



# The TATTLER

Established 1893

Spring 2026

## From the Director

In just a few short weeks, Keewaydin begins again.

While winter on Devil's Island can feel quiet from afar, the work of preparing for summer has been anything but. The months since last September have been full of planning, hiring, training, organizing, and the kind of behind-the-scenes effort that helps a Keewaydin summer feel both seamless and full of possibility. Bit by bit, the season ahead has been taking shape.

And what a season it promises to be.

This summer, we are thrilled to welcome 163 campers to Devil's Island, including a strong group of returning campers and a growing number of first-time campers. That continued enthusiasm says something important: Keewaydin

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## Spring into summer, the count down is on: Long trips for 2026

With the snowpack melting and crocuses blooming our sleeves are rolled up and our bulleted lists grow. Some lists matter more than others when preparing for a summer-long canoe trip. One of them is the gear list. On the surface, it seems simple: wool socks, rain gear, a warm layer, a bug net, a small repair kit tucked into your duffle. But each item earns its place, and experience teaches you that the smallest pieces of gear can make the biggest difference. Will that extra pair of socks save your spirits after a cold, wet day? Will the bugnet make an evening in

early July bearable? Will the repair kit keep a small problem from becoming a big one?

For our long trip staff, preparation runs far deeper than personal gear alone. Equipment lists, food lists, equipment checks, route plans, communication systems, contingencies, every detail is considered, refined, and revisited. This is what spring to summer prep really looks like: thoughtful, steady work that continues right up until the section pushes off for Day 1 of 40 or 50.

This summer, Section 1 is in capable hands with the lively and caring team of **Katie Paine '07** and **Kyra McClean '11**. It will be Section 1's 15<sup>th</sup> Hudson Bay trip since its first in 2004, a testament to the progression of the girl's program and the dedication of the staff. Katie and Kyra have planned a rugged and beautiful route, pushing Section 1 up to the Seal Lakes in northern Quebec.

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KEEWAYDIN!

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*Where kids become gutsy,  
courageous, self-assured  
& learn to take risks.*

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## From the Director

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still matters deeply and we have some really amazing staff!

In a world that asks so much of kids and teenagers and often gives them very little space to slow down, take in a wild landscape, and simplify; Keewaydin offers something rare and lasting. Here, young people are asked to be capable. They are asked to contribute, to persevere, to laugh, to lead, to paddle, to portage, to cook, to listen, to get muddy, to be part of something bigger than themselves. And in the process, they become stronger, more grounded, and surer of who they are. That is why Keewaydin matters. As Henry David Thoreau suggests, “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately...”

The process of growth does not happen by accident. It is made possible by extraordinary people. Our trip staff bring joy and examples of what it looks like to eagerly seek out an adventure. From Yorsten Lake to Sucker Gut to Lake Kipawa, the small and big lakes surrounding the Temagami region provide the back drop to a summer brimming with stories.

When the Outpost campers step off the train at Allanwater Bridge, no station, no platform in sight, they will feel the wonder and realize this special place is just so cool. They’ll journey through Wabakimi and test their balance along the rivers. For the Section 3 and D campers, the game has leveled up. No base to return to, nothing to stop them from finding their rhythm, the only important detail to hold dear is

knowing they are in it together. It is ideal preparation for Keewaydin’s long trips.

I am grateful to have an outstanding staff team in place for the summer ahead—a thoughtful mix of experienced returning leaders and talented new staff, each bringing energy, skill, and care to work with our campers. Our Headquarters team is seasoned, and deeply committed to the daily rhythm and larger purpose of a Keewaydin summer. I do not take for granted the 150 accrued years of knowledge and experience we hold. As always, June will be full. Staff training is one of the most important stretches of our year: when our staff begin to build the trust, communication, and shared sense of purpose that campers will feel all summer long.

For our long trip staff, preparation has already been underway for months. These trips may look adventurous from the outside, and they are, but at their heart they are also deeply intentional experiences aiming to challenge and shape young people at a formative time in their lives.

And that, in many ways, feels like the heart of what’s ahead.

Soon enough, the docks will be full, the kitchen will hum, canoes will line the waterfront, and the island will once again come alive with all the energy and promise of a Keewaydin summer. We cannot wait to welcome everyone back.

To all who are planning a return to Devil’s Island, I’ll see you on the dock.



**Spring into summer,  
the count down is on:  
Long trips for 2026**

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Section 1 may choose to descend the North River and finish their trip in Umiujaq, Nunavik. This is a group of experienced women, many who started with Keewaydin when they were 10, 11 or 12 years old. Each is ready to thrive in this challenging environment. We are excited for these young women to complete this goal!

