



THE JUNIOR TIMES

JULY 5, 2017



GREETINGS FROM JUNIOR FOR WINONA'S 110TH SEASON!

Opening Day at Winona is always an exciting time for campers, counselors and parents. The weather cooperated with us on June 28th. All the campers met their tent counselors, settled into new living arrangements, and began to interact with new and old friends. It is amazing how quickly we go from saying goodbyes to having fun away from home. It was a pleasure to meet all of you that were able to make the trip to Maine with your sons. I was immediately pleased by the energy and enthusiasm your sons exhibited from the moment they arrived. It was also fun to see the excitement from all of you about the opportunity that awaited your son(s) this summer.



On Thursday, the 29th, the campers participated in an introductory morning activity rotation. The boys traveled with their tent groups to all of our offered activities. The purpose of the rotation is for the campers to meet the counselors in their activity, see where the activity is located and begin to understand what is going to happen at that specific venue.



The rotations were brief, but intensified the excitement the boys heard about their activity choices this summer. It is staggering to think that we offer over twenty different activities here in Junior. In the first half, we once again will see Junior woodworking, where the boys will design and build their own pinewood derby cars, culminating with the excitement of the "Winona 500". On top of the activity fun we have canoe and mountain trips departing on a regular basis. The boys certainly will be busy, having many choices on a daily basis!

Our first mountain trip of the season departed on Friday. **Uncles Lime, Jack and Branden** set off with **Luke Wetter, Nicolas Hernandez, Matthew Conserva, Michael Covington, Charles BeVier, David Phillips, Andrey Nusinov, Roland Jennings, Yubo Gao, Josh Feng, Renzo Martinez** and **James Halley** for 2,900' Mount Willard at the upper end of Crawford Notch, New Hampshire. Geologists describe Crawford Notch as the most classic glacial carved "U" shaped valley in the eastern United States, and the best view of it is had from the summit of Mount Willard. The boys put in a total of three miles and all of them got a chance to experience the responsibility of leading the group. The campers were equally impressed with the legendary view from the top, and all of them returned to camp with big smiles.



On Friday afternoon the Kearns Amphitheater, located in front of the Junior Wiggy, was used for a very special ceremony. Banners representing each tribe were hidden, along with a tribal advisor, and the returning campers were asked to quickly find both and return them to their proper location for the proceedings. **Uncle Jas** organized a "sorting hat" like activity much like that from Harry Potter lore, and the new campers were instructed to assemble to await their tribal assignment. Each new camper was called down to Uncle Jas, receiving their tribal assignment, and then was welcomed to his tribe for this summer, and we hope many more. The members of each tribe were excited with their new comrades and joined in with raucous applause until we reached our last camper from Tent 12, **Jack Garcia**. Each tribe then had strategy sessions with their advisors to plan their first stick showing. The proceedings were a great way to lead into Tribal Games on Sunday.

Winona Night was on Friday night, with the entire camp present. We scampered through the puddles and raindrops to attend the event under the shelter of the Cobb Memorial Building in Senior. The assembled camp then learned of Winona's history, sang camp songs and discovered the identities of the campers that would lead the various teams during this summer. In the color competition, the defending champion Reds will attempt to repeat under the leadership of Captain **Nathan Monchik** and Lieutenants **Max Chassat** and **Cal Stubbs**.

Captain **J.B. Estes**, along with Lieutenants **Felix Saujet** and **Conrad Dube**, will ably lead the Grays.

The tribal competition features four different teams vying for recognition on the banner at the close of the summer. Chief **Ward Jenkins** and Sub-Chiefs **Lucas Tchelikidi** and **Thomas Gasperini** were chosen to lead the 2016 champions, the Mohawks, with the hope of claiming another banner for their tribe. However, planning to disrupt the Mohawks and claim victory this summer for their respective teams are the following Chief and Sub-Chiefs:

Delawares – Chief **Enzo Depolla** and Sub-Chiefs **Oliver Golden** and **James Halley**

Ojibways– Chief **Renzo Martinez** and Sub-Chief **Ben Lemieux** and **John Proulx**

Senecas – Co-Chiefs **Ryan Hays** and **Daasabre McPhee-Djan**

Again, good luck to both the color teams and all of the tribes. Let's have a great summer of healthy competition. How we play the games is far more important than the final results here at Winona.

Sunday found the unit participating in Tribal Games, a new twist on an old tradition that has the CITs creating a fun-filled afternoon for the campers. Tribal Games had camp separated into tribes and facing these challenges in mixed-unit groups. The Senecas emerged victorious after competing in an all-camp relay and games of Ga-Ga-Ga, Kingpin Dodgeball and British Bulldog. The games ended with an epic 4-way tug-o-war that allowed the tribes to participate at once. The boys had a great time with the events, which were capped off with a rousing unit swim to cool off.

(Over for more news!!)

Editors Note: Your son's unit's weekly Newsletter may also be accessed online: <http://winonacamps.com/welcome-parents/unit-newsletters>. Please note that in the weekly unit Newsletters, we focus primarily on out-of-camp trips and sporting competitions which are just a small part of the entire program here at Winona.

Find us on  You can find current photos of Winona by visiting us on our Facebook page (Winona Camps – Maine).



