

# Camp CHIPS



**W**hat did the fish say when it swam into a concrete wall? Dam! I had the opportunity to present a few “Dad Jokes” at flag lowering. Most of my jokes received camper approval. Groans, eye rolling, or “that will play” from the CLTs encouraged me to weave in a joke or two daily. More than a few fell flat, but that did not stop me from keeping the troops hopefully entertained.

What we didn’t find funny was untangling the endless rules, guidelines, and science, around COVID-19 to then formulate our protocols with guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health. As much as we were all weary of this nasty bug and wanted to see it disappear, we did our best to balance the health and safety of our stakeholders with the freedom of living in a tight-knit community.

In 2021 we had zero COVID cases. This past summer, things were a bit different. Even though we erred on the side of caution, the virus was detected in a few campers and counselors. Some felt very sick, while others did not. We followed our protocols and everyone eventually returned to camp and full participation.

Canada required all visitors to provide proof of

vaccination in order to enter the country. Each trip crossing the border had to upload a lot of information prior to arrival. This took time and effort, but getting back into Ontario was worth it. Every trip to Canada got in and back without a hitch.

Thank you for your understanding and support. We did our due diligence to provide the least restrictive environment while ensuring the virus did not become a super-spreader.

What does next summer look like pandemic-wise? Time will tell, but we are planning to hit the ground running, right off the bus. We will continue best practices around health and hygiene with proper handwashing and using sanitizer at salad bars and picnics. Getting plenty of rest and checking in with medical staff when we don’t feel like ourselves is still best practice. If we all come to camp healthy, practice proper hygiene, and are engaged outdoors in the fresh air next summer, The Year of the Wilderness will be one of growth, discovery, development, connection, and joy.

If you haven’t enrolled, get going!  
2023 is going to be our best summer yet.  
Onward!

–Mike Endres, Director







## Who's Who 2023

**Scout H.** Pasadena CA  
**Max P.** Monrovia CA  
**Fisher W.** Austin TX  
**Dylan T.** New Orleans LA  
**Daniel T.** New Orleans LA  
**Val D.** Bainbridge Island WA  
**Avi R.** Houston TX  
**Hudson H.** Denver CO  
**Luke H.** Denver CO  
**Charlie M.** Brussels  
**Lucas A.** Boulder CO  
**Josh A.** Boulder CO  
**Tommy H.** San Francisco CA  
**William V.** Kenilworth IL  
**Charlie B.** Menlo Park CA  
**Hudson S.** Greenwood Village CO  
**Andrew Y.** Mountain View CA  
**Patrick E.** Mequon WI  
**Charles E.** Mequon WI  
**Jack D.** Bronxville NY  
**Daniel F.** New York NY  
**Owen A.** West Chester PA  
**Bridger T.** Brainerd MN  
**Xander G.** Helena MT  
**Ramsey S.** Austin TX  
**Jack H.** Lawrence KS  
**Adam P.** Oklahoma City OK  
**Ben P.** Oklahoma City OK  
**Harrison R.** Austin TX  
**Nate H.** Arcadia CA  
**Simon H.** Arcadia CA  
**Alex M.** Edmond OK  
**Matias M.** San Antonio TX  
**Nico L.** Washington DC  
**Julian W.** Kansas City MO  
**Henry P.** Little Rock IA  
**Ian B.** Bloomington IL  
**Alejandro L.** The Woodlands TX  
**Odin L.** San Marino CA  
**Charlie P.** Overland Park KS  
**Cruz C.** Mission Hills KS  
**Julian V.** Mission Hills KS  
**Charlie P.** Kenilworth IL  
**Anderson G.** Richmond VA  
**Benjamin G.** Richmond VA  
**Colin G.** Northville MI  
**Quinn G.** Northville MI  
**Jorge R.** Cordoba MX  
**Hayden M.** South Pasadena CA  
**Eugenio K.** Mexico City DF  
**José Carlos C.** San Luis Potosi MX  
**Bo B.** McPherson KS  
**Cole B.** McPherson KS  
**David E.** Rogers MN  
**Beau M.** Washington DC