Section A welcomes the return of leaders **Peter Dutko '03** and **Hunter Craighill '11**. It will be their 5<sup>th</sup> summer as a duo leading the Hudson Bay trip. They are planning to guide Section A up to the Kosoak River and touch the northern waters of Ungava Bay. Their trip will begin in the typical Section A fashion, determined, enthusiastic, and spirited. A bay trip and final summer will not fail to impress the hearts and minds of these experienced campers. We will look forward to their end of summer trip report!

Section B campers will benefit

from a great and fun leadership combo, with **John Goodpasture '10** and **Matt Barnes '16** working together. Both leaders are passionate about Keewaydin and love Section B.

The young men joining Section B explored western Ontario in 2025, enjoying the Outpost region and overcoming many challenges. Now, they are ready for the different terrain and the black spruce of northern Quebec. Travel on the eastern side of Hudson Bay will look very different and will be perfect preparation for their 2027 Hudson Bay trip! John and Matt are planning a unique multi-watershed excursion going from east to west and finishing on the La Grande River. They will have lots to share in their fall write up!

Experienced staffwoman **Kera Zegar '07** is teaming up with guide **Meredith Craighill '22** for our fourth long trip. Section 2 will shift



*Loads and boats on "moon rock"*

from the sunny side of Ontario and their Albany River memories to the more varied weather of Quebec. Trip rolls will include a few more warm layers as they adjust for the raw beauty found up north. This summer, these leaders will bring an excellent crew of young women to the Sakami River. The goal is to return to Quebec tripping territory and revisit a route Keewaydin last completed in 2015.

Keewaydin's long trips matter for teenagers because it gives them something increasingly rare: the chance to do hard things, be deeply known, and grow into themselves. On long trips, campers step away from the relentless digital connectivity and step into a routine and a world that invites them to be capable, thoughtful, and part of something bigger than themselves. They return stronger, more grounded, and more confident, not because it was easy, but because it mattered. When our long trip campers paddle in, a confident section working as one, we'll see firsthand the impact and execution of their steady persistent work.



*Last trip in, Endseason 2025*

## Ojibway

Amber Nussey is gearing up for a wonderful first summer as Ojibway Director. Keewaydin is eager to welcome her to the team and show her the ropes. She will have awesome support from Tanya McCubbin and Sandy Chivers. There are some spots remaining in late July if you want to sneak back to Temagami!

## Work Party! June 19-23

The Ojibway Work Party is one of the most satisfying weekends of the year—a chance to roll up your sleeves, pitch in on meaningful projects, and help ready Devil's Island for the summer ahead.



1986 Section A

There's something deeply special about being on the island in those quiet June days before the season begins: the stillness of the lake, the empty docks, the anticipation in the air, and the feeling that camp is just beginning to wake up. Alongside good work, good company, and shared meals, it's a weekend that offers both purpose and peace.

## Alumni Reunion

The 2026 Temagami Reunion, July 9-12, is nearly full, and we are thrilled to welcome so many former Bay trippers of the Keewaydin community back to Lake Temagami. It's especially exciting to see alumni returning with their families—sharing the magic of camp with a new generation and creating new memories alongside old ones. The weekend promises reconnection, shared meals, island traditions, paddling, hiking, campfires, and singing, all set against the beauty of Devil's Island and Ojibway. We can't wait to gather with old friends, welcome new faces, and celebrate the people and place that continue to mean so much to all of us.

# PADDLING FORWARD

The Campaign for Keewaydin's Future

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## Midseason and Endseason 2026

Midseason will be filled with a great crew of parents and loved ones, ready to enjoy the comforts of Ojibway while also relishing in either a brief glimpse of their 6-week Waubeno or Winisk camper or hugging their Manitou

or Songadeewin camper as they finish their 3-weeks at Keewaydin. Midseason continues to be a fantastic way for parents to see what Keewaydin is and enjoy Devil's Island.

Endseason provides parents of Section 1, A, B, and 2 campers a chance to see them return from momentous canoe trips. We may,

at times, have room for parents of Outpost campers. This is a great position for Ojibway and Keewaydin to be in. We love hosting and yet we know that seeing your child return from trip is not possible for everyone and it does not determine the success of your camper's experience. We appreciate each person who is able to attend!



