

Camp CHIPS



My high school offered drivers education as a course that could be taken for graduation credit. You can bet I—and all my classmates—took advantage of this offering. Nowadays, mid-teens must take drivers ed through a company, on their own time, and their own dime. I clearly recall my first time behind the wheel. I found it remarkable that with the aid of mirrors I could glimpse what was behind, glance at the dashboard displaying current information, and look through the windshield to see what lay ahead.

Looking back, Camp has been on the road of child development for 89 years. Otto “Cap” Endres took the position of Waterfront Director at Camp Wanaki on Cass Lake in the 1920s. Helen “Mom” Endres provided a summer camp for their five children down the shore. Cap, Mom, and their five children became pioneers on the north shore of Cass Lake where they bought land from Congressman Harold Knutson. Glimpsing in the rearview mirror provides the backdrop of the hard and smart work that led to the camp we see today. Glancing at the dashboard shows that Chippewa is on the right road, all systems are functioning well, and we’re heading in the right direction. Looking ahead, the road takes us to new horizons and exciting

adventures. We took a detour around a pandemic, but Chippewa’s engine is purring and ready for what lies ahead.

The founding family may have driven an old Studebaker to camp in the 1930s. Now we drive computers on wheels. Our North Star is the timeless direction of engaging boys in an environment where adventure is around every corner. Waypoints of opportunity and brotherhood come from shared community and challenges that build connection and resilience. The air is clean, the water clear, and relationships are forged through personal interaction and friendships, not screens and keyboards.

Up ahead all signs point to 2024, The Year of the Paddle. Our campers will discover 89 years of tradition is a wonderful thing to be a part of. They will travel their own road to adulthood more capable and able to steer around the bumps, navigate curves, and take detours. Even further ahead, in 2025, Camp will celebrate 90 years of providing a wilderness haven where boys discover they have the skills to travel down their own road and become thriving adults. Buckle up. It’s going to be a great summer.

–Mike Endres, Director





Who's Who 2024

continued from Fall 2023 Camp Chips

Owen A. West Chester PA
Andrew G. Florence KY
Connor L. San Marino CA
James M. Payson UT
Truitt T. Tulsa OK
Hugh G. Apple Valley MN
Max T. San Pedro Garza Garcia MX
Ram T. San Pedro Garza Garcia MX
Adam O. Chanhassen MN
Hayden M. South Pasadena CA
Gage C. Leawood KS
Ely M. Minneapolis MN
Sammy M. Minneapolis MN
Lucas B. Shawnee KS
Evan R. Denver CO
Ryan R. Denver CO
Jack R. Denver CO
Zander Z. Tulsa OK
Jorge R. Cordoba MX
Aadi S. Palo Alto CA
Rowan B. San Francisco CA
Brayden K. St. Paul MN
Iker V. San Luis Potosi MX
Matias M. San Luis Potosi MX
Ajay T. Los Altos Hills CA
Arya T. Los Altos Hills CA
Anish M. Sherman Oaks CA
Rex S. San Francisco CA
Evan S. Tonka Bay MN
Sterling H. Evergreen CO
Costa T. Bell Canyon CA
Nico T. Bell Canyon CA
Xander T. Bell Canyon CA
Simon N. Columbia Heights MN
Abem N. Columbia Heights MN
Beau M. Washington DC
Javier C. MX
Juan C. MX
Santiago C. MX
Liam S. Lincoln NE
Jesse V. Duluth MN