## 'Round the Mark

- After two whole summers of being closed, the Canadian Border finally opened, and Camp Chippewa returned to canoeing in Canada! It was a summer full of adventure as camp sent one trip to the Quetico, three trips on the Hawkcliff, two trips on the Sandford, three trips on the English, one trip on the Savant, and one trip on the Kopka!
- There is a new Expert in camp! Tori Fox (Kitchen team) earned her Expert rank after five short summers of shooting at Camp Chippewa. Congratulations Tori, and we hope to see you down on The Range for many summers to come!
- Sunday night hotdog roasts underwent an exciting change last summer. Instead of everyone crowding around the fire ring by Cass Court, cabins paired up and went on an adventure to build their own fires. Some groups went to the yurt in the esker. Others went to Camp Craft by the Ivy Bowl. We had groups roasting hotdogs by the trip house, the Paul Bunyan Pavilion, Trail's End, and even on Star Island. Sunday night cookouts added to the adventure of camp, and we can't wait to see where groups will go next summer!
- The Paul Bunyan Pavilion continued to serve as the perfect spot for distanced meals both at the start of the session and when campers or counselors got sick. Camp typically sees one or two viruses move through the population each summer (thankfully COVID was not one of them). Now that distancing while eating is an option, fewer people got sick, and camp stayed much healthier as a whole!
- Continuing the tradition that started in 2019, the CLTs (Chippewa Leadership Training participants) spent time this summer working on Chippewa's campsite on Star Island. Clearing brush, constructing benches, leveling tent pads, and building a fire ring all go into a quality campsite. Thank you to the CLTs of 2022, and we look forward to working with the next group of CLTs in 2023!



# Summer 2022 Highlights

**Charlie L.** Completing the John Muir wall. **Mauricio S.** Scatterball! **Logan B.** Sailing and getting my apprentice sailor and doing knots. **Ajay T.** Staying in a tent at Star Island. **Joseph L.** When I passed my Jr. Archer. **Ezra C.** Laughing with my cabin. **Aaron F.** Rainbows on the lake. **Gus G.** Building a rock bridge. **Zozo N.** Winning bombardment. **Drew Y.** The entire camp session was amazing. **Jorge R.** All days are always great days; I can't pick one. **Avi R.** Finally reaching Savant Lake. **Beau M.** Paddling on the Crow Wing with my counselor. **Matthew H.** Going to Star Island. **Jackson W.** Passing my Bar 1 in riflery. **Zayaan N.** Cliff jumping. **Connor L.** Shooting rapids on the Canadian. **Wallace D.** Cliff jumping at Hook Island. **Felix G.** Whenever we went swimming. **Tommy H.** Tubing, soccer, and the Top Gun Tournament. **Nico L.** Getting into Hawkcliff Lake. **Shaan B.** At the end of our trip, I felt so satisfied. I felt like I could do anything. **Max P.** The trip. **James L.** Counselor Hunt. **Jack P.** Shooting rapids on the English and sailing in strong winds. **Colin G.** Surviving Camper Hunt. **Charlie P.** Our whole canoe trip was fun and changed me for the better. **Luke A.** Literally all of it. **Julian V.** Going to Star Island with my cabin. **Quinn G.** Seeing a big bald eagle fly right over our heads on our canoe trip. **Evan P.** All of our canoe trip. **Lucas A.** Getting my Marksman. **Henry L.** The trip. **Fisher W.** Top Gun Tournament. **Patrick E.** Playing mafia around the campfire. **Charlie P.** When I shot a 40 in riflery. **Jack L.** The Award Ceremony. **Ramsey S.** Winning Scatterball. **Josh A.** Getting my Bowman. **Albert L.** Getting to the second campsite on the Voyageurs or the fencing tournament. **Nick M.** Waterskiing, when I stood up for the first time. **Jason P.** The Quetico trip. **Stanton H.** When I portaged half a mile in deep mud and saw a field of daises. **Levi K.** The canoe trip. **Michael A.** Catching a fish. **Ellis L.** Meeting my cabin mates. **Julian W.** The entirety of our trip and finally being able to go on a Canadian. **Riley V.** The English River trip. **Marcelo P.** The trip. **Abe K.** The trip was awesome. **Ben S.** Day 8 on the English. **Finn G.** The Valley of the Gods. **Charlie B.** My Canadian. **Anderson G.** Anytime after successfully shooting rapids. **Kyle D.** Getting my Archer. **Ethan T.** Being on the English. **Mario M.** When Julian V. said I did a great job as a CLT and that I would be a great counselor.



