

NEWFOUND • OWATONNA Call of the loon

Reflection of perfection is our aim



FALL 2016



A CIT Summer of Fun, Friendships, and Growth

THE Newfound and Owatonna CIT program is for girls and boys entering their junior year of high school. While it is very much a counselor-in-training program, it is also so much more. It is a leadership program, a time to build life-long friendships, and a time to give back to Camp. During the seven-week program there are personal and group challenges, including taking a lifeguard training course, planning and going on a week-long wilderness trip, and leading a team of 20 campers. The CIT groups each participate in a service project, assist counselors in cabins and activity areas, and serve Camp daily by waiting on tables in the dining rooms. When we asked the 2016 CITs, their parents, and their counselors what was the best part of the program for them, they focused on the intangibles – the love, the friendships, the growth that they each experienced during their summer. The best words are straight from the CITs, their parents, and their counselors:

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Call of the loon

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PROGRAMS

Camp Newfound for girls
Camp Owatonna for boys
Family Camp
Creative Arts Week

www.newfound-owatonna.com

A Harvest of Good

SETH JOHNSON, Executive Director

WITH the end of a beautiful fall here in Maine, it is a perfect time to express our gratitude for the harvest of good that we have continued to gather at Camps Newfound and Owatonna.

Hymn 150 from the *Christian Science Hymnal* states, “We thank Thee for work in the wide harvest field, For gladness that ripens when sorrow is healed; Made strong with Thy goodness that meets every need, We gather the fruit of the Sower’s good seed.”

“The Sower’s good seed” was seen throughout the summer of 2016 at Newfound, Owatonna, Family Camp, and Creative Arts Week. Campers and staff members thrived in the supportive atmosphere at Camp, where spiritual growth through the study and practice of Christian Science is our primary goal. Campers grow spiritually and overcome limitations by participating in challenging wilderness trips, by passing levels in activity areas, by reading at Hymn Sings, by swimming the two miles from Harrison to Camp, by traversing the high ropes course, by playing many sports, and by making new and lasting friendships – all while loving and learning more about God and the daily practice of Christian Science.

We are so grateful that this bounty of good experienced at Camp is supported by you: our camp alumni, parents, staff, and friends. Our goal is for more of our Newfound, Owatonna, Family Camp, and Creative Arts Week alumni and friends to support Camp by becoming a more active part of our camp family. On our alumni page on our camp website, there are now links to updated camp videos from past years for you to enjoy. And this spring, we plan to launch an alumni column in the *Call of the Loon*. If you’d like to write an article or have a suggestion for one, please be in touch with us at info@newfound-owatonna.com.

We need your help to ensure that Camps Newfound and Owatonna continue to offer the very best program activities, hire the very best staff members, and maintain our buildings and grounds to a high standard. We are grateful for your financial contributions, and we also need your help to expand our camp family and make Camp available to more children and families. If you know any families whose children would benefit from our program, please encourage them to be in touch with us or ask them if you can share their names and information with us. Mrs. Eddy writes that there are, “Millions of unprejudiced minds – simple seekers for Truth” (*Science and Health*, 570). We want to reach these people and include them in our programs. Mrs. Eddy also says, “The entire education of children should be such as to form habits of obedience to the moral and spiritual law” (*S&H*, 62). This is indeed our primary goal, to support and be a part of our young people’s spiritual education in our camp setting. Camp is a place where children and staff can focus on spiritual growth and enhance their understanding of Christian Science every day in the summer.

We are very grateful for all of the good that continues to be harvested, and we are already planting the seeds for another fabulous summer in 2017. ■

Owatonna Lodge Renovation Update

THE Owatonna Lodge renovation project is progressing on schedule. First, new support beams were put in place under the main Lodge; this part of the building will remain untouched, but it is now structurally fortified. Both the former kitchen and the 4 on the Floor bathrooms have been removed, and footings and foundation work for the new structure are about to be set. Once the new foundation is poured, the framing of the new kitchen and new 4 on the Floor will begin. The progress is exciting to watch, and the campers will benefit greatly from these upgrades to the central building at Owatonna. To view more and updated photos of the Owatonna Lodge renovation, go to www.newfound-owatonna.com/owatonna-lodge-renovation



ABOVE: The Lodge with the kitchen and 4 on the Floor removed.
BELOW: Looking underneath the lodge with new supports visible.



