

# The Weekly Pineneedle



Camp Kawaga Newsletter

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## The CIT Experience: By Moe Woll

Over the years, as you come to camp, there is always one common theme: not the food, not the people who come back, but how the CITs are always looked up to by the camp. As I arrived at camp this summer, I didn't realize how apparent this would be. It showed in the very first meal as we started a cheer that the whole camp joined in on. During week one, while walking around during open areas, I started to get very emotional. This is not something I thought would happen to me at such a random time as I was overlooking D1. Throughout first session, you start to realize that you'll never be able to do some things anymore such as certain evening programs and the Spectacular. During the Spectacular, you are one of the biggest if not the biggest leader on your team. When you are happy or sad, the team follows. You have to give full effort in everything because if you don't, the younger kids won't as well. As first session comes to an end, you start to realize you might not see some of these people ever again. As the first week of second session comes to an end, I often find myself getting emotional about the thought of never being a camper again. It has been the best year of my camping experience so far.

## Campers of the Week: Enthusiasm



Chip: Jacob  
Westerberg



Sioux: Zachary  
Gorman



Mohawk: Chase  
Adair



Oneida: Hal  
Steinberg

## Principle Summary

The beginning of second session was marked by extreme excitement, and these campers went above and beyond to use their enthusiasm toward the new session in a way that made camp a better place for everyone they interacted with. These campers were thrilled toward everything related to camp and used this excitement to make those around them excited as well. We look forward to the session!

# CIT Spotlight



**Name:** Paul Cascade

Paul Cascade is a 2026 CIT and has had an amazing year so far. He is a hard worker and is looked up to be all of camp. Paul is an avid sports player and is a leader on and off the court. This year, he was the captain of the University of Alabama at Birmingham for the Spectacular. Paul has had a phenomenal CIT summer so far, and we are looking forward to seeing the rest of his summer.

## Q&A

### What makes being a CIT different from all other years?

Being a CIT is different from all other years because of the platform we are put on. As CITs, we set the tone for camp. All of our actions, good or bad, are watched and mimicked by the rest of camp. Even though we were role models last year, this is different because we sit at the center of the Mess Hall and lead activities while taking on bigger responsibilities.

### What is your favorite part of being a CIT?

My favorite part about being a CIT is the fact that our entire age group came to camp with the same mentality: we want to leave camp this summer with no regrets. We all know that it is our last summer as campers and we want to make the most of it, which has led to countless memories.

### How have you felt you have grown over the course of your camping career?

Over my seven years at camp, I've grown to appreciate the small things. I always used to just look forward to the big events like the Spectacular and Menominee competition. While these events are great, it's important to be grateful for smaller, everyday things such as leagues and Polar Bears.

### What are you looking forward to most on staff?

I am looking forward to giving back to camp on staff. Camp has done so much for me as a person, and I am excited to return the favor as a staffman. My counselors were always great role models for me, and I want to be that role model for my campers.

# Counselor Reflection

By Guillermo Brandenstein

When I first decided to come to camp, I honestly did not know what to expect. I was excited and nervous, but because I came here with my brother, I did not miss home as much as I thought I would. Now that the summer is almost over, I can say it has been one of the best experiences I have ever had.

Being a first-year international staff member was a challenge at the beginning. Everything was new, from the camp traditions to speaking English all day. During the first few days I was always thinking about whether I was saying things correctly or if people understood my accent. After a while, I realized that nobody expected me to be perfect. Everyone was really welcoming, and little by little I became more comfortable. Now speaking English feels much more natural than it did when I first arrived.

The campers have definitely been my favorite part of camp. Some days are exhausting, but they always find a way to make me laugh. It is cool to see how much they grow in just a few weeks. Some campers arrive shy or nervous, and by the end of the session they have friends everywhere and are willing to try new things. Knowing that I got to be a small part of that makes all the long days worth it.

I have also met people from so many different countries. Before camp, I had never worked with people from places like England, Australia, or other parts of the world. It has been really interesting to learn about their cultures and realize that even though we all grew up differently, we all came here for the same reason: to give the campers an amazing summer.



# Counselor Reflection

One thing that made this experience even better was having my brother here with me. Honestly, sharing this summer with him has been one of the best things that could have happened to me. He is not only my brother, but also my best friend, so having him here made everything feel easier and more special. We have supported each other through tired days, stressful moments, and everything in between. We would talk about our day, laugh about the funny things that happened, and remind each other why we came here in the first place. I feel really lucky that I got to live this experience with him, because it made this summer unforgettable and gave me memories I will always keep with me.

Camp has also taught me a lot about myself. I have become more independent, more patient, and better at working with other people. Those moments helped me build confidence, and I feel like I have grown a lot since I got here.

Of course, not every day has been easy. There were days when I missed home, when I was tired, or when I just wanted to sleep for an entire day. But those moments are part of the experience too. They make you appreciate the good days even more, and they teach you that you are capable of doing more than you think.

Overall, I am really grateful that I decided to come to camp. I have made great friends, improved my English, learned a lot about different cultures, and created memories that I will never forget. If someone asked me if they should work at camp as an international staff member, I would definitely tell them to do it. It is not always easy, but it is an experience that is completely worth it.

–Guillermo Brandenstein



# Big & Little Brothers

With a new session came another new round of big and little brothers! New campers were paired up with older, experienced campers to form a relationship that will last them the rest of their lives. Big brothers show their little brothers the ropes of camp and do all they can to ensure that their little brothers have the best first year possible. As always, the big and little brothers will soon have a night-time pizza party!