## CAMP DATES 2023

**FULL SESSION**  
June 15th to August 8th

**FIRST SESSION**  
June 15th to July 11th

**SECOND SESSION**  
July 13th to August 8th

**BADGER CAMP I**  
June 15th to June 28th

**BADGER CAMP II**  
July 13th to July 26th





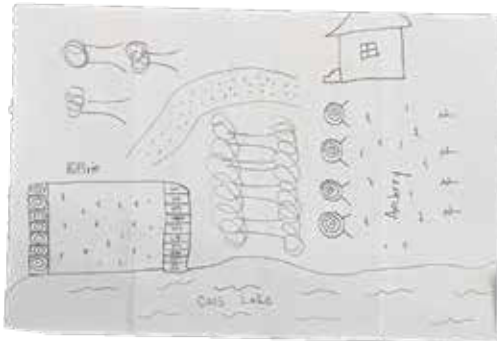
# Lay of the Land

This summer, Bunkhouse cabin camper, Benjamin G., was camp's in-house cartographer, creating maps of the camp property.

"My favorite part of camp was the canoe trip and also riflery and fencing and especially the special activities



Bunkhouse cabin, Session II, 2022. From left to right: Ellis L., William V., Colin G., Cruz C., Benjamin G.; with Counselors: Mau L. and Ever R.



like Pirate Day or Take Me Out to the Ballgame.

"What I liked to do best during rest period was to play cards with my cabinmates or draw. I have loved to draw maps for a long time and it was really fun to draw maps at a cool place like camp. My favorite part was

drawing the cabins. I also liked doing the archery and riflery areas and the climbing tower.

"I sent them home to my mom and dad so they could see camp too!"

Thank you, Benjamin, for sharing your maps with us. We look forward to more of your creations in the years to come. ✨

*"Time in nature is not leisure time;  
it's an essential investment in our children's health."*

—Richard Louv, Last Child in the Woods





# Building Character

BY JOSEPH OBERHOLTZER

Confidence, perseverance, humility, and other blocks that form the foundations of a strong character develop from times of fear, pain, and doubt. Many summer camps promise “fun” but Chippewa stands above the rest in offering meaningful experiences that can tear a boy down in order to build him up again, tougher and wiser.

This may not form a good brochure or make many parents excited to part with their young boys but one of my clearest experiences came when I accidentally wandered off the path during a portage, attempting to “turtle” the equipment waningan and a Duluth pack. I did not realize my amateur error for some time and continued along the steep, slippery trail as the sun beat down and black flies and mosquitoes swarmed incessantly. It was awful. Then I tripped, banged my shins (again) and in a fit of rage, flung off the Duluth pack on my belly, struggling to get up. At this point, I realized I was lost off-trail and needed to backtrack, having wasted valuable time and energy...

Enraged, exhausted and humiliated, I tossed the second pack off of my back and sank down...defeated. On the trail, no one gives up. It is the lowest shame. Yet I did. Or, more accurately, I tried to. But an amazing thing happened. Absolutely nothing changed. My momentous capitulation went unnoticed. The trees stood by, the wind hurried about its business and the distant river still swept onwards.

In almost any location in civilization, if you fall down and scream for help, there will be at least some sort of reaction. Especially if, like me, you were raised in a comfortable family in a nice part of town, went to good schools, etc. you get used to there being resources to help you. But out there in the Canadian wilderness, I had no choice but to let my emotions run their course, realize the world does not revolve around me, suck it up, shoulder the packs and get back to my job of delivering them to the other side of the portage. Giving up does nothing and helps no one. I had a responsibility to the team and I was falling short of it. So I completed the trip,



Photos from the Coppermine trip in 2010.

turned around and went back for another load.

Nothing else in the world teaches you that many things you thought were too hard, are not, or what you feared would be unbearable, is possible, better than staring adversity in the face and emerging victorious.

Chippewa provides boys an unmatched opportunity to confront real challenges with the tight friends and mentors to help them in their struggles. While modern culture obsessively chases an increasing insulation from any type of discomfort, Chippewa stands apart as a vital beacon, calling boys back towards the “wisdom of the wild.”

Of course, there are lots of lighter aspects of camp like the goofy banter in the canoes, jokes around the fire, the importance of improving yourself to merit increases in ranks for in-camp activities. This is only one vantage point that shows what Chippewa gave to me. ❦





# Equilibrium

BY SAM ENDRES

I throw the canoe up onto my shoulders. The portage heads straight up a steep bank away from the river, and I strain to make progress up the sandy hill. The day is muggy after a morning of rain, and reaching the trail on top of the bank I am already sweating. Drenched spruce branches reach across the narrow trail, soaking me with cool water as I push through them. Now in the claustrophobic quiet of the forest, the mosquitoes swarm my face, orbiting like a cloud of electrons around a nucleus. Using my hands to swat them away means I have to momentarily sacrifice the canoe's balance as I push through the densely-packed trees. The part of my neck where the canoe is balanced is already aching. More than a mile to go.