DONATE TO CAMP!

We are committed to the long-term sustainability of Camp. Donating to our unrestricted, campership, capital, or endowment funds, or including Newfound-Owatonna in your planned giving, will help us serve campers for generations to come. For more information about giving to any of our funds or becoming a Sustaining Friend,

please contact: info@newfound-owatonna.com

Donate today at: www.newfound-owatonna.com

Living the Heart of Newfound

MARY RANKIN, Newfound Director

NO matter how many years go by, Newfound will always be life-changing for those who join our camp family. It is impossible to attend Newfound and not be positively impacted by the core values that are woven into our daily rhythm. In the words of a young camper, "Once you go here, it is a part of you." Every one of us leaves Camp as a better person from when we arrived.

At Newfound, there are four fundamental principles intended to empower, uplift, and strengthen each individual as well as the whole. We call these principles the *Heart of Newfound* and they

are: Be the Best, Love One Another, Give Gratitude, and Have Fun.

The *Heart of Newfound* is central to everything we do. This is what some of our campers and staff have to say about the *Heart of Newfound*:

NEWFOUND: BE THE BEST

"Being the best really is all about being Godlike, as we already are. The idea that being the best is our right as expressions of God has really helped me, because it has made me realize that holding myself to the highest standard is freeing and not a pressure. It is the most natural thing in the world for God to express perfection

and for us to reflect that. Thinking about being the best has really helped me to get rid of some of the limitations I place on myself and to start expecting more often to see God's perfection expressed in my own life. A lot of people feel that Camp brings out the best in them, and it makes sense to me that people feel they are the best version of themselves in a place that is so grounded in spirituality. It is this spirituality that lets people get rid of false labels and material limitations so God's reflection shines through."

"My favorite part of the *Heart of Newfound* is Be the Best, and I definitely use it in my everyday life. I'm reminded of Be the Best when I'm afraid to try something new, step out of my comfort zone, or I'm tempted to be lazy in my work. And I love the *Heart of Newfound* because it's an easy way for us to help campers focus on growing and learning. Coming back to these basic principles unifies us as a camp and allows us to hold each other to a high standard. But most of all, we can use it anywhere, not just at Camp. It translates to anything and everything we do, whether at Camp or at home."

"Be the Best...I love this one because I have applied it so much in and away from Camp and continue to learn from it. Being your best is so much more than doing your best. Through my years at Camp I discovered my best self, and that person is who I aim to be every day."

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Owatonna's Foundation

REID CHARLSTON, Owatonna Director

EARLIER this fall, we posted a few old promotional videos for Newfound and Owatonna on our Facebook page (friend us: Camps Newfound and Owatonna). What struck me as I watched the 1979 Owatonna video was how little the core of Camp has changed. The ideas and values that are promoted in that video are the same ones that I experienced as a camper and counselor and that I cherish about Owatonna today. It speaks volumes of the foundation on which Owatonna is built.

In all organizations, it is important to summarize your values and your core identity in a way that is easy to understand, remember, and pass on to new members of the community. At Owatonna we have our Four Pillars. They are: Be the Best, Love One Another, Give Gratitude, and Have Fun. These four ideas are the ethos of the Owatonna experience. They encapsulate everything that campers and counselors strive for during their summers. The idea of a set of pillars includes our spiritual foundation, strength, protection, guidance, and structure; and it is also clear that we must protect and defend these pillars if we are to achieve our highest goals.

OWATONNA: BE THE BEST

Our first pillar comes from an article by the same name in the April 1979 issue of the *Christian Science Journal* by Christian Science teacher and practitioner Eric Bole. At first glance this phrase conjures up images of hyper-competitiveness, awards, and possibly a win-at-all-costs mentality; but it should come as no surprise that mortal mind tries to create a counterfeit of all spiritual ideas. The true essence of Be the Best is summed up in Bole's statement, "Being the best means being Godlike." Only through humility, obedience, and "striving to assimilate more of the divine character" (*Science and Health*, 4) can we move towards this highest goal.