Monday started with a bang as Junior was surprised by its first appearance of the famous Winona BATs. The BATs appeared at the back of a fun activity down at the lake by the Round House, where the campers traditionally get ready for swimming. The BATs used the action of the activity as a distraction, creeping out from the Ecology Room. Unfurling their signature black capes, the bats uncorked loud screams from the top of the embankment that encloses our check-in area. **Renzo Martinez** was the first to move in the direction of The BATs and he came very close to getting his hand on the mask of one of the caped crusaders. The campers pursued up the hill, witnessing repeated "stop and scream" moments from both BATs. In the end, The BATs disappeared to an awaiting vehicle near the Junior bell, once again protecting the longest winning streak. The excited chatter after the "showing" tells me that the campers think they might know the identity of the masked men. Many names were mentioned and we'll have to see if they are right at Awards Night in August.

Monday also saw **Uncle Lime, Branden and Jorge** take **Thomas Gasperini, Willem "Teke" Helms, J.B. Estes, Conrad Dube, Dash Lamphier, John Proulx, Sam Evans, Alex Kirkwood** and **Jack Garcia** to the east slopes of Mount Washington to see the last remaining snowfields of 2017 in Tuckerman's Ravine. Much of the ravine's snow comes from snow that blows off the more exposed higher ridges, in addition to the late winter snows that fell this year from March through Mother's Day. The boys began their ascent to the ravine early in the morning, and reached the planned lunch spot at Hermit Lake Cabin in no time. From Hermit Lake, the boys got their first glimpse of patches of snow.

After lunch, the boys began the steep trek to the planned destination. Upon getting closer, they gained a view of a much larger patch of snow, where some hardy late season skiers were earning their turns! The trail to this patch was tough and rugged, but there was "snow" way that the boys were turning back now! After visiting the snowfield, and even making a few snowballs, the group began their descent out of the ravine. The boys also were afforded spectacular views down to Pinkham Notch and across to the Wildcat and Carter Ranges. Judging by the comments upon their return, the day proved to be both challenging and rewarding. It's safe to say that "snow" many great memories were made on this trip!

Also on Monday, our first canoe trip left from the docks of Junior and traveled to Newt's Island, located at the northern end of Moose Pond. **Uncles Walker, Mitch,** and **Stephen** boarded the canoes with **Devan Sarkar, Enzo Depolla, Ben McVane, Charles BeVier, Devon Hermes, Henry Garnett, Max Chassat,** and **George Thompson.** There was a breezy headwind that day, so the call was made to load the boats onto the Bat Barge and launch from across the lake. The sun, breezes and sparkling water provided the idyllic Maine backdrop that many of us return for summer after summer. As the boys made their approach to Newt's Island, they noticed some of the damage from the recent storm along the shoreline. The boys had fun during camp games, a campfire, s'mores, swimming and a dinner of Uncle Walker's special canoe trip BBQ-chicken and corn-on-the-cob. This first night under the stars was deemed a rousing success upon their return. As we walked to movie night at the Cobb I was regaled with some stories of their overnight adventure.



To celebrate our country's birthday, the nearby town of Bridgton hosts the 4 on the 4th, a fun Road Race. On Tuesday, **Uncle Rob** brought **Lucas Tchelikidi, Ben Lemieux, Ward Jenkins** and **Renzo Martinez** to this special event. The group had an early wake up with the race starting at 8:00 a.m. Lucas paced the campers with Ward, Ben and Renzo coming in not far behind. Uncle Rob finished an impressive 262 out of more than 2200 participants. All the boys should be very proud of their accomplishment, as 4 miles, over a hilly course, is an impressive feat to complete for our young campers. [Editor's note: Uncle Jim is being humble, so we will include here that he also ran and placed 99th overall!]

On Tuesday afternoon, the Junior Winona baseball team welcomed Camp Wigwam to our baseball field for the first test of the summer season. **Uncle Robbie** brought a squad consisting of **Oliver Golden, Ben Lemieux, Henry Sloss, Liam Tobin, Dash Lamphier, Ben McVane, Daas McPhee-Djan, James Halley, Ward Jenkins, Leif Sonne** and **Lorenzo Vannoni** to represent Winona. The game started with the opposing camp jumping out to an early lead. Ward then took matters into his own hands, with the bases loaded and Winona down 10 to 7 he sent a ball flying into the tall pine trees for the first Junior Winona grand slam in years. The grand slam seemed to spur the boys on as the offense caught fire. Winona continued to add on to their lead with home runs from Ben and Dash. This onslaught of runs coupled with great defensive play from Lorenzo and Leif insured Winona a big win, with a final score of 27-19. An enthusiastic "Brix Brax" could be heard across the unit as the boys celebrated their win. Uncle Robbie commended all for their sportsmanship and team play. Well done, boys!



Tuesday dinner found **Thomas Gasperini, James Gasperini, Lorenzo Vannoni, Leif Sonne,** and **Ward Jenkins** becoming the first campers in Junior, and remarkably all of camp, to receive a Full Chipmunk pin. To achieve the Chipmunk level, campers need to complete requirements in the activities, showing that they are proficient with their beginning skills at each one. To receive the Full Chipmunk pin the boys have to earn Chipmunks in swimming, canoeing, campcraft and four other Junior activities. I look forward to awarding many more pins in the coming weeks.

As I conclude this edition of the Junior Times, I hear the laughter, excitement and screams of the boys at free swim, free time activities and the world famous Junior Snack Shack. Thank you for sharing your wonderful sons with us this 110th Winona summer. It is once again a pleasure and privilege to be here on the shores of Moose Pond with such an outstanding staff and such wonderfully enthusiastic boys. Until next week...

Jim Morse
Jr. Unit Director (Wi 1982-1989, 1991-1995, 2008-2017)
The BAT 1991