More 2023 Highlights

Lucas A. Showing camp to my parents. **Ramsey S.** Going on the Crow Wing or going to the Regatta. **Ely M.** Winning the Ballon D'or Award. **Jack D.** Canoeing with the seals in Hudson Bay. **George H.** Winning Scatterball. **Avi R.** Seeing CLT Day run to perfection and everyone enjoying it. **Sterling H.** Sailing an Open Bic. **Nate H.** The Sandford. **Jack P.** Looking at stars on my canoe trip. **Charlie P.** Getting my First Mate. **Bridger T.** Sailing with Asa, Will, and all the other sailing staff. **Pierson T.** Swimming in the Bay. **Julian W.** Canoeing into Sandford Lake. **Adam P.** Getting to the Bay. **Nick A.** Star Island trip. **Harrison R.** Reaching Churchill and seeing the whales. **Cole B.** The Regatta was really fun. **Ayyaano T.** Playing soccer at the Ivy Bowl. **Logan W.** Waterskiing. It was really fun. **Xander T.** When I was on my Mississippi and me and my tent mates had a potato fight. **Hudson H.** When I won in the regatta. **Jack H.** Tubing with Drake. **Finn G.** Stargazing and final sweat. **Josh A.** Getting my Archer. **Wallace D.** Canoeing and swimming. **Daniel F.** The English River trip. **Drew Y.** Being in the Regatta for archery. **Daniel T.** Shooting rapids on the English. **Evan R.** Paddling to Star Island. **Charlie M.** My trip was really cool. **Jason P.** Playing tennis in the Davis Cup. **Ethan T.** Just being on the Bloodvein. **Sebastian G.** When the fish talk. **Tommy H.** Getting Bar 7. **Colin G.** Shooting a 35 in riflery. **Scout H.** The entire Bloodvein. **Eugenio K.** The trip to Star Island. **Matias M.** The Churchill. **Will V.** When Finn got his Expert. **Nico T.** Shooting a 43 in riflery. **Julian V.** When I shot my 44. **Costa T.** Fishing.



'Round the Mark

- Everyone loves a flashy new building or a fancy upgrade to an activity! But Camp Chippewa owes some appreciation to work that goes on behind the scenes without grand recognition. Head of Maintenance, Jesse Sporre, has been hard at work this year fixing the roofs of a few buildings at Camp. New shingles put on with care grace two Chippewa buildings. You probably won't notice it, but Athabasca and the KP both certainly feel better with a brand-new roof over their heads!
- Four new Esquif canoes—two 16-foot Canyon canoes and two 17-foot Prospecteurs—are on their way to Chippewa from Canada. Plus a few used Old Towne Penobscots will be added to our fleet.
- Camp store merch is being designed and ordered. There will be CC garb from head to toe, plus something for your camp memories.
- Rumors abound that there may be a multi-camp regatta this summer. Sharpen those tennis, archery, and sailing skills. Stay tuned!
- How far does a Chippewa camper paddle over a summer? Let's find out. Canoe class, trip prep, and your canoe trip will all count towards the total amount of miles paddled throughout the summer. The Year of the Paddle will bring back a tradition from years ago: mileage charts. Who will paddle the most this summer?
- Big Dipper Award was a huge success. Many campers went all summer without missing a dip. Make it a goal. Dip Time! Let's Go!

A Deep-Rooted Connection

Sometimes the world seems to change so quickly! An iPod (something that was the latest and greatest in technological innovation not 15 years ago) is now a derelict, even archeological, item. Yet other parts of our world seem not to change, decades notwithstanding.

A canoe trip at Camp Chippewa is one of those immutable experiences. A trip down the Bloodvein River in 1975 looks—and feels—a lot like a trip down the Bloodvein River in 2024 (not something we could say about a trip on an airline or to the grocery store!).

A Camp Chippewa canoe trip is intimately understood by someone 15 or 55 years old because the impression it leaves on a young man is timeless. Among many Camp traditions, this rite of passage is integral to the robust and connected alumni network of Camp Chippewa. A hard-earned mutual respect is shared by the voyageurs of these expeditions.

In honor of this rich brotherhood, New Year's Eve is a day we all take a moment to put on a tam, open an old photo album, or simply avail ourselves to a sunset. That is all it takes to feel the deep-rooted connection of Camp's 89th-year tradition of adventure. Next New Year's Eve, don your tam and send us a photo. Don't have a tam yet? Wear a CC hat like our three Irish lads below or any CC merch. 🍷



Bob Endres, 1975 Bloodvein Tam, Colorado.



George Connell, wearing the Black Stewart from the 2021 Border Route CLT canoe trip.



Will Norris (Lindsay), Jacob Endres (Bannockbane), Sam Endres (Black Watch), at Camp.



Stephen Parkes, Cathal O'Brien, Conor Londra, Ballyvaughn, Ireland.



Fisher W., Jack L., Ramsey S. could be wearing a tam in two more years.

CAMP DATES 2024

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



What is Camp Chippewa?

