

Camp CHIPS



Stormy seas. Uncharted waters. Things turned upside down. Roller coaster of emotions. No matter how you try to sum up the past 24 months, one thing we can all agree on, going to camp is good for the mind, body, and soul.

Last summer as Camp welcomed our community back (Chippewa did not operate in 2020), we renewed friendships, swam in clear water, learned new skills, lived together, embraced the great outdoors, encountered challenges and risked trying new things. Ah, the joy of being a kid—together, smiling, not separate.

War in Ukraine, inflation, and enough blame to go around, all takes a back seat to the adventures, laughter, and achievement at Camp Chippewa. This is not to diminish the issues the world faces today, but camp is a respite from the world's problems and allows our campers to revel in the brotherhood, personal growth, and new-found character that will soothe the body, calm the soul, and relax the mind.

Are summer memories the result of paddling on nothing but calm waters? Of course not. Challenges present themselves at every turn. Adventures are embraced

in every moment. And every step forward allows boys to show who they are and want to be. Smooth waters and sunshine—perhaps. But camp has bugs. Rains will wash out a tennis lesson. Headwinds will delay a canoe trip. These hardships are what help build character, instill tolerance, and hone relationships. With the guidance, insight, and leadership from our staff, these steps will help campers temper their expectations for perfection and lead them toward empathy, joy, self-regulation, and a reverence for putting in the time to get better at a skill.

The bottom line: Camp is a great place to be a kid. The trappings of today's instant everything vanish when campers step off the bus. From roasting a hot dog, sitting around a campfire, helping a cabin mate with a chore, or passing that next rank, camp allows everyone to unplug from technology and plug back into nature, conversations, and the unbridled joy of being a kid. And that is good for the body, soul, and mind. Welcome to the Year of the Campsite, where we value leaving things better than we found them.

—Mike Endres, Director





Who's Who 2022

continued from Camp Chips Fall 2021

Mason Z. Innisfil ON
Bridger T. Brainerd MN
Gibson P. Pacific Palisades CA
Jack L. Washington DC
Felix G. Pacific Palisades CA
Gus G. Pacific Palisades CA
Kyle D. Perry KS
Alejandro L. The Woodlands TX
Arya T. Los Altos Hills CA
Ajay T. Los Altos Hills CA
Max P. Atlanta GA
Nicholas M. Breezy Point NY
Ethan T. Stony Brook NY
Will V. Kenilworth IL
Joseph L. Indianapolis IN
Charlie L. Indianapolis IN
Theodore R. Des Moines IA
Harry B. Whitefish Bay WI
Josh A. Boulder CO
Lucas A. Boulder CO
Riley V. Cedar Falls IA
Julian V. Mission Hills KS
George H. St. Louis Park MN
Mauricio S. White Bear Lake MN
Mekhi A. Milwaukee WI
Harrison R. Austin TX
Charlie T. Westwood KS
Logan B. Mankato MN
Finn G. Austin TX

'Round the Mark

Canada is open to all campers and staff who are fully vaccinated to COVID-19. A vaccination card and passport or birth certificate is needed to cross the border. This applies to all rising 7th and 9th through 12th graders.

During any given summer, there is always a small chance of not being allowed entry into Canada. This summer every group will have a guaranteed backup in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness! There are countless miles yet to be explored in one of the world's greatest canoe countries, and plenty of historic routes for Chippewa trips to recreate!

The archery range is currently under construction to meet the needs of our growing archery program. The bunker will be remodeled to provide more space to organize and store bows and arrows, and the range is equipped with a brand new irrigation system to keep the ground flat and the grass green! Who will be the next Master Archer in camp?

Show Us Your Tam!

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH AN OLD TRADITION, THE TAM.

Tams represent a rite of passage for young men at Camp Chippewa. These photos are of CC men from many generations—past, present, and those eagerly waiting to earn their first tam in the future. Last December we asked our CC community to send a photo with their tam or CC gear to celebrate the New Year. Please show us your tam in 2022! Send photos to sam@campchippewa.com.