# Bay Swims



New campers once again gathered at the Waterfront to swim from one side of Lake Kawaguesaga to the other to mark the completion of their bay swims. This is no easy task and is a challenge that teaches new campers to fight under pressure. They swim with their big brother and a lifeguard. Once they make it across, all bay swimmers receive their very own canoe paddle! Swimming the bay is a difficult task, and we are extremely proud of all who even attempted the swim. Here's to another great summer and to tons of amazing water activities!





# Agawak Social

To end the first week of second session, the Kawaga Braves got on buses and traveled to Camp Agawak for a social! The social was beach themed, so all campers put on their best beach attire to meet the ladies. There were snacks and games available for the campers as they socialized. Great time had by all!







## Ski 4 SCOPE

SCOPE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sending kids to summer camp despite financial blockades or issues. Kawaga has worked with Scope over the years to bring awareness and funds to the organization and its goals. Each summer, Kawaga runs a Ski 4 SCOPE day, dedicated to bringing awareness to SCOPE by getting each and every Brave an attempt at water skiing in a single day. Whether they are an avid skier or have never tried it before, each camper is able to have a run and learn about SCOPE and its benefits.



# Notable Achievements

| Miracles                      |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Ari Stolman (Drop Ski)</b> | <b>Logan Koss (2-Ski)</b>      |
| Benny Garson (2- Ski)         | Dylan McQueen (2-Ski)          |
| <b>Jacob Schwartz (2-Ski)</b> | <b>Jordy Burke (2-Ski)</b>     |
| Harrison Stoller (Drop Ski)   | Harrison Stoller (Slalom)      |
| <b>Dylan Abt (2-Ski)</b>      | <b>Dylan Abt (Slalom)</b>      |
| Jacob Westerberger (2-Ski)    | Ben Wurtzel (2-Ski)            |
| <b>Nora Gylsejo (2-Ski)</b>   | <b>Asher Schlachet (2-Ski)</b> |
| Paul Stiegler (Drop Ski)      | Oisín Tolan (Drop Ski)         |

| Birthdays               |
|-------------------------|
| <b>Eli Devine (9)</b>   |
| Jacob Stillman (17)     |
| <b>Bryan Gnehm (23)</b> |

| First Bullseye        |
|-----------------------|
| Jordy Berk            |
| <b>Samson Showaki</b> |
| Miles Wright          |
| <b>Evan Adams</b>     |

| First Fish           |
|----------------------|
| <b>Bennet Zabrin</b> |
| Jack Cohen           |
| <b>Simon Girvich</b> |
| James David          |
| <b>Noah Devine</b>   |
| Benny Harmon         |
| <b>Colin McQueen</b> |
| Mayer Midell         |
| <b>Theo Brown</b>    |
| Noah Olson           |
| <b>Chase Brandt</b>  |
| Dylan Slate          |

## Chief's Corner

We had a fantastic first week with the Chips! From the moment everyone arrived, the cabins were full of excitement, laughter, and plenty of energy. It didn't take long for the boys to start making friends, and it's already been great to see them encouraging one another and jumping into every activity with enthusiasm. They have been eager to try new things, and their positive attitudes have made for an awesome start to the session.

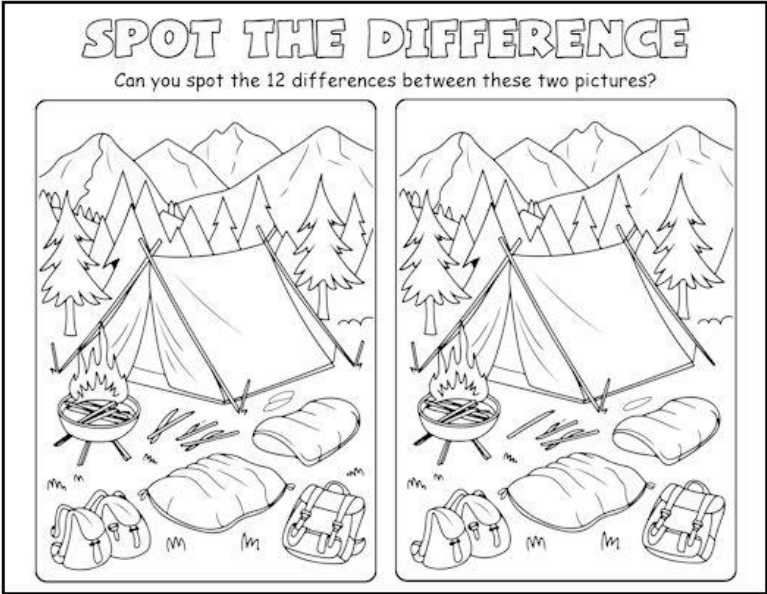
This week in our pow-wow, we'll be focusing on companionship and working together. As we continue getting to know each other, we're encouraging the boys to include everyone, work together as a cabin, and build strong friendships both in the cabin and around camp. These first few days have laid a great foundation, and we're excited to continue building on it.

I'm looking forward to everything this group will accomplish over the next few weeks. Their excitement and willingness to dive into camp life have already made this a fun session, and I can't wait to watch them continue to grow together.

-Ethan Kaufmann, Chief of the Chips



# Kawaga Leisure



## Funny Photos This Week



## 7-Day Forecast

|        |                                                                                       |     |               |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------|
| Sun 19 |    | 24% | Partly Cloudy |
| Mon 20 |    | 24% | Partly Cloudy |
| Tue 21 |    | 24% | Partly Cloudy |
| Wed 22 |    | 24% | Partly Cloudy |
| Thu 23 |    | 24% | Partly Cloudy |
| Fri 24 |    | 16% | Partly Cloudy |
| Sat 25 |  | 22% | Partly Cloudy |



## Editors

Editor-In-Chief: Jarett Goldblatt  
Camper Editors: Jacob Stillman, Harry Steiner, Joey Goodman, Grant Levison