

ALUMNI ^{camp} CHIPS



Fanning the Flames

While we are born with curiosity and wonder and our early years full of the adventure they bring, I know such inherent joys are often lost. I also know that, being deep within us, their latent glow can be fanned to flame again by awareness and an open mind. – Sigurd Olson

We all have our Camp stories. Some are indelible while others have become hazy over time. My stories run the gamut from being on staff, to watching my sons grow from their own experiences, to observing my father help Camp transition to a non-profit, to “coming out of retirement” to co-lead the 75th Anniversary Coppermine River trip.

Life’s journey takes us in many directions yet those of us who have had the good fortune to be associated with Camp Chippewa know that our experiences there have left the “latent glow” Sigurd Olson is referring to.

One afternoon about eight years ago I sat by Cass Court with Charles Beeler, Chippewa’s most ardent supporter and advocate. We made small talk about a number

of topics but when he shared his passion for Camp Chippewa’s mission and his hope that I would join him on the Board of Directors, I felt my own connection rekindled. Then and there, I also realized that for all the wonderful adventures I had the privilege to experience over the years, it was the personal relationships with the broader Camp family that have meant the most.

This coming August, Camp Chippewa will be celebrating its 90th year. While we will be bidding Mike and Mary Endres goodbye as directors and welcoming Ryan Hove and Sam Endres as new directors, the best part of the reunion will be reconnecting with the people and place that has meant so much to all of us. Please “fan your own flames” and join me in rekindling your relationship to Camp Chippewa. 

BO NORRIS
CHAIR OF THE CAMP
CHIPPEWA FOUNDATION





Why I Return

BY MARIO SGRO

When I speak with family and friends who know nothing of a special place tucked away on a peninsula in the heart of the Chippewa National Forest, one word invariably comes to mind. Brotherhood. I never joined a fraternity in college. "I don't need one. I'll make my own friends," I thought to myself. And so, I did. One of those friendships ultimately led me to Camp Chippewa. And the bonds of friendship that formed on the shores of Cass Lake over the past 28 years have blessed me with a fraternity unlike anything I could have imagined.

I'll never forget my 1997 phone interview with JP. Me in my tiny Waco apartment, the "voice of God" booming back. He was happy to have me on staff. I was happy and excited to get there! And from that summer since, with a few exceptions for broken vertebrae and meningitis, I've made it my mission to return each year to Camp Chippewa.

When I give my summer highlight, I always tell the boys to appreciate every moment at Camp Chippewa. It is a special place that teaches them to face obstacles and triumph. And if they fail, it teaches them to get up, dust themselves off, and try again. It teaches them new skills that help them grow and develop into men of character.

Few things could be more important in today's world.

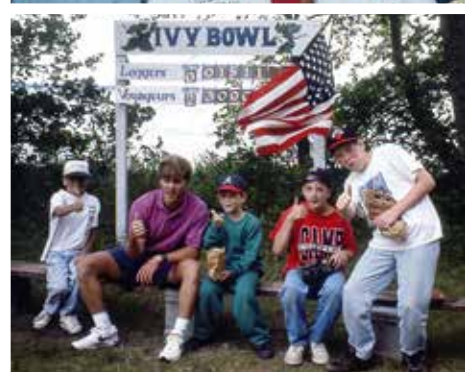
But Camp Chippewa also offers all of us the opportunity to forge lifelong friendships. And I always tell the boys that, above all, I want the same for them because it gave that to me. I came to Chippewa as a staff member first. Many come as campers first. But all of us leave having gained meaningful relationships with people from around the world we would never have known otherwise. I tell the boys how blessed I was to forge these friendships and memories with brothers, some of whom were once my campers, which will last my entire life. Colorado ski trips, Hawaiian and Caribbean dive trips, vacations to New Zealand, Thailand,



Cambodia, and France, annual pre-Christmas gatherings in northern England, Indy 500 weekends and, of course, Chippewa canoe trips. All with my Chippewa brothers.

This is why I return. To pass the torch of these traditions year after year after year so that they are never extinguished. So that one day in some distant year, an old man that I will never know will share his story of fellowship with a young Badger and say, "Some of the best years of my life and best friends I ever had were found on the shores of Cass Lake." ❧





WE WANT YOU!