Evan Hansen (2013-21)
Staff (2022)



Charlie Paine (2021-22)



Jack Deneen (2015-22)



Bruce Endres (1962-68; Staff 1970s)
Brian Endres (1963-70; Staff 1970s)



Matias and Mario Muller (2015-22)



Ben Howard
(2003-10)
Staff
(2011-14,
2021-22)

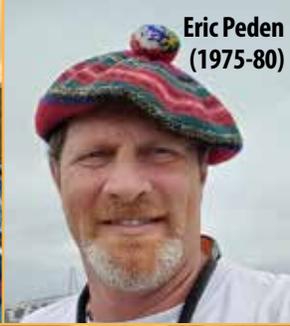


Fisher Works (2021-22)



Ramsey Stewart
(2021-22)

At right: Rob Sendak (Staff 1995-96, 2004-07). Below: Drew Ramsey, David Stern, Trent Guthrie, Phil Sanders, Carleton Callenbach, John McCormick, Crow White, Kingsley Ronk (1988).



Eric Peden
(1975-80)

CAMP DATES 2022

FULL SESSION
June 16 to August 9

1ST SESSION
June 16 to July 12

2ND SESSION
July 14 to August 9

BADGER CAMP 1
June 16 to June 29

BADGER CAMP 2
July 14 to July 27



Drake Peden (2011)
Staff (2021-22)

Luke Aloe (2014-21), Dillon Hayes (2017-22),
Andy Yoong (2017-19)

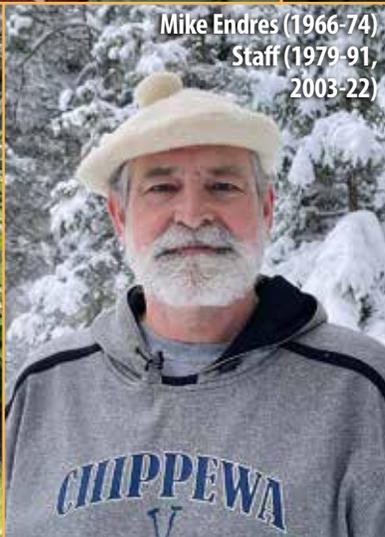
Jacob Endres(2004-13; Staff 2014-22)
Sam Endres (2002-11; Staff (2012-22)



Jack Lettow
(2021-22)

Mike Endres (1966-74)
Staff (1979-91,
2003-22)

Kris DeLaurier
(1991)





Sam Ozer Grove

Whether a Chinese proverb or in the Midrash—a Jewish story 2,000 years old—you may have heard something about the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. What’s the second best time? Now! As the story goes, an old man was observed planting a fig tree. Curious, the observer asked if the old man would ever be able to enjoy the fruits of his labor. He replied, “I was born into a world flourishing with ready delights. My ancestors planted for me, and I now plant for my children...”

Last summer, Camp Chippewa’s CLTs planted 32 trees along the road on a berm next to the shed, in memory of Sam Ozer, camper 2016-19. During the summer of 2020, Sam was riding home from his summer job at a bike shop and was tragically hit by a car and killed. This row of spruce, pine, and fir, is now and forever known as Sam Ozer Grove.