Upon returning to camp from a Canadian canoe trip—a true coming-of-age experience in a boy's life—the cabin group shares a trip report, ending with each boy's highlight. They stand in front of the whole camp, wearing their tams, and with surprising frequency they name the hardest, roughest, most inclement portage of the trip as their favorite and most memorable moment. The telling of this particular highlight usually follows the same recipe. First are the trials encountered on the portage—rough terrain, long distance,

foul weather. Next is a restating of the insurmountable perceived difficulty. Following that comes a resolution, a telling of the deep satisfaction of completing the portage. And last is an encapsulation of glee—maybe someone singing a song or cracking a joke to bring the whole group together in celebration and levity. Whatever it is, it reflects the pure and simple joy that comes from attempting something hard, going through it together, and seeing it through to completion.

Even as someone who has been preaching the benefits of canoe trips for over ten years now, this particular portage is getting to me. My arms are starting to buzz with pins and needles, and my back muscles that were already sore from three days of canoeing are not appreciating the aggressive 'massage' from the canoe's yolk. I cannot wait for that glimpse of blue water through the trees. Coming to a fork in the trail, I put down the



canoe to leave a cairn for my campers, indicating that they should take the left path. Stacking rocks to make an obvious marker, I think back to navigation lessons I would deliver to my students back at an outdoor school in New Zealand. I loved that job, and it comes in stark contrast to the job I will be returning to at the end of camp. But bills have to be paid, and now I am thinking about whether or not I paid rent before I left for the canoe trip, and also how I am supposed to afford a wedding along with tuition from last semester. My head is swimming. A mosquito bites my neck. I look down. There are likely thirty minutes of trudging before the canoe will be blissfully floating in the English River again. I bend over, and throw the canoe back onto my shoulders with a grunt. I am immersed in the present. The weight of the canoe rests on my shoulders, and the weight of the world comes off them.

Many people do not think carrying a 17-foot canoe on your back to be a good idea. Nor do they think lugging





heavy wooden boxes through miles of rough trails to be a positive experience. So why do we romanticize the bearing of yolks and wannigans? And how on Earth can a portage be a camper's highlight out of a summer full of experiences at Camp Chippewa?

Taking the canoe off your shoulders at the end of a portage is an unparalleled feeling. You seem to stand taller, and there is a nourishing sensation of blood flowing back into your neck and arms. Suddenly, you appreciate just how delightful it is to stand with nothing more than your own body weight. You have just completed something that pushed you in many ways. Even as you turn back down the portage trail for another trip, you seem to float over the rocky, uneven terrain that so recently tormented you. Here, I experience equilibrium. Everything has been stripped away. My mind is clear. My senses are simultaneously observing the smell of the rainy forest, the distant rushing sound of water over rocks, the thousands of textures of the forest floor, the slight cool of a breeze on my sweaty skin, and the feeling of my body walking lightly through the woods. Thoughts pass through my head gently and without consternation.



It is from this place of equilibrium that a simple meal cooked over a fire will taste like a Michelin-star dish. A thin camping mattress will provide the most comfortable bed imaginable. A dry pair of wool socks will be the most cherished and delightful article of clothing. A tent will meet and exceed the needs for shelter and respite. From this equilibrium the important things in our lives—time with family, a conversation with a close friend, a hug from a parent—snap back into focus. Appreciation and love flow into us.

The trials of the trail strip away the superfluous trappings of modern life. Satisfaction, contentment, and peace

are re-encountered. As we reintroduce ourselves to the deep reserve of fulfillment within ourselves, we see so clearly through the guise of the things that promise contentment but don't deliver. If we can so consistently find peace on a rainy, desolate portage in the Ontario backcountry, what things in life are we giving too much power to? What troubles can we let go of when we find our true self-sufficiency? How much more can we invest in the things that really bring us meaning?