BY CONNOR LEE



Left: Connor ascending the climbing wall.
Below: Connor and Max T. navigating a set of rapids on the Turtle River.

Facing page top left: Connor and the rest of Marshall Cabin at Horse Falls. Top right: Connor steering a canoe on the Sandford. Facing page at bottom: Connor and Jack P. at the Fencing Tournament.

person likely doesn't have the time to hear about your full experience. And each year your Chippewa experience only widens. It's not a bad thing that there's no perfect elevator pitch for Chippewa. It's just an interesting thing to think about.

Last fall, however, something happened that made me ponder "What is Camp Chippewa?" more than ever before. It was the big, scary C-word: College Admissions.

For those who have yet to apply to college, or have not thought about it for a while, there is A LOT of writing. Many essays ask to share a story, often involving a difficulty you overcame, a learning experience, or an a-ha moment. And I knew that I wanted to talk about my first Canadian portage.

In a nutshell, I talked about being separated from my cabin during the portage and learning to deal with uncertainty and fear in an already physically uncomfortable situation. Interestingly, there came a point where the portage became a

I'm sure it's happened to you before. I know it's happened to me more times than I can count. Maybe I'm wearing my forest-green Tradition shirt, or discussing summer plans with a friend, when the inevitable comes up...

Them: Camp Chip-poo-wa?

Me: Yeah, but it's pronounced Chip-puh-wa. It's in northern Minnesota, like five hours north of Minneapolis.

Them: What is it?

What is Camp Chippewa? It's a simple question, really, but I always have to pause and think about it. Of course there's the obvious: it's a summer camp, there's a first and second session, no phones or electronics, we do lots of canoeing and take canoe trips into Canada, and so forth. But afterwards, how do you choose what to talk about?

Do you mention the ranks you passed in riflery, or the rapids you shot on the Crow Wing? Do you talk about BLT and Mac-n-Cheese Wednesdays, or the Pizza Mac you made on the trail? Do you explain the rules of Scatterball, or the rules of Horsengoggle? Would they rather know about JP, or the KP? (Probably the former.)

As I'm sure the parents know, one can spend days talking about what Camp Chippewa is. But the average





Whether it's being away from home for the first time, learning that you can't control Buck Lake's temperature, waking up to a wet sleeping bag on the trail, leaping to reach that next hold on the Sentinel Climb, or conquering your first portage, the beauty of Chippewa is that you're constantly given the chance to test yourself.

metaphor for Chippewa as a whole. In that moment, I realized that past the laughter, the brotherhood, and joy, what makes Chippewa so special is that it's a forged through fire experience. There's a lot of pure fun, but there's also inherent discomforts. Whether it's being away from home for the first time, learning that you can't control Buck Lake's temperature, waking up to a wet sleeping bag on the trail, leaping to reach that next hold on the Sentinel Climb, or conquering your first portage, the beauty of Chippewa is that you're constantly given the chance to test yourself.

More than that, you learn that it's okay to be uncomfortable. I don't think I'll ever desire to be drenched on a canoe trip because of a rainy morning or flipped canoe. But if I do find myself in that situation, I'll know I'm alright because I've been there before. I know what to do, I know that my limits can withstand being tested, and I know that I'll be a better person afterwards. When you understand that, suddenly it's not so difficult. I don't think it's a

coincidence that older campers often say their highlight is their breakthrough moment on the hardest days on the trail. There's a special thrill that can only be accomplished by that

act of forging through fire. Whether consciously or subconsciously, I believe every camper realizes that those opportunities to grow are what makes them love Chippewa and keep coming back.

This summer, I'll be going on my level four trip, where I'll be spending three weeks on the Churchill River. It's an experience I've been dreaming of ever since I was a Badger camper in 2016. Of course, I'm looking forward to the views, the rapids, the chance to paddle with a beluga whale, and reconnecting with old cabin mates while I build ties with new ones. But I also know that some days there'll be a strong headwind, a tricky portage, or I'll just wake up on the wrong side of the sleeping pad. And that's okay. These are just growing pains that I'll conquer now so that I'll have a smile the next time. Because that's what Chippewa is—the perpetual process of growth. 🌲



“The Bay”



BY PIERSON TOBIN

The CLT class of 2023 has a combined 68 years of experience at Camp Chippewa. They paddled the Churchill River into Hudson Bay, culminating with a paddle in the saltwater among beluga whales. From left to right: Adam P., Eugenio K., Matias M., Jack D., Avi R., Jack P., Pierson T., Harrison R., Finn G. Trip leaders, Blake H. and Alex H.