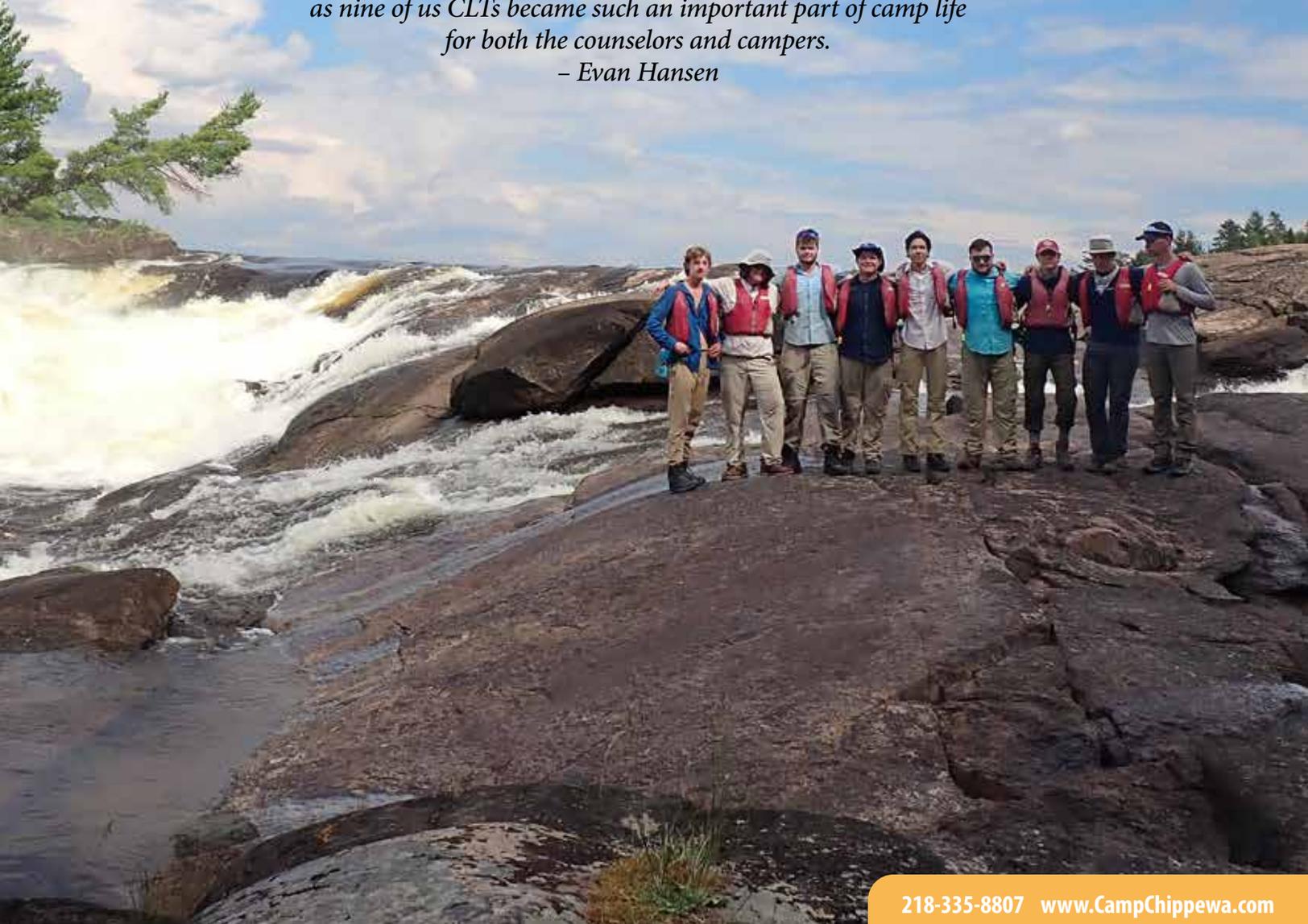
Sam was an avid...everything. He loved nature, wild places, canoeing, learning, and biking. His penultimate canoe trip was his CLT trip descending the Little Churchill River reaching Hudson Bay in 2019. Sam’s good nature attitude, steady character, and joy of comradeship, endeared him to everyone at camp.

Sam’s parents, Sid and Mindy, are no strangers to canoeing, nature, forests, and hard work. They have paddled parts of the Mississippi near camp. They have supported their local park system. And Mindy has received honors and awards for her arborist efforts in their home town. Nature to this family is not just a peaceful, beautiful setting, it is a necessity.

Camp Chippewa is fortunate to be located in Minnesota’s oldest National Forest and the first National Forest east of the Mississippi. The Chippewa National Forest boasts the most breeding pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48. And like the old man from our story, we continue to plant trees that will someday spread their canopy wide, reach dizzying heights, allowing campers to delight in summer shade. And as diseased or damaged trees come down, new ones are planted and take root. That will always be a part of Chippewa’s values.