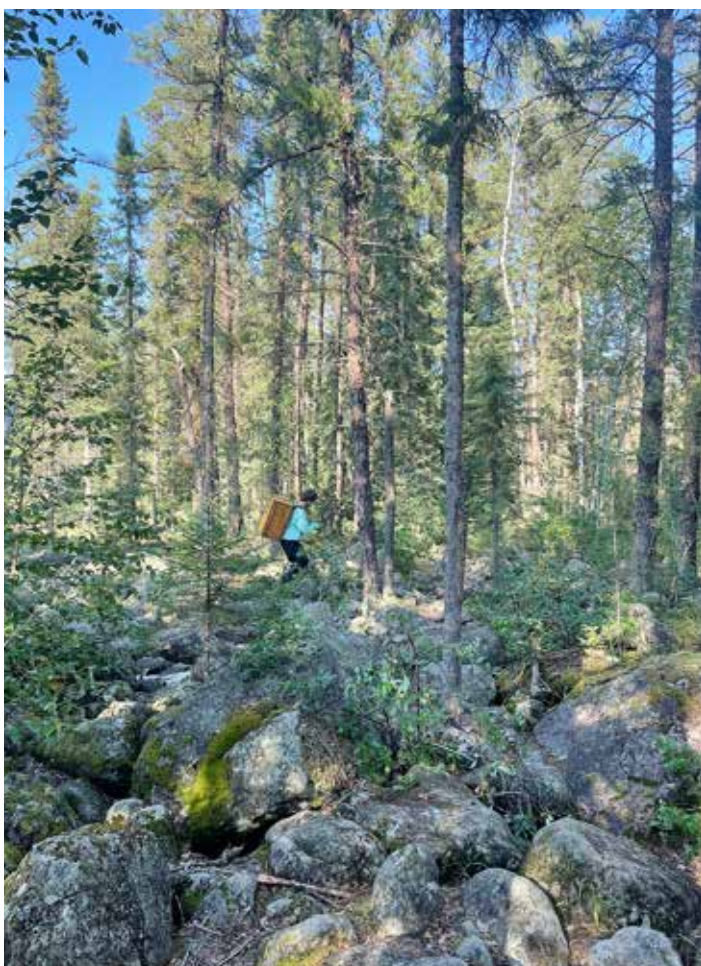
The weight of a canoe goes onto our shoulders, and the weight of the world comes off them. ✨







Muir Cabin, Kopka River Falls, Session II.



# COVID, Canada, and Camp

BY JAKE ENDRES

## COVID

In 2021, we implemented thorough and comprehensive protocols to address and mitigate the risk of COVID at Camp Chippewa. No one tested positive for COVID that summer. We eased our protocols slightly in 2022. Five campers tested positive before coming to camp, and six individuals tested positive while at camp. We continued to wear masks and practice social distancing because COVID continued to pose a significant risk. Once the entire camp community tested negative, masks and cohorts were no longer required. Our summer program is designed to help kids grow in a multitude of ways. The only way any of that growth can start is if our campers are healthy and safe.

Do we like wearing masks? Not particularly. Do we like screening for COVID? Not really. Do we like requiring vaccinations for Canada-bound campers? We would prefer not to require anything like that. But we will do these things to keep our whole camp community safe. We will do these things if they help fulfill our mission of developing character through adventure inspired by tradition.

## Canada

Last summer marked Camp Chippewa's first trip to Canada since 2019. Three years had passed since our last adventures to the Quetico, Sandford, and English. We were fortunate to have the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness a few hours to the east, and it served as a spectacular place to escape the rush and noise of city life. But the wilderness felt different somehow. It felt manicured. It truly felt like the canoeing capital of the United States. Beauty and solitude could be found on occasion, but the BWCA was fundamentally different from the provincial parks of Canada where you could feel genuinely alone in the vast tracks of wilderness.

After the summer of 2021, the Canadian government announced its plan to reopen the border for recreational travel. The requirements to enter Canada were strict, but we felt that the benefits of sending our campers to Canada vastly outweighed the costs. The Canadian government required that all travelers be vaccinated and submit a detailed travel itinerary and quarantine contingency plan through the application ArriveCAN. It took far more work to send groups to Canada than ever before, but the experience of canoeing in Canada





again was undoubtedly worth it.

Camp Chippewa sent thirteen groups to Canada last summer. Two trips went to Hook Island, one to the Quetico, three on the Hawkcliff, two on the Sandford, three on the English, one on the Kopka, and one on the Savant. More campers got to experience true adventure than ever before. If you were to ask any one of them if complying with the COVID requirements was worth it, what do you think they would say? I think we all know the answer would be a resounding yes.