Independence, resourcefulness, critical thinking, and perseverance, are qualities that I owe almost entirely to my experiences at Camp Chippewa, and I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity of attending.

My back aches as we paddle the short stretch of water between our canoes and the end. Not just the end of the day, not just the end of the trip, but the end of my experience as a camper.

I think back over the past few weeks. Long hours, flipped canoes, below freezing temperatures, sore muscles, not enough food. I reminisce beyond that to years before: ten days of rain in a single trip, backbreaking portages, rivers too shallow to paddle, pickup vans stuck in mud. All of this, for the fabled Hudson Bay I'd been hearing about since I was in fifth grade.

As the water turns salty and we



spot seals in every direction, I realize it has all been worth it. Not just for the amazing experience of seeing the Kopka falls during a sunset, or cliff jumping, or even seeing Beluga whales and riding a floatplane, but for the life-long friendships I made with my cabinmates and counselors that are unique to any I could make back home.

My experience at camp played a large part in developing me into the man I am today. Independence, resourcefulness, critical thinking, and perseverance, are qualities that I owe almost entirely to my experiences at Camp Chippewa, and I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity of attending. ✨

“Thank you again for all that you do for those boys. Camp Chippewa was a transformational experience for Derek, and one that he will remember forever. He will be back for many years.”

Megan F., Pasadena, CA

All in the Family

There are people in this world that you may have met for the first time long ago and yet somehow your paths just keep crossing. And that is exactly the case with a friend of Camp Chippewa, Terry Bredemus.

Terry's family owned and operated Camp Birchwood for Girls on Steamboat Lake for many decades. Terry and his wife, Rachel, have retired and are pursuing their passions. Terry sails and Rachel does artistic floral arrangements.

Terry still has a cabin on the shore of Steamboat Lake. He makes the drive from Kansas to Minnesota, to get his fill of sailing on Leech Lake, the smell of pine trees, and the call of loons.



As a kid, Terry loved working with leather at camp. He honed that skill over the years, and now produces beautiful pieces of leather art that he sells online.

This past summer, Terry offered his time and talents at Camp so boys could craft a wallet with an embossed CC logo or an impossible bracelet that, well, looks impossible to make.

Terry spent several evenings carting his tools and materials to camp. Campers and counselors gathered together as Terry guided them in the steps of making wallets and bracelets. Both items are amazing, and when asked if campers would give what they had made to family members, they answered, "Nope, this one is for me!"

Whether it's getting his camp fix, the simple joy of working with leather, or his love of working with campers, Terry chose to spend his valuable time at Camp Chippewa. He is one of the many reasons open evenings at Camp are great, and we can't thank him enough.

I've still got my leather wallet, Terry, and it looks fantastic! See you next summer! ❄️



For Every Action...

Newton's second law simply states that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. We may not think of physics while paddling, but in order for a canoe to move forward, the blade of the paddle must push water backward.

Propelling a canoe through the water is simple, rewarding, and also challenging. This year, we pay homage to the simple tool we all use—the canoe paddle. You'll see things from a place and pace that will spark your imagination. Close to nature and under your own power.

Grab your PFD and canoe paddle. Once in action, you'll be pleasantly surprised at the reaction. Welcome to Summer 2024: The Year of the Paddle. ❄️



“Pandemic Babies”

On healing, and how we can learn from a global pandemic

BY SAM ENDRES

2021 was an exciting year at Camp Chippewa. After Camp was closed in 2020, campers and staff returned to our oasis in the Chippewa National Forest with joy. Sure, measures were taken to prevent the spread of any contagious diseases, but back at Cass Lake, life finally felt normal. Better than normal, it felt unencumbered, and totally present. Campers jumped into lakes, ran beneath the pines, and laughed freely. The weight of the world was off their shoulders. Camp was as it should be.