Did you know that out of the 2500+ campers and staff who have attended Camp Chippewa, we only have email addresses for around 600? Follow the QR code to Alumni Registration and make sure your contact information is up to date!

Why do we want you to register as an Alumnus? So we can reach you by email (and phone if you would like) about CC gatherings and opportunities to connect.

How else can you help us? Connect us with other Camp Chippewa Alumni we might be missing! Give Mike (612-267-2625) or Sam (763-367-3097) a call or text. We'd love to hear from you!

The brotherhood of Chippewa is alive and well. We hope that by reconnecting more Alumni, we can all benefit from staying in touch with our shared heritage of Adventure. Any of you who regularly break bread, or have beers, or play fantasy football, or attend Chippewa Open Houses, or observe the holiday of "Chipmas" (you'll have to ask Simon Taylor) with other Alumni, you know that our ties run deep. When Chippewa men get together, it is only a matter of seconds before stories are re-surfacing and memories are sharpened and shared. It is a fire worth keeping stoked.





Rendezvous Schedule

Thursday, August 14

4:00pm Arrival/Check in
5:00pm Happy Hour
6:00pm Dinner
8:30pm SCATTERBALL, CASS COURT, LET'S GO!

Friday, August 15

8:30am Breakfast
9:15am Full Rendezvous photo (deck of Knutson)
Morning Star Island/Activities
12:30pm Lunch
Afternoon Activities
5:00pm Happy Hour
6:00pm Dinner
Evening Campfire/Program

Saturday, August 16

8:30am Breakfast
Morning Activities
12:30pm Lunch
Afternoon Regatta/Activities
5:00pm Happy Hour
6:00pm Dinner
Evening Campfire/Program

Sunday, August 17

8:30am Breakfast buffet
9:30am Departure

Please call/text/email Mike Endres with questions: **612-267-2625**
mike@campchippewa.com

What You Should Bring:

Linens:

- Cabins have 2 twin-size beds and 4-8 cot-size beds; bring sheets, blankets, and pillow or a sleeping bag
- Towels
- Biodegradable soap for dips in Cass Lake (Ivory, Dr. Bronner's, CampSuds, WilderWash, etc.)

Optional:

- Fishing rod and tackle (fishing license can be purchased in Pennington)
- Tennis racquet and can of balls
- Climbing gear (shoes, harness, helmet)
- Anything else that will make your time back at Camp more comfortable and enjoyable!



Tony Ross Michael Balistreri Sam Endres Steve Paddison Todd Owens



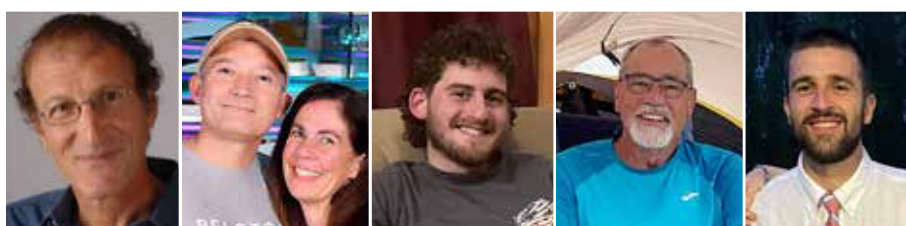
Zach Mills Gyde Lund Bob Endres Jeff, Charlie, and Jondall Norris