The idea of being the best does include a commitment to doing our best in every human activity. Bole says, "Mediocrity, second best, make-do, are no part of divine Mind's creation, because they are no part of Mind. Mind is perfect, All, and man expresses Mind's perfection." It is on this basis that Owatonna has been built. At the rock wall a boy has a chance to push himself higher than he's ever been, for inspection he learns not to accept a single wrinkle on his bedspread, behind the ski boat he

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“CIT summer meant more to me than I ever expected it could. So many people talk about how it’s the best summer ever and, to be honest, I never really believed them; but once you experience it, you understand. CIT summer challenges you daily and is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. You are able to experience so many crazy adventures with your best friends that when you look back on those experiences, you see how much they truly pushed you to grow. I came out of CIT summer with a new mindset, and even my friends at home noticed. On my first week of preseason for my fall sport, my coach pulled me aside and said, “You have become such a leader and encourage everyone to be more dedicated. What changed?” It was CIT summer that drastically changed my outlook. I now approach challenges with an open mind and a solid foundation in Christian Science. With every challenge I am presented with, I remember that God

has a plan for each one of us and that the decision has already been made for me; there is no space to feel alone or worried but only to trust in God.”

“The best part of my summer was at the end when everything was wrapping up, and I had a really special moment with a girl on my team. The incredible love and gratitude I felt for her over the entire summer just came around us in that moment; I’ll never forget that feeling. It makes me so happy now just thinking about it because it was a perfect way to end a perfect summer that was completely filled and overflowing with constant growth and ever-present Love.”

“I feel like I could write a book about all my favorite memories from this summer. CIT summer is a truly unique and special experience.”

“I gained a strong group of friends that I

became close with. That was really nice to have a strong group of friends my age.”

“The best way that I grew from the summer was in becoming a leader and a role model for the rest of Camp. By the end of the summer, I realized that the group of CITs that I was a part of was so special. There were so many great kids in our cabin, and we all knew that we had served Camp in a way that we will never forget. This was one of the best summers of my life, and I can’t wait to return to Camp as a counselor.”

“This summer as a CIT I learned how to be a leader. I learned to recognize what people’s strengths and weaknesses were and let them do their jobs. Now I’m applying a lot of the qualities that I learned at Camp in my role at school in serving as one of the two class representatives for my grade. It was the best summer I have ever had at Camp.”



CAMERON L. MARTINDELL/OFFYONDER.COM



“The best part of my summer was how much I learned about servant leadership by helping lead my team. The CITs and the girls on all the teams worked so hard throughout the summer. We knew that we wanted our team to be proud and feel accomplished for all of the hard work, but the outcome of all of that was more than we could have imagined. Blue, white, red, and green CITs discussed numerous times throughout the seven weeks that although it is fun to compete with the other teams, at the end of the summer, the experience itself and what our girls get out of it is what really counts, not who wins the competition. I couldn’t be prouder of the girls on my team and on all the other teams. It was such a fulfilling, growth-filled summer, and it taught me so much about patience, humility, and love.”

“The best way our son changed from his experience as a CIT is that he better understands how to communicate

effectively. This has allowed him to build better relationships with his teachers. In turn, they have recommended him for leadership in school clubs. His math teacher even gave him a job as a tutor!”

“The best part of Camp for us as parents was to see our son in camaraderie with his friends.”

“The best thing the summer did for our daughter was give her a chance to practice Christian Science on her own, supported by friends and counselors. When we picked her up at the end of Camp, the first thing she told me was that a growth on her neck, which had bothered her for more than a year, was gone. We were so grateful for this healing and for all the good she experienced this summer.”

“Our son had an amazing summer in the CIT program at Owatonna. He was challenged physically and mentally to

be his ‘best self,’ giving unselfishly and showing his true expression as God’s idea. We could see the spiritual growth this produced, and he realizes what can be accomplished with this correct vision. His teachers at school this year remarked on the change from last year. We are extremely grateful to his counselors who were both great role models for the boys.”

“The best part of my summer as a CIT counselor was the last night of camp when the CITs had a bonfire on the Owatonna beach and stayed up talking. Before falling asleep, we all went around the circle sharing highlights and gratitude from the whole summer. Hearing so many of the CITs share their gratitude for the best summer of their lives was the perfect reward for all of the hard work we had put into the preparation and execution of the CIT program. It truly was the perfect summer working with these young men and watching them grow.”