National Arbor Day is typically the last Friday in April. It may be different depending on where you live. It is now, with an eye to the future, that we invite our Chippewa community to plant a tree this April remembering a loved one. We know that someday, walking through a majestic stand of spruce, pine, and fir in honor of Sam, will help bring natural beauty, reflection, and peace to campers for years to come. ❧

*Over the past nine years I've had the opportunity to attend
Camp Chippewa for seven summers.
This past summer (2021) was my CLT year.
The CLT or "Chippewa Leadership Training" program
was something I wasn't sure how to approach at first.
Because of COVID, I wasn't sure if I wanted to go the full eight weeks;
I was worried about not getting to spend enough time
with friends and family before college,
but after two days back in camp I knew I wanted to stay,
learn, and grow for the full eight weeks.
It was amazing to see our group of CLTs bond and grow on the trail
for the first four weeks and then to see us all expand our skills
as we helped the younger cabins in the four weeks following.
Watching the nine of us learn about
how to deal with conflict, helping with homesickness,
and embracing that love for camp again was amazing.
The experience was something I never could have dreamed of.
I saw growth not only in myself but in the rest of camp
as nine of us CLTs became such an important part of camp life
for both the counselors and campers.
– Evan Hansen*



The Border Route



It did not feel like we had reached the end. We could see Fort George and make out Lake Superior beyond, but it felt like there had to be more. It was almost inexplicable. I was torn between the overwhelming sense of pride in our completion of the Grand Portage and this selfish little thought in the back of my mind wishing for the trip to go on.

The Border Route is an idyllic trip. Glassy lakes, intimate rivers, rustic portages, and spectacular campsites are found throughout the Boundary Waters. Ben Howard and I felt incredibly fortunate to be able to explore and experience some of the most historic canoe country with the Athabascans of 2021. Maxx Brown, Luke Bryson, George Connell, Evan Hansen, Sam Junkermann, Mauricio Lazalde, Asa Morrison, Cooper Stovall, and Alec Wilson made up a strong, supportive, and cohesive group of voyageurs.

We began our trip at Crane Lake, which borders the eastern edge of Voyageurs National Park and the western edge of the Boundary Waters. The moment our paddles hit the water for our first stroke, we could all feel that the next three weeks were going to be something special.

Each day brought something new. We learned more and more about the land we were traveling and the people we were traveling with. The lakes and rivers of the Boundary Waters felt like a home; the people felt like a family. The experience became ours. Calm days and headwinds, blue skies and rain, spacious campsites and cozy (cramped) ones, clear trails and strenuous portages, beautiful loons and inconsiderate bears, delicious meals and some that required a little effort to force down, all in their own way made life on the trail fulfilling. While each day brought something new, each day had something in common. We drew closer to the culmination of the trip: the Grand Portage.

We traveled the same route that the voyageurs did during the Fur Trade. Our canoes glided across the same major bodies of water and were carried over the same paths. We canoed Lac la Croix, Crooked Lake, Basswood Lake, Knife Lake, Saganaga Lake, the Granite River, Gunflint Lake, the Height of Land Portage, and the Pigeon River. We also snuck in a brief detour

to get a group photo on Chippewa Lake (how could we not?). However, one challenge remained, a challenge that if not completed would heavily impact the significance of the historic route we were traveling: the Grand Portage.

The Grand Portage is a simple and beautiful thing. The last 15 miles of the Pigeon River rushes through rocky rapids and cascades over waterfalls all the way to Lake Superior and cannot be navigated by canoe. As a result, an 8.5-mile path was gradually pressed into the ground over many years by millions of feet that connected the rocky shore of Lake Superior with the calm waters of the upper reaches of the Pigeon River. Part of its significance is that the Grand Portage joins the Atlantic watershed with the Hudson Bay watershed. The other part comes from the fact that 8.5 miles is a long way to carry a boat. And we had five of them.



