



Senior NEWSLETTER

June 30, 2019



Greetings from Senior Winona! This is **Uncle Jeffrey "Bubba" Dropkin**, Senior Unit Director, with my first weekly newsletter.



We enjoyed perfect weather on Winona's 112th Opening Day. Our counselors greeted 66 Senior campers ready to jump into a schedule filled with trips, sporting events, tribal totem showings and Red/Gray competitions. The campers enjoyed catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. With the long winter finally behind us, the noise in the Senior Grove has returned! Hearing the sounds of frivolity is wonderful.

After completing swim and "tip" tests (canoe safety test), the boys played a game of speedball in the afternoon and dodgeball for their Evening Program. As the sun inched westward, each tent group participated in a meet-and-greet. We then gathered at Senior Wiggy's north porch for a world map pinning ceremony. As our campers placed pins on the map, we saw clearly just how far Winona's call reaches. Seventeen US states and ten countries are represented in Senior this session. At dusk the boys gathered around a campfire which featured music by **Drew McHold-Burke** on guitar, **Andrew Sack** on violin and **Uncle Bruce** and **Uncle PJ**, both on guitar.



On Thursday we opened all of the activities and the boys started working on the requirements to achieve a "Full Merit."

On Friday, Senior's awesome, multifaceted tripping program kicked off its 112th season with an outing to Pinkham Notch in the beautiful White Mountains of New Hampshire. **Uncles Alex F., Dan, & Patrick**, and campers **Rieky Bol Rik, Tibo Bonte, Ian Carey, Maxime De Clercq, Vincent Du Fayet De La Tour, Nick Griese, Ian Hoffman, Murphy Holton, Baird Hruska, Gus Kolva, Drew McHold-Burke** and **Tom Spater** scrambled up rugged, rocky *Wildcat Ridge*, following a link in the *Appalachian Trail* to summits "E" and "D", and exploring icy caves along the way. Resting atop Wildcat's ski area observation deck, and while descending ski trails, they admired the sharp cliffs dropping into *Huntington Ravine* and the vast snowfields still lingering in *Tuckerman's Ravine* on Mount Washington. To cap a fantastic first day, the boys leapt from ledges into the refreshing Emerald Pool nearby.



Winona Night marks the official opening of Winona's 112th season. Junior, Intermediate and Senior, along with the CITs, joined as one camp for this ceremony in the David G. Lubrano Grove. **Uncle Spencer** read Winona's Call. Well-rehearsed unit songs along with "The 'W' in Winona" and "The Pines of Winona" filled the air. Campers returning for their second or third summer were presented embroidered patches, while those returning for four or more years were awarded distinctive honor shirts.

The Senior banner and highlights from the 2018 season were recapped during Winona Night. With a tremendous turn-around after mid-season, the Grays won the banner last year. The Senecas took tribal honors. This summer's leaders include Gray Captain **Kevin McDonald** and Lieutenants **Jackson Monz** and **Andrew Sack**. The Reds will be led by Captain **Max Jones** and Co-Lieutenants **Rieky Bol Rik** and **Ian Hoffman**.

The tribal leaders were also announced. Chief **Eathan Heath** and Sub-Chief **Lee Wilson** will lead the defending Senecas. The Delaware tribe will be led by Chief **Lucas Sudduth** along with Sub-Chiefs **Ian Carey** and **Zimu Zhang**. Chief **Vincent Mellet** and Sub-Chief **Jack Bonnefond** will lead the Ojibways. The Mohawk tribe will be led by Chief **Charlie Collins** and Sub-Chiefs **Taylor Stansfield** and **Kevin Allsopp**.

(over for more news!)

In Senior, the boys select a new totem each summer. For this 112th season, they decided to celebrate the spontaneity of camp. The boys voted to create a wooden totem with a picture of a shark in a hammock wearing a lifejacket (I mentioned at Winona Night, the meaning behind this totem is open to interpretation).

Saturday afternoon featured a favorite Winona event, Tribal Games. Some of Winona's most popular games were included: King Pin Dodgeball, Musical Chairs, Ga-Ga-Ga, Sleeping Bag Water Balloon Race and Tug-O-War. The campers seemed to have a lot of fun helping their Junior and Inty tribal brothers while racking up points for their tribes.



On Saturday nights, we cook the evening meal over a wood-fired grill in the Senior unit— bacon onion cheeseburgers with all the fixings. The counselor parade and the “Dirty Burger” is Senior’s way to open the grilling season. **Thomas Spater** was this years recipient for seasonal B-B-Q honors.

The first several days of camp has been fast-paced, and yet, merely a warm-up for the events still to come. The boys are planning multi-day trips to Franconia and Umbagog Lake. In the coming weeks I will report on these and other mountain and canoe trips as well as athletic events, regattas, kayak and technical rock-climbing trips. Our schedule is full of activities and adventures to inspire and challenge the boys. Under the towering pines, there’s no place on earth this perfect!

Until next week. I hope your summer is also off to a great start.

Brix Brax,
Uncle Jeffrey “Bubba” Dropkin (1983-1986, 2002-2019)
The BAT 2015
Senior Unit Director
Caretaker of Bailey, happy chocolate Lab