Grape Burritos?

A Family Filled Up Full

MELISSA MEYERS DONAHUE

WE were at a dinner party recently, and I found myself telling the story about our eight-year-old son, from when he was in the lunch buffet line at Family Camp on “burrito day.” He had decided to go through the buffet line himself, so when we joined him at the table, I looked at his plate, and he had taken a tortilla and filled it with grapes – that’s it! I asked him if he maybe wanted anything else in his burrito, and he let me go back and add a few items that he had missed. As I told this story, I was instantly reminded of the pure joy, innocence, and happiness that our family experienced last summer at Family Camp.

We have traveled all over the world, and I can say without hesitation that Family Camp was the BEST family vacation we have EVER been on. As a busy working mother of eight- and ten-year-old children, I tend to plan as much as possible, but at Family Camp, everything was already taken care of – materially and spiritually. No reservations were needed: There was always a table open, and we loved everything on the menu. No driving: Just walk up the hill or meet at the beach or the dock. No one was

bored: We never had to wait in line, the gaga ball pit always had kids waiting to play, the arts and crafts studio was always ready with projects, the paddle boards and kayaks were always ready to be paddled, and the waterski boat was always ready to get you up on skis (even after 20 years!). The only thing we had to do was decide what to do first and then spray on the sunscreen. And there were no electronics – we were balancing broomsticks on our hands, racing in the sand doing the sock pull, and roasting the perfect marshmallow instead of Minecraft and Instagram. That is priceless!

And they must put something special in that Long Lake water, because the staff are the most spectacular, shiny people we have had the pleasure of meeting. I cannot say enough about their amazing energy and selflessness. They have a spiritual glow that we wanted to put in a bottle and bring home with us – always smiling and ready to help with anything. They are the role models that you dream of for your sons and daughters.

I had originally signed us up for Family Camp hoping that it would help encourage our son to attend Owatonna next summer to join our daughter who will be at Newfound for her third summer, but I never dreamed that it would be the best family vacation we ever had. We signed up for 2017 before the week was even over. I love the saying, “Leave it better than when you found it,” and Family Camp definitely left us better than when it found us. We are a family filled up full!

Run, don’t walk, to Family Camp 2017 – we’ll see you at the burrito buffet line (my son will be the one with grapes in his tortilla)! ■



POLLY CASTOR



Coming Together to Thrive

POLLY CASTOR

MY first year at Creative Arts Week, I was there for only 20 minutes before I realized this was going to have to become an annual event. I love being around Christian Scientists, and I love being around creative people, but being in that overlapping group of creative Christian Scientists is my favorite place to be.

Obviously there are other people who think that way too, since there are many participants returning year after year for this program. It has come to feel more like a family reunion than anything else. Whoever is not there is missed, and we effortlessly and seamlessly enfold all the new people who come like long-lost family members who we finally get to meet. For me, Creative Arts Week is a time to rekindle old friendships and begin new ones, and all the rest is gravy.

And delicious gravy at that, with great food notably not prepared by us, freeing us to be otherwise occupied. There are pink dawns over the lake, loons calling, and Morning Meetings with hymns sung with

gusto. There are campfires and swimming to Cherry Island to commune with the bald eagles. And, of course, there are fun, skill-building classes, where it is safe to try something new. I've taken photography, many different painting and writing classes, and even a singing class where, on a hot day, we sang rounds in the water, slapping the lake for emphasis.

There is always a wide range of class offerings, with something for everyone. A majority of us put down our deposit before we even know what will be offered the following year. We know that as marvelous as the classes will be, that is not really the point. We are gleefully signing up to be in an atmosphere of loving support, creative expression, and joyous laughter, all impelled and underpinned by a deep, abiding, and genuine spirituality.

— Jerome Grimmer,
2016 painting teacher

Each year I come away with nuggets of practical inspiration both as a Christian Scientist and as a creative person. Each year I have improved friendships and begun new ones. Each year I remember all over again what it feels like to thrive. ■

I was continually moved by a sense of love and gratitude that is palpable there – the great kindness shown to each other and the appreciation of small gestures that usually go unnoticed.