2022 provided a greater challenge. The collective patience for mask-wearing and cohorting had run thin. A couple of COVID cases within our community increased our measures to keep everyone healthy. Hearing phrases like contact-tracing, antigen testing, cohorting, and isolation period exhausted everyone. The pressures of the “real world” made their presence known within Camp, and the protective confines of the peninsula between Cass and Buck Lake felt almost as if it had worn thin.

2023 felt like a return to form. Camp was healthy. Without the need for the non-pharmaceutical interventions of previous years, campers were more at ease to be totally immersed in their surroundings. Camp Chippewa functioned exactly as it is designed to: an environment where young people grow in their relationship with nature, with others, and with themselves. Laughter filled the woods.

And what of 2024? Just like Camp Chippewa, we know our world is still healing from the pandemic. The effects on mental health alone will be felt for years to come. Especially vulnerable are our youth. Studies are showing startling nationwide deficits in pediatric motor, social, and



problem-solving skills. Is Camp Chippewa exactly what these so-called “Pandemic Babies” need to recover from their most formative years spanning a global pandemic? It definitely has a role to play. And the truth is we all would benefit from some unstructured play. Or a couple of weeks without staring at a single screen. Or a quick dip in a cool, clear lake. Or a night spent in a tent, listening to the call of loons. Or more face-to-face interaction with other humans. Or the time and togetherness needed to turn a stranger into a lifelong friend. Or a role model telling us that we are good enough.





As the world continues to heal, Camp Chippewa's path is clear. Especially for our "Pandemic Babies," summer camp does for a developing mind what a good physical therapist does for an ailing back: remove the harmful patterns, soothe the affected area, and provide a regiment that allows for recovery, growth, and improvement. Camp is not therapy, but it does help us heal.

Maybe there is a "Pandemic Baby" in your life. Maybe they are a neighbor, a nephew, or a friend's child. Maybe four weeks at Camp Chippewa seems like a daunting endeavor. Certainly, though, advocating for the simple things, the good things, and the things that make us whole is how we all keep healing from hard times. 🌿



Fishing with Fisher

There is a proud tradition of fishing at Camp Chippewa. Two large-mouth bass of extraordinary size are mounted in Knutson Hall. One was caught by JP Endres, and one by Mike Endres. After a great summer of fishing

in Buck Lake, Fisher Works is continuing this tradition. His record-breaking largemouth was caught in Texas, but he has proved his angling abilities all over, saltwater included! In just a couple of years, Fisher will be casting lures into

