the campers of the week!

Kawaga's Ideal

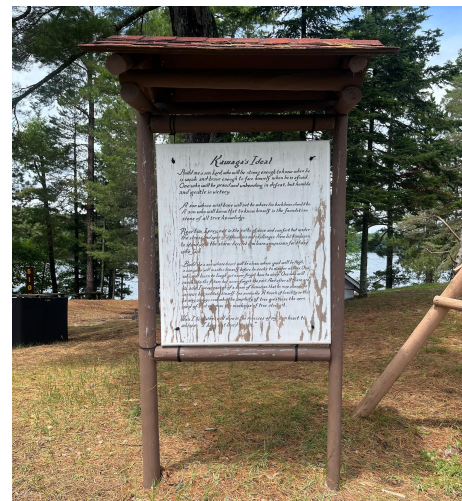
Build me a son, Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid. One who will be proud and unbending in defeat, yet humble and gentle in victory.

A son whose wishbone will not be where his backbone should be. A son who will know that to know himself is the foundation stone of all true knowledge.

Rear him, I pray, not in the paths of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenges. Here let him learn to stand up in the storm; here let him learn compassion for those who fail.

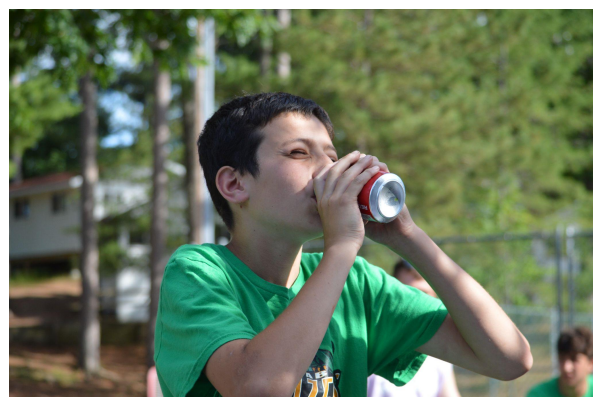
Build me a son, whose heart will be clean, whose goal will be high. A son who will master himself before he seeks to master others. One who will learn to laugh, yet never forget how to weep. One who will reach into the future, but never forget the past. And after all these are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor so that he may always be serious, but not take himself too seriously. A touch of humility so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength.

Then I his father, will dare in the recesses of my own heart to whisper, "I have not lived in vain."



Spectacular Continues

The Spectacular was intense the whole way through. After a day of blocks, archery, track, and swim all began to take place. Individual tournaments occurred as well. Tug-O-War was a major event toward the end of the Spectacular, followed by the relay. To close out the event, Song and Skit gave out the final points to teams to determine the 2026 Spectacular victor. While all this was happening, heated blocks were taking place that created memories and lessons for all campers involved for years to come. Overall, the Spectacular this year was extremely well executed and was fought hard by all.



Spectacular Winner



Stanford University

Spectacular Results



Stanford University
1st Place



The University of North Carolina
2nd Place



The University of Alabama at Birmingham
3rd Place



Long Island University
4th Place



East Carolina University
5th Place



Indiana University
6th Place



The University of Arizona
7th Place



The University of Virginia
8th Place

Spectacular Spotlight



Name: Joe Patey

Joe Patey is a 2nd year international counselor and was an assistant coach of this year's Spectacular winner, Stanford. Joe put in long hours and sleepless nights to ensure the success of his team and was supportive of all campers throughout the entire Spectacular process. He holds his head high in victory along with the rest of the team and will have his name on a Stanford plaque that will be hung in the Mess Hall for years to come. Congratulations to Stanford on their win!

Q&A

How did winning the Spectacular feel?

Winning the spectacular is definitely the highlight of my counseling career, seeing how much it meant to the whole team as well as the other councillors made my whole year and it's an achievement I'll hold close to my heart for the rest of my life. My feelings go out to all of the other teams and coaches who put in 100% effort and didn't manage to get the win, the competition was great and seeing everyone give it their all was amazing.

What was your favorite part of the Spectacular?

My favourite part of the spectacular was the song and skit, the coaches and I put so much hard work into the skit and the team only had a few hours so learn it, but seeing it all come together and them absolutely smashing it brought a tear to my eye. Also watching the other teams creativity was amazing, some of the skits were hilarious and it was a great way to end a tough week.

Why is the Spectacular important for Kawaga?

The spectacular is super important to Kawaga, the older campers showing excellent sportsmanship and the younger campers learning from them. The spectacular is the perfect event for teaching new campers and younger campers the pillars of Kawaga, and being a CIT councillor as well, I was passionate for my campers to set a leading example and they thrived at doing that. It is also important as every camper is important to the spectacular, no matter where their talents are, be it athletics, drama or all around leadership.

Parent's Weekend

After first session had concluded, the parents of remaining 8-week campers and some 4-week campers traveled up to the shores to visit their campers! Reunions were exciting and emotional as campers were able to share with their parents just how amazing camp has been. Families joined their campers for Saturday services, followed by Open Areas in which campers could showcase their new skills and favorite activities all day long. As parents start to head out, we look forward to an amazing second session which will create even more exciting memories for campers to share with their parents at the end of the summer.



Notable Achievements

Birthdays	First Fish
Ben Greniman (10)	Hannah Friday
Boaz Sager (12)	Gerald Goldberg
Adam Schneider (13)	Cole Cheresnick
Josh Zirin (22)	Paul Cascade
Santiago Miranda Rueda (21)	

First Bullseye	Miracles
Noah Olson	Mason Krause (2-Ski)
Franklin Marx	Max Daniel (Slalom)
Simon Clayman-Smith	
Frantisek Pultar	

Chief's Corner

The Oneidas have had a fantastic first 4 weeks of the summer. They have led the Mess Hall with intention and passion, showing the rest of camp what Kawaga Spirit truly looks like. In Leagues, the Spectacular, and during the 4th of July the Oneidas gave it their all leaving everything that they had on the field. Additionally, almost all Oneidas are striving towards their goals of Mawanda, Sachem, and Double Sachem while pushing themselves out of their comfort zones.

During the 2nd small pow-wow, we talked about leadership, accountability, and gratitude. While we feel that their leadership and accountability has been strong this summer, there is still a lot of room to grow. As a tribe we continue to focus on being intentional and understanding that as the oldest kids in camp there are always little eyes upon them. For gratitude, we have stressed how lucky they are to be at camp and to take it day by day as the summer flies by.

I cannot wait to see what the rest of the summer has in store and how this tribe continues to thrive in their leadership roles. I am very excited to see the Oneidas continue to lead camp, strive for their goals, and have their best summer yet.

-Logan Flater, Chief of the Oneida



Kawaga Leisure



Funny Photos This Week



7-Day Forecast

Sun 12	 6%	Sunny
Mon 13	 6%	Mostly Sunny
Tue 14	 17%	Partly Cloudy
Wed 15	 12%	Partly Cloudy
Thu 16	 24%	Partly Cloudy
Fri 17	 24%	Partly Cloudy
Sat 18	 24%	Partly Cloudy



Editors

Editor-In-Chief: Jarett Goldblatt
 Camper Editors: Jacob Stillman, Gabriel Kaufmann, Max Kalish, Joey Goodman