Above: Horsengoggle for leftovers. Bottom left: Playing cards at the camp site. Below: Chippewa Men on the shores of the BWCA's Chippewa Lake. Cooper Stovall, Alec Wilson, Sam Junkermann, Mauricio Lazalde, Luke Bryson, Maxx Brown, Evan Hansen, Asa Morrison, George Connell, Ben Howard, and Jacob Endres.





Alec Wilson, Asa Morrison, Evan Hansen, and Cooper Stovall cruising across a calm lake.

The completion of the Grand Portage is something we will remember for the rest of our lives. It was a testament to our ability to support each other and work as a team. I was initially filled with a sense of accomplishment, pride, and even joy, but it was faintly surrounded by that wish to continue the trip. I didn't want it to be over. The beautiful country we had traveled, the experiences we had shared, and the relationships and support we had all come to rely on seemed about to disappear. To me, the end of the trip somehow signified

the end of the life we had been living and everything we loved about it.

Looking back on the summer of 2021 and forward to the summer of 2022 has helped me realize something wonderful. The trip is not over yet. There is more. The adventure will continue the next time each of us takes our next stroke in canoe country. The life we loved will always be there for us. There will always be more, and I find that to be an encouraging thought indeed.



Top left: Loading canoes for another day's paddle. Top right: Lining a shallow stretch of water above Bottle Rapids. Bottom left: Portaging along a boardwalk on the Grand Portage. Bottom right: Jacob Endres (under canoe) and Cooper Stovall approaching Fort George on Lake Superior at the end of the Grand Portage.



Athabaskan Man

The word Athabasca is most associated with the cabin way down by the Ivy Bowl. For some, it is the person you want on your team for Capture the Flag or a lake located 867 miles to the west of Churchill Manitoba. To a select few, it is an award received if nominated by their bourgeois—a term the voyageurs of old used for their trusted leader—following their final canoe trip as a camper.

The Athabaskan Man award is a recognition bestowed upon individuals in the form of a wooden canoe paddle with blue cursive lettering stating “Athabaskan Man.” It is utilitarian in its design and its beauty is found in its simplicity. Legend has it that Nathan Jay brought his paddle down the Turtle River while he was on staff. While ranks, goals, and activities at Chippewa have clearly defined metrics for success, the Athabaskan Man award is different. It is not achieved by hitting ten 45s in kneeling or performing a man overboard drill to achieve helmsman on Cass Lake. As Mike Endres says, “There are always discussions about nominees for the Athabaskan Man. But, if there is someone who truly deserves the award, it goes without saying that it has been earned.”

History of the Northwoods

A significant moment in a voyageur’s life is when they cross the Height of Land Portage—which bridges the gap of water that flows north to Hudson Bay and south to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence watershed—and become “un homme du nord,” or man of the north. In search of more pelts to satisfy the rising demand in Europe, some driven voyageurs continued to push farther into the Athabasca country and eventually began wintering with the Athabaskan people. As the relationships deepened and Athabascans and voyageurs interacted more, they were able to push beyond Great Slave Lake and farther into the northwest. The intrepid voyageurs who had integrated with the native people and explored the furthest reaches of the fur trading network had earned themselves a place of stature among their peers. Ascending beyond un homme du nord, and becoming an Athabaskan Man.

This may not seem like an answer to “what is the Athabaskan Man award?” But this is what you get when you talk with JP—a deep dive into not just camp history, but a history of the Northwoods and our part in it.

Camp Chippewa followed the rivers and portages of these voyageurs by taking trips to Hudson Bay and Lake Winnipeg, spending more time in the far north, and becoming more familiar with the wilderness. The leaders of these trips shared stories with one another, highlighting individuals who were able to thrive on the trail, lead their peers, and go above and beyond what was expected.