Newfound continued from page 4

NEWFOUND: LOVE ONE ANOTHER

“Loving one another really stands out to me. I applied this principle when I traveled to Japan last fall. Living with a small group of people for a few months at a time can be difficult. Many times I had to check in with myself and think about how I was loving my classmates and how I could give to them. I wanted them to feel loved and supported by me at all times during the trip. I try to incorporate Love One Another and the rest of the key aspects of the *Heart of Newfound* into my life daily.”

“I think the *Heart of Newfound* is incredibly important because it embodies such foundational and important ideas in a simple, easily-understood way. Each line has a surface meaning, but also so many more layers of ideas relating to every aspect of experience at Camp and outside of Camp. At this point, Love One Another is my favorite. Recently I’ve been thinking back to the *Heart of Newfound* and trying to apply my understanding of God as Love to my thinking of the world’s problems. The words Love One Another are not only a guideline for harmonious

What’s so great about Camp is that when gratitude is brought to the forefront, it forever improves our thought.

What was a meaningful moment for you this summer?

- Opening a jar filled with gratitude notes from my cabin mates.
- Stepping out of the car for my first summer at Newfound and being greeted so warmly and lovingly by my cabin.
- My friends on the ski boat cheering me on.
- Playing a game where you draw a name and then describe the qualities that you love about that person. The rest of the group has to guess who you are talking about.
- Hearing someone who has been a role model to me for many years say that she actually looks up to me.

How has this summer influenced the person you want to be?

- I want to bring Christian Science to everything I do.
- I want to love others and stop judging. I want to see the good in everyone.
- I want to go home being joyful and enthusiastic.
- I want to continue wholeheartedly trusting God.
- I want to be a leader by giving to others and putting others first.

behavior, but also a law of harmony. We must love one another, because God is Love and there is only God.”

NEWFOUND: GIVE GRATITUDE

“I love the third line of the *Heart of Newfound*, Give Gratitude. This is something that became a habit at Camp through daily practice. It has entirely changed my view on things as I continue to give gratitude every day outside of Camp. When things seem dark and difficult, I look for the expressions of light and good and then praise God for creating such beauty.”

“My favorite part of the *Heart of Newfound* is Give Gratitude. This is something that has affected me and something that I can carry with me year round. It’s so important to give recognition to God. I recently had a friend from Camp come to visit me. After coming home from a long day of work, I vented to her about how stressed I was feeling and about how there was never enough time in the day. Right then and there she stopped me and asked for five things I was grateful for. My thought was changed immediately. What’s so great about Camp is that just like that friend reminded me, when gratitude is brought to the forefront, it forever improves our thought.”

NEWFOUND: HAVE FUN

Rarely do we need to specifically single out this aspect of the *Heart of Newfound* because it is a natural outcome when we are consistently being the best, loving one another, and giving gratitude. If we are not having fun, then we are likely forgetting to express one of the other three principles in the *Heart of Newfound*. Though we may not highlight Have Fun as much in conversation, we certainly do live it! At Newfound we love to laugh, sing, and be joyful.

The fun experienced at Newfound is invaluable because it is built upon moments rather than things, friendships rather than text messages, and creativity rather than entertainment. Camp allows us to play, interact, and explore in an environment free from judgment and saturated with loving support. Joy such as this is long-lasting and pure.

Are you having fun yet? I am! I feel completely inspired, and feeling inspired is incredibly fun! How can we not feel inspired by these phenomenal young women? It is so clear that *The Heart of Newfound* is touching lives. After a summer at Newfound, campers and staff return home as strong, confident, and spiritually sound young women. ■

learns that courage is requisite to perform at his highest level, and throughout all these activities his counselors are reinforcing the fact that these abilities and achievements do not come because of personal skill but because he is manifesting the qualities that are native to his true Godlike identity.

This Be the Best attitude permeates Owatonna. The boys – counselors and campers alike – are striving to be, “Not just the best in the world, but the best for the world” (Dewitt Jones).

Our second pillar comes from the Second Commandment. In his First Epistle John writes, “He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?” (1 John 4:20). If Camp’s purpose is to help our campers learn to love God and Christian Science, then this indicates that we have to love our neighbor first.