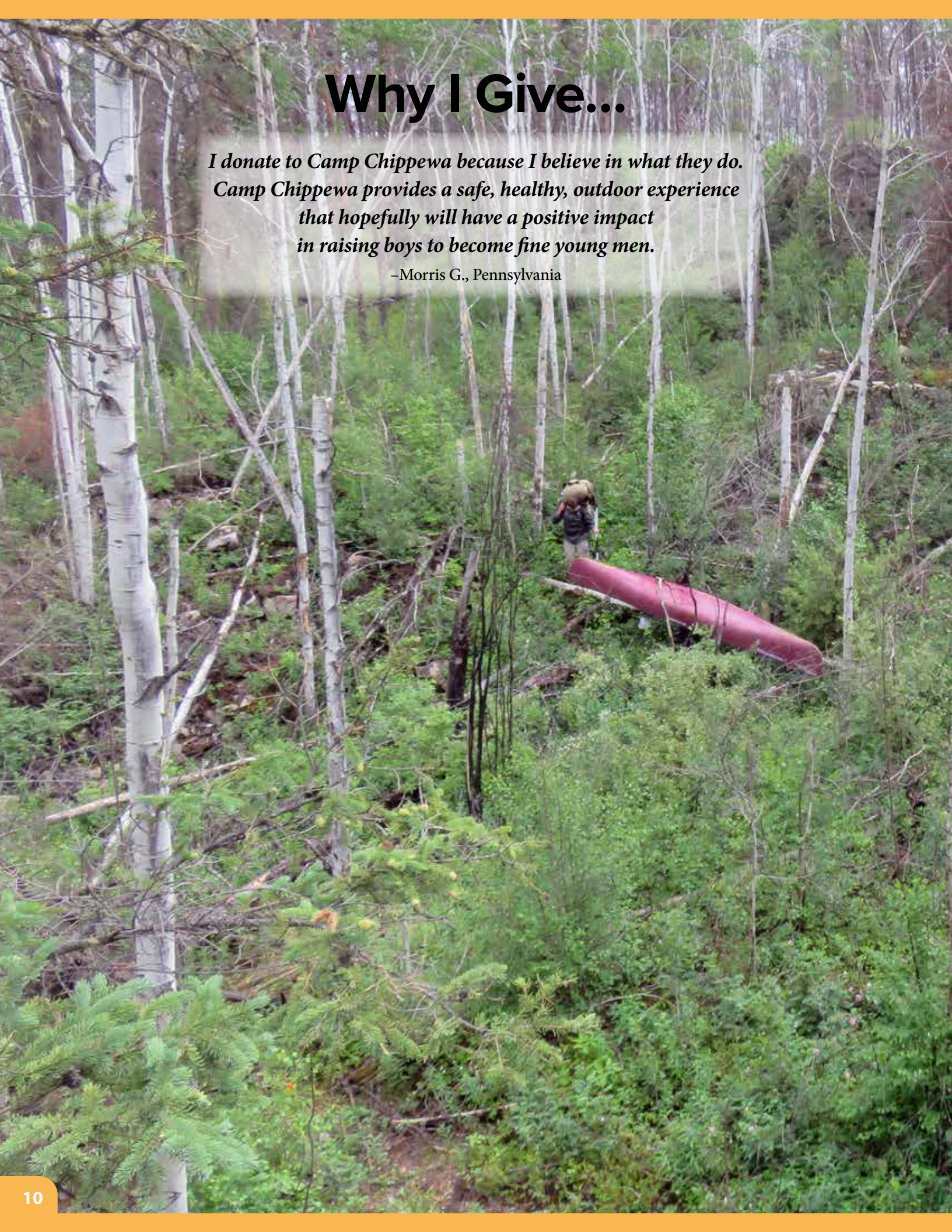
the walleye-filled eddies of the English, Kopka, and Bloodvein Rivers (places where, as JP puts it best, "You have to hide behind a tree to bait your hook!"). The fish are already shakin' in their boots... 🌿



Why I Give...

I donate to Camp Chippewa because I believe in what they do. Camp Chippewa provides a safe, healthy, outdoor experience that hopefully will have a positive impact in raising boys to become fine young men.

—Morris G., Pennsylvania



Thank You

Listed below are new and renewed donations received since the Fall 2023 issue of The Camp CHIPS. 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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For more info, contact:
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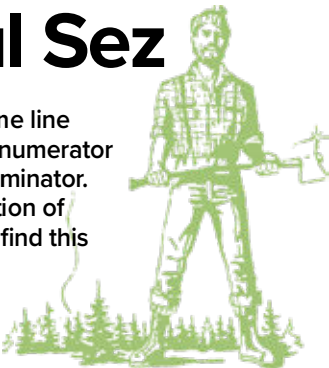


Paul Sez

There's a fine line
between a numerator
and a denominator.
Only a fraction of
people will find this
funny.

No matter
how much
you push the
envelope, it's still stationery.

Your veterinarian won't tell you this, but
if your dog is running a fever, go to the
store and get some mustard. It's the best
thing for a hot dog.



About the cover:
Eva Lake on the
English River
Trip, 2023. Photo
by Sam Endres.

Save the Date!

Alumni Rendezvous: August 14-17, 2025

What better way to add an exclamation point at the end of 2025—
Chippewa's 90th anniversary—than to have an alumni reunion at camp.

How many decades will be represented? Who will win a doubles tournament on Bear Paw? Anyone with a steady hand able to shoot a 50 down on The Range? How about a friendly softball or soccer match on the Ivy Bowl? Or perhaps a string shoot on the Archery Range? Table Tennis anyone? Dip time!

Beginning Thursday afternoon and wrapping up on Sunday morning, alumni and their spouses are invited to relive old memories and create new ones. Rekindle conversations with friends who were on the trail with you. Paddle over to Star Island and visit our new campsite. Whatever you end up doing, it will be a blast!

Registration will open fall of 2024. Stay tuned for further information regarding this grand gathering. For now, save the date, and connect with your fellow Chippewa alums with whom we may have lost touch over the years. Invite them to gather around the campfire once more. Chip! Chip!