Foundations for the Award

Late in the 60s, JP and Jerry Graham began planning canoe trips to explore farther into Canada, either by the intention



BY BEN HOWARD

The Athabaskan Man. An award that reflects all that is valued in a young man on life’s portage while at Camp Chippewa. Facing page top: Gordon Mitchell, 2016’s recipient. Bottom: Evan Hansen and Cooper Stovall are Camp Chippewa’s most recent recipients of the Athabaskan Man award in 2021.

to follow the paths of the early European voyageurs, or driven by the same spirits that spoke to generations of people before them. During these exploratory missions and after the campers had all eaten, tightened their packs for the night, and were dreaming of tomorrow’s breakfast, the bourgeois would discuss the virtues of the young men around the embers of a smoldering campfire.

Tales of men who took the extra time to go to the start of the portage and carry that extra wannigan without anyone noticing; men who shared their fresh fish-a-la-Shoshone walleye cheeks with their hungry tent mate; men who somehow knew the perfect time to suggest a game of “who can throw the rock the farthest” after a long, cold day on the water. These were the stories that carried through the silent nights across calm, star-reflected waters from campsite to campsite, from trip to trip, and eventually from generation to generation.

As tales of past trippers grew, new names were engrained into lore and experienced trippers began to recognize the makings of a man whose name would never leave the winds of time.

In 1993 when JP was director and Zach Mills, Charlie Beeler, Mike and Roger Thompson, and even Phil Sanders were the youthful faces passing through the woods between Cass and Buck Lakes, a new name appeared on the staff roster: Tyler Koos. Tyler was not known for his intimidating build. Rather he was described to resemble the trippers of old—roughly 5’4”, stocky, and known to cook delicious Bannock. Tyler came from a YMCA camp and brought with him an unrivaled knowledge of campcraft and canoeing. His understanding of the history of the waterways, knowledge of all the intricacies of making a fire, and love for the trail were entrancing. He inspired young campers and veteran staff alike.

Like the Boy Scouts and other camps at the time, Tyler’s former camp had an award that recognized certain individuals that reached the pinnacle of their camp experience and

had proven that they had accomplished everything they were supposed to within that time. Inspired by Tyler, the Camp Chippewa leadership team wanted a way to celebrate the young men who were remarkable not only in their accomplishments, but in their character as well. Much like the title “Athabaskan Man” was bestowed upon the fur traders who had proven their mettle in arduous journeys to Lake Athabasca, an “Athabaskan Man” would become the recognition for young men at Camp Chippewa who had learned to thrive in the North Country, transcend physical hardships, and inspire and lead their peers.

The Early Days of the Award

The first Athabaskan Man award was given in 1993 to Steve White by JP, Mike Thompson, and the tripping staff. Steve was in his final year as a camper. He was spending his free time teaching younger campers how to use camp’s new kayaks and leading trips to Star Island. Steve found pride in teaching campers how to move efficiently through the water. Others took notice of Steve’s dedication to the craft and JP went so far as to compliment Steve’s initiative.

The final campfire came around just like every other year. Highlights and stories were shared, and then something out of the ordinary happened. JP began to speak about the values of Chippewa—adventure, tradition, and character. With a slight smile and emotion in his eyes, JP would subtly make eye contact with Steve. JP spoke of taking initiative to better oneself and those around them. The bourgeois confirmed the crowd’s suspicions that this speech was referring to Steve when they brought out a wooden paddle with blue text saying “Athabaskan Man” (the very first paddle had an unfortunate typo) and recognized Steve in front of the entirety of Camp Chippewa. Steve was the first of a select few to earn this award and initiated a higher standard that future Chippewa trippers would aspire to achieve.

The following year the spelling was corrected to “Athabaskan Man” and a new recognition was engrained in Chippewa tradition.

The early years of the Athabaskan Man at Chippewa were foundational in developing the skills of Camp Chippewa campers and providing them an archetype to which they could work toward.

Campers began to ask how they could become an Athabaskan man, and leadership staff were asked to set criteria for becoming an Athabaskan Man. Portaging from the Ivy Bowl to Buck Lake and passing the swim test were physical challenges that some staff proposed. In the end, elements of one’s character, such as the drive to improve oneself and serve their peers, are among the qualities that distinguish the Athabaskan Man.