Each day at Camp provides opportunities to practice loving our neighbor, and every night each cabin sits down together to share these opportunities. We call it our Daily Good. The counselors ask, “What opportunities did you have today to do good for someone else?” Doing good includes a helping hand, a kind gesture, taking care of a problem, or stopping something that should not be happening. Each night boys share how they held a door for someone with their hands full, picked up trash they saw in the grove, hung back with a cabin mate as they walked between activities so he wouldn’t be alone, and many other examples of loving each other.

By sharing these opportunities, the boys get to appreciate the good they each are doing, see the impact it has on others, and recognize new opportunities for good that they may never have seen before. Daily they are practicing the second great commandment, and it brings the camp

community closer to each other and closer to God.

OWATONNA: GIVE GRATITUDE

In a Daily Lift podcast a couple of years ago, a Christian Science practitioner and teacher said, “Gratitude is the lubricant of happy lives and healthy relationships.” Gratitude primes the pump and readies us for experiencing the good from God in our daily lives. The correlation between gratitude and healing has been demonstrated thousands of times in the experience of Christian Scientists, so it is vital that gratitude is also at the heart of Owatonna.

Along with the Daily Good activity, campers are asked to share gratitude each night for someone or something that was a blessing to them during their day. This consistent practice of recognizing the good that God gives to His children helps the boys to get a more tangible sense of their all-loving Father-Mother, God.

Gratitude permeates the camp culture. At least one-quarter of each week’s staff meeting is spent sharing gratitude for each other and for Camp. Because our staff embrace this idea, it allows them to set an example of manhood for the boys in their cabins that the media doesn’t often portray. Instead of the macho, emotionless, tough-guy stereotype that the world wants these boys to emulate, they get to see men who care for each other, who openly express their appreciation for each other, and who know that true spiritual strength is manifested in the self-confidence and trust it takes to look another boy in the eye and tell him why

you are grateful for him. The brotherhood that comes from this lasts a lifetime, and it is what draws boys and men back to Owatonna.

OWATONNA: HAVE FUN

This is easily the most self-explanatory of our Four Pillars, but it is also core to a summer at Owatonna. The kind of fun we have at Camp is pure. It is created by the activities we take part in and the people with whom we get to do them. It is the kind of fun that is not based on possessions but is the joy that comes naturally from living our other three pillars. It is impossible to Be the Best, Love One Another, and Give Gratitude without it being fun – incredibly fun.

The activities at Camp are memorable, and many of them are things that a boy cannot do when he is at home during the school year, but the lasting memories of Camp do not come from the specific activities. What is remembered

Each Owatonna camper will leave knowing more about his true spiritual selfhood, with a greater love for God and his fellow man; and he will be ready to share this with the world.

is the feeling of joy, freedom, community, and harmony that is felt while running around with more than 90 brothers excited about the same things you are.

These Four Pillars truly are the foundation of a summer at Camp Owatonna. Every boy who drives down Route 35 and says goodbye to his family will spend the next three, four, or seven weeks learning to Be the Best, Love One Another, Give Gratitude, and Have Fun. He will leave knowing more about his true spiritual selfhood, with a greater love for God and his fellow man; and he will be ready to share this with the world. ■

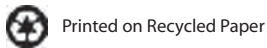
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Join us at Camp

We have a program just for you!

2017 CAMP PROGRAMS & DATES

Memorial Day Weekend	May 26 – May 29
1st session	June 17 – July 8
Two-week session	June 17 – July 1
2nd session	July 9 – August 5
Full session	June 17 – August 5
CIT	June 17 – August 5
Family Camp Week 1	August 7 – 13
Family Camp Week 2	August 14 – 20
Creative Arts Week (8 days)	August 22 – 29

◆ YOU'RE INVITED TO THE ◆
CAMP

CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016

HUNT RECREATION CENTER

90 STOW STREET

CONCORD, MA

6:00 – 9:00 pm

We will provide the pizza.

Please bring an appetizer, drink, or dessert to share.

RSVP: info@newfound-owatonna.com

JOIN US FOR FAMILY CAMP!

Experience the most carefree vacation your family will ever take. There is an activity for every member of the family on the shores of Long Lake. First-time families receive a 50% discount off Week 2 tuition.

For more information, www.newfound-owatonna.com

Visit our website at www.newfound-owatonna.com