Mario Sgro Trevor Garski Bennett Wilson Wes Horner Jake Endres



Bo Norris Tim Cox Bill Kritzik Curtis Cox



Dick Rubenstein Caesar Naftzger Sam Calian Brian Endres Ben Norris



Andrew Kloppenburg Grant Auer Magnus Fyhr Augie and Nathan Avery



Avery Garski Karl Maher Craig Slutz Roger and Michael Thompson



Who's Who

Bill Kritzik Greenwood Village CO
 Alex Kornman & Alexandra Ames London UK
 Kris & Megan DeLaurier Kansas City MO
 Wesley & Jennifer Horner San Francisco CA
 Todd Owens & Katie Scheirle Ridgefield CT
 Richard Johnson Bellingham WA
 Gordon Mitchell New York NY
 Augie Avery Los Angeles CA
 Magnus Fyhr Milwaukee WI
 Bennett Wilson Lawrence KS
 Sam Calian Evanston IL
 Andrew Kloppenburg Denver CO
 Karl Maher Chicago IL
 Christopher Henry Cumberland Foreside ME
 Jonathan Avery Houston TX
 Eric Sossamon Austin TX
 Xavier McMillan Los Angeles CA
 Sutton Stewart Moorhead MN
 Michael Balistreri Walnut Creek CA
 Steven Balistreri Honolulu HI
 Blake Hoffman Lawrence KS
 Bryan Allen Hubert NC
 Mark & Sheila Allen Nashville TN
 Matan Diermeier-Lazar New York NY
 Dick Rubenstein Minneapolis MN
 Tony Ross Houston TX
 Zach Mills Roswell GA
 Curtis Cox Houston TX
 Jeff Norris Portland ME
 Grant Auer Prairie Village KS
 Bob & Becky Endres Pagosa Springs CO
 Steve Paddison Virginia Beach VA
 Trevor Garski Eden Prairie MN
 McKinley Topp Newport Beach CA
 Hunter Hartman Saint Paul MN
 Bo Norris & Cathy Houlihan Cape Elizabeth ME
 Craig Slutz & Valerie Fuerst Washington UT
 Tim Cox Houston TX
 Brian & Joanne Endres Friday Harbor WA
 Garrett Kindle Pittsburgh PA
 Griffen Kindle Dallas TX
 Ben Norris London UK
 Michael Thompson Tulsa OK
 Roger Thompson Stony Brook NY
 Gyde Lund & Julia Prusaczyk St. Louis MO
 Mario Sgro Indianapolis IN
 Caesar & Michelle Naftzger Wichita KS
 Avery Garski Eden Prairie MN
 Jay Haft Longboat Key FL
 Ben Thompson North Hykeham UK
 Simon Taylor Horbury UK
 Charlie Kornman Morrisville VT
 Myles Payne Adelaide South Australia
 Kyle Krueger Highlands Ranch CO

The More Things Change...

Bob Atkins, George Mealy, Kenny Rebman, Bill Spafford, Ray Spafford, and Bob Endres. These six boys were the first to call Chippewa their summer home. Located on the south shore of Cass Lake on sandy spit of land called Strawberry Point—Chippewa's first year of operation in 1935. The trip from their home of Tulsa, Oklahoma to northern Minnesota was an adventure in itself. Perhaps the motivation to leave the scorching heat of the dust bowl and relocate to cooler climes may have been all the incentive necessary. Or perhaps their teacher and coach from Tulsa Central High School, Cap Endres, was the reason.

Fast forward 90 years, we are preparing for the Year of Adventure

and our first alumni gathering since 2010. As we look forward to your return in August, we also want to turn your attention to what is to come in the next ten years as we reach a significant milestone—Chippewa's 100th.

As you are aware, the fifth set of directors are about to take the tiller and set sail. Sam Endres and Ryan Hove are already on board and the transition is moving ahead seamlessly.

When you arrive in August you will feel the same bedrock and timeless philosophy that reflects the values of Cap & Mom and the Endres family since 1935. Some buildings will look different, but the Mississippi still runs through Cass Lake. Camp is still home, and you will feel that as soon as you take your first breath back at Camp.

Changes since the turn of the century include:

2002 The Kohler Palace took the place of the BP (thankfully) and the BP was renovated for staff housing. The Trip House was built and remains the heart and soul of our incredible canoe trip program. It's in what was once a parking lot.

2003 The Inner Sanctum (counselor's retreat) was built which includes a satellite link to watch sports and movies on time off.

2008 The tough decision was made to raze Knutson Hall and replace it with a modern kitchen and a bit more elbow room during meals. The food is still delicious.

2015 A wood-fired sauna was built down by the campcraft area. Our voyageurs look forward to a sweat before and after their Canadian trips. Also a climbing tower, the Sentinel Climb, was added to the camp program. Its name honors the Sentinel Pine that once stood tall on Star Island before being struck by lightning.