### Camp

The summer of 2019 was the last “normal” summer we have had. The outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 caused camp to close for the first time since World War II. In 2021, camp sent its first groups to the BWCA, one of which completed the Grand Portage. The summer of 2022 was marked by our return to Canada and its historic and remote waterways.

The Year of Wilderness is just around the corner. What will be different in 2023? In short, everything. We will be taking a new approach to staff training that will focus more heavily on activity instruction, counseling techniques, and team building. COVID testing requirements have been eased significantly for childcare and camp settings. Cabins will be spending more time learning camp craft skills and backcountry navigation to prepare for their canoe trips. Canada has significantly eased its border crossing restrictions and no longer requires the use of ArriveCAN. We will have a much easier time sending trips to Ontario and Manitoba as a result.

Everything is looking better for 2023, but our purpose and goals remain the same. We will continue to keep our campers safe. We will continue to help them feel engaged and connected, grow in resilience and confidence, and become better leaders for tomorrow. We will continue the adventure, tradition, and character of Camp Chippewa. 🍷





# Why I Give...

*“Values that are learned while portaging a canoe, shooting rapids, or simply sweeping the dirt out of a cabin. As a former camper and counselor, I can think of no better place than Camp Chippewa to learn those values, maintain those traditions, and build character.”*

—Robert A., Wisconsin



Blueberries picked on the English River by Marshall Cabin, Session II.



# Thank You

Listed below are new and renewed donations received to date in 2022.  
Camp Chippewa Foundation wishes to thank everyone who has contributed so generously and thoughtfully to camp. Your contributions are vital to our success.

Tad & Diana Allan  
Dion & Emily Almaer  
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John & Kimberly Works

We'd like to thank all those who chose Camp Chippewa Foundation on Amazon Smile and Thrivent Choice Dollars as well as other donation matching opportunities.

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

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Gifts may be directed to the Camp Chippewa Endowment,  
Annual Fund, or Scholarship Fund.

Make checks payable to:  
Camp Chippewa Foundation  
7359 Niagara Lane North  
Maple Grove, MN 55311

Credit cards accepted online at  
[www.campchippewa.com](http://www.campchippewa.com)

For more information, contact:  
Mike Endres  
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218-335-8807





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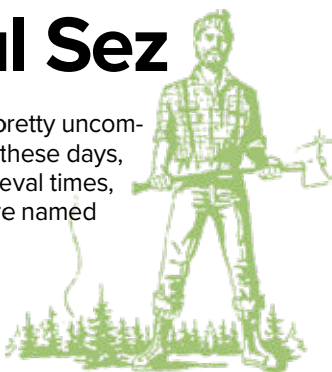
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please email  
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## Paul Sez

Lance is a pretty uncommon name these days, but in medieval times, people were named Lance a lot.

Shouldn't there be a shorter word for "monosyllabic?"



Q: What do you get when you drop a piano down a mineshaft?

A: A-flat minor.

## The Tam at Chippewa

The tradition of the Tam at Camp Chippewa is one that spans decades. Beginning with a trip led by JP Endres in 1950, groups of campers have ventured into the wilderness to travel by canoe. When they return to camp, they stand taller, tell tales of adventure, and—if they have earned it—wear a Tam. More than a colorful woolen hat, more than a symbol of hard work and camaraderie, and more than a keepsake rich in memories, the Tam is a rite of passage. They are a culmination of years learning campcraft and the way of the canoe. Years of watching older campers return with their first Tam. And years of dreaming of the chance to earn one. They are earned, not received. And each Tam tells the tale of a voyageur.

Each New Year, we will celebrate the shared heritage of Camp Chippewa voyageurs. Men generations apart are



connected by the experiences of the trail. The Dress Gordon Tam is synonymous with a voyageur's first foray into canoe country. The Black and White Erskine and a knowing smile tell tales of salt water, whales, and tundra of the far north. So with the rich tradition of the Tam in mind, we will continue to connect our community at the turn of each New Year through the Adventure, Tradition, and Character that each Tam represents. Check out our social media in December when we ask for photos and stories of your Tam.

Show us your Tam, Camp Chippewa!

Send a photo of you and your Tam and a story about your experience at Camp Chippewa to [sam@campchippewa.com](mailto:sam@campchippewa.com). Tam photos will be published in the next issue of the Camp Chips!