The Award Today

The early winners and contenders for Athabaskan Man helped elevate Chippewa’s tripping program without realizing the effect they were going to have. Derek Hinshaw defined Chippewa’s PFD policy, and Jonathan Huggins and Jerry Malloy raised the standard for what it meant to be strong, resilient, and a leader. The Athabaskan Men of the 90s and early 2000s would continue to redefine what it meant to be a tripper at Camp Chippewa.

As the standard of the Athabaskan Man rose, so did the lore of the recognition as a whole. The discussions surrounding nominees grew more philosophical. “Who is the Athabaskan Man?” morphed into “What does it mean to be an Athabaskan Man?” How would the bourgeois know if someone was worthy of being nominated? Mike Endres said it best: “As a counselor, you discuss whether someone is worthy of being an Athabaskan Man. But—if someone is truly worthy—no discussion is needed.”

One of the most recent winners Evan Hansen, had this to say about earning the distinction of becoming an Athabaskan Man: “To me it is an opening into camp history that not many people get to be a part of, and that is truly special.”

The Athabaskan Man recognition is not bestowed every year. But as long as there are trippers with the intention to better oneself, serve others, and give back to the camp community, there will continue to be Athabaskan Men at Camp Chippewa. 🍷

Author’s note: As a part of this project, I have attempted to gather information about past winners, their trips, and photos from the time. If you have any information for me, please check out my upcoming blog posts and let me know of any gaps. Any pictures of past winners and their paddles (historic or current) can be sent to ben@campchippewa.com.

Special thanks to JP Endres, Mike Thompson, Steve White, Mary Endres, Sam Devine, Evan Hansen, and everyone else who shared their time and resources with me.



Why I Give...

When our son first went to Camp Chippewa as a ten-year-old, my head knew that it was the right decision but my heart hadn't quite caught up. I thought he would miss home. I knew I would miss him.

He didn't miss home and he grew more at camp in one month than he would have been able to here. He continued to go each summer and each year I was struck by how much he changed while he was gone.

He became more confident and empathetic. He grew into a leader and learned new skills. He stood taller when he came home and because of this, I am so thankful to Camp Chippewa for enriching our son's life experiences.

When I give, I feel that I am giving back to a place that helped turn my son into a kind, strong and confident man.

I hope that by giving I am helping other boys to share in the experiences that were so important and meaningful to our son.

Thank you Camp Chippewa!

-Brittany W., Camp Parent, Wisconsin



Thank You

Listed below are new and renewed donations received since the last issue of The Camp CHIPS (Fall 2021). Camp Chippewa Foundation wishes to thank everyone who has contributed so generously and thoughtfully to camp. Your contributions are vital to our success.

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Camp Chippewa Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible as provided under the law.

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Make checks payable to:
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Maple Grove, MN 55311

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Gifts may be directed to the
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For more information, contact:
Mike Endres
mike@campchippewa.com
218-335-8807

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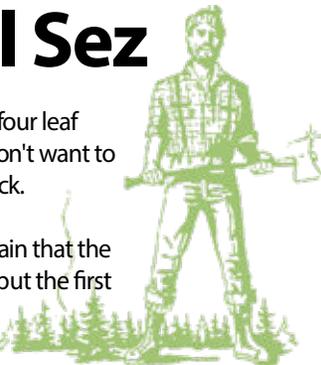
For change of address,
please email
info@campchippewa.com



Paul Sez

Never iron a four leaf clover. You don't want to press your luck.

I'm fairly certain that the person who put the first r in February also decided how to spell Wednesday.



About the cover: "Free Swim. Cass Lake. Let's Go!" Counselor, Drake Peden with three campers from Little Kamaji cabin. This is living!



Honor cabin treat at DQ.

Camp Chippewa provides a mix of traditional programming with deep thought and intention to social and emotional growth and awareness. I feel that any camp can have fun activities, but Camp Chippewa has planned activities with growth of character in mind.

Matt G., camp parent, California