2017 3M was renovated providing more room for our voyageurs. Also, Chalet Cabin, aka, Sooner/Olson/ Eagle's Nest, was taken apart board by



BP (2002)



Trip House (2002)



Knutson Hall (2008)



Sauna (2015)



BY MIKE ENDRES

board. Two new cabins, Sooner/Olson and Wanaki/Windigo took the place of the Chalet.

2019 Through a series of fortunate events, an acre of land was for sale on Star Island. Surrounded by the Chippewa National Forest on 3 sides, and Cass Lake shoreline on the other. This pristine parcel on the north side of O'Neil's point is a magical place for our tripping program and a piece of mind knowing we don't have to battle other groups for a campsite.

2020 The Paul Bunyan swing came down due to a lightning strike to one of the supporting trees. In its place the Paul Bunyan Pavilion was constructed. It was pivotal in allowing us to spread out for meals during the pandemic.

2021 The original basketball court was by the flag pole. During the hot, dry days of July, the court became a dust bowl. It was then moved to a spot to the west of Bear Paw Tennis Complex but that became a greasy clay pit after a rain. Now campers and staff shoot hoops on a lined concrete court.

You get the idea. I feel this aphorism is certainly true in Camp Chippewa's case—the more things change, the more they stay the same. You'll see changes, but we still take dips, camp on Star Island, fish in Buck Lake, live in nature without technology and screens (the only screens we endorse are those to keep the mosquitoes out), set sail, play tennis, shoot arrows, hunt for counselors, and play Scatterball.

What will the next ten years bring? What will a century of camping and adventures look like? Stay tuned and find out. What we do know is your help and support Camp Chippewa makes the future look even brighter. We encourage you to stay in touch with us. Make sure we have your updated contact information. Connect with family, friends and neighbors and tell them about what a summer at Chippewa will mean to a boy—as it did for you. We are filled with gratitude for the gifts that allow

us to bring in scholarship campers. Because of your kindness our capital projects and program areas continue to be relevant and sustainable. Gifts to help grow our endowment ensures our future remains bright. I'm sure the founders would be proud to see what Chippewa has become today and that it will continue to be even better down the road.

We are excited to welcome so many campers, counselors and you, our alumni, back to the shores of Cass and Buck Lakes this summer. Please keep the Chippewa fires burning—with you the next 10 years will be our best ever. Sail on to a hundred years of adventure, tradition, character! 🍷



Sentinel Climber (2015)



Wanaki and Windigo cabins (2018)



Paul Bunyan Pavilion (2020)



Bear Paw Tennis (2003) and Cub Court (2021)



Camp Chippewa Foundation
7359 Niagara Lane North
Maple Grove, MN 55311

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

Alumni Rendezvous
August 14-17, 2025
Register today!



Pay it Forward

BY ZACH MILLS

Camp Chippewa wasn't just a summer camp for me; it was a transformative experience. From those early days in Cass and Buck Lakes, to the thrill of leading canoe trips through the Canadian wilderness, Chippewa instilled in me values that continue to guide me today.



The camaraderie forged on portages and around campfires, the shared struggles and triumphs on trips, and the unwavering support of fellow campers and counselors created bonds that have lasted a lifetime. These friendships, built on a foundation of shared experiences and a deep understanding of each other, have been a constant source of strength and joy.

More than just fun and activities, Chippewa taught me the importance of teamwork, resilience, and respect for nature. It fostered a sense of responsibility and a desire to give back.

Now, as an alumnus, I believe it's our responsibility to ensure that future generations of boys have the opportunity to

experience the magic of Chippewa. I encourage you to stay connected with fellow alumni, share your Chippewa stories, and support the camp in any way you can.

Whether it's through volunteering your time, mentoring current campers, or making a financial contribution, your support will help ensure that the spirit of adventure, character development, and a tradition of love for the outdoors continues to thrive at Camp Chippewa. Let's work together to keep the Chippewa flame burning bright for years to come.✂

Zach Mills is a former camper and counselor at Camp Chippewa. He serves on the Camp Chippewa Foundation Board of Directors. Zach also volunteers as an Alumni Trip Leader, taking campers on Canadian canoe trips and mentoring staff members in outdoor leadership.