# KEEWAYDIN CLUB ADULT TRIPS

## Camping, Canoeing, and Fishing in the Canadian Woods

Keewaydin Club adult trips are open to everyone: Keewaydin and Songadeewin alumni, parents, Ojibway guests, or anyone interested in going on a Keewaydin-style trip. For experienced or “new to canoe” trippers.

*“The women’s trip was a great way to feel connected with nature, with the amazing women I met, and also with myself. It came at a perfect time in my life when I needed to refocus and balance myself. I did just that.”*

– Jess Desrochers

Learn more and register: [Keewaydin.org/keewaydin-temagami/adults](https://keewaydin.org/keewaydin-temagami/adults)



# RECRUITING TRAVELS AND EVENTS

Keewaydin toured the U.S. on another amazing round of Open Houses. Enthusiastic and very committed families welcomed the camp director, Emily Schoelzel, into their homes and their communities. It is this face-to-face experience that helps Keewaydin tell its story and connect with

kids and parents who want more than the typical camp. Our population of campers come from all over and so it was delightful to visit Colorado Springs, CO, Darien and Cos Cob, CT, Seattle, WA, Lake Bluff, IL, Atlanta, GA, Kennett Square, PA, and Richmond, VA! The efforts paid off, Keewaydin's enrollment is strong and we are gearing up for a great season of canoe tripping. Thank you to ALL of the families who hosted us, we cannot wait to do it again.



Atlanta open house: Current campers with Emily. Henry Fischer '23, Alec '23 and Rhys '24 Glover, Thomas '25 and Henry '25 Kirkpatrick

We also visit with many alumni during these travels. The alumni gathering in New York City has been an annual event, where many Keewaydin connections are made. It is really fun to see so many great faces with rich tripping experience and stories to share.



Kennett Square open house: BR: Lisa Brewer P'12, Zara and Jake Kaplan P'23, Richard Corkran '76, Rich Stenta P'23, Cat Wiedwald P'23, Max Corkan '11, Will Caputo '25, Jackson Stenta '23, Austin '25 and Carson Brewer '24 FR: Teresa Corkran P'11, Evans Stephenson '14, Emily Schoelzel '99, Ali Corkran '11, Scott Stephenson P'14



Jeff Howe P'11 and Bevan Stanley '66



Emily Schoelzel '99 and Greg Hyde '80



Tilman Phleger '11 and Quinlan Mulcahy '16



John Frazier '96 and Kera Zegar '07



Richmond open house: Erin Parker '18, Jay Parker '85, and host Jimmy Carr '91 with camper prospects

## CHARACTER AND INTEGRITY AT KEEWAYDIN

While traveling for Open Houses, Emily Schoelzel was invited to speak to Yates Insurance. Yates Insurance and Keewaydin share many values and though Emily is more versed in speaking to a group of staff or campers, the opportunity to talk about why Keewaydin is still very relevant today was an invitation she could not pass up. A big thank you to Brooks and Maggie Fischer P'22 for wanting Yates Insurance to think about how one's character, grit, and integrity assist in excellent customer outcomes.



Brooks and Maggie with Emily Schoelzel

## 2026 Vacation Goals!

- Slow down
- Wander and explore
- Eat well
- Reflect
- Rest deeply
- Feel restored



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## ALUMNI NEWS

**Maxine Christopher P'14**, shared a great update and adventure from Ely, Minnesota. *Wood on Water*, the documentary film which captured Keewaydin's 2019 Section 2 trip, and was released in 2020 by Hannah Maia (filmmaker) and Maxine Christopher (Producer, and parent of **Maddie '14** and **Cam McClure '15**) had a "revival" with a theater showing in Ely, MN this past March.



*Ely, Minnesota viewers packed the house!*

*Wood on Water* served as a centerpiece for the Friends of the Boundary Water's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which crafted an evening dedicated to "Women in Wilderness", and was followed by an all-women's panel discussion with 6 local trailblazing women of all ages, including Emily Ford, who became the second woman of color to complete the Iditarod in 2025; and Julie Hignell, who among other things in her 50 years of outdoor adventuring, served as an expedition advisor and safety support for *National Geographic* and *Outside Magazine*.

The event was wildly successful, according to the organizers: attendance was at 125, which surpassed their best guess for Ely, MN in the off-season. Many lifetime trippers watching the film ooh'd and ahhh'd at the challenges and successes of tripping Keewaydin-style (translation: the heavy, traditional, gear); laughed at scenes of the girls attempting to dry Dickie's over the open fire as rain continued gushing off the overhead tarp, and at Hannah's bug-blanketed tent flap; and chatted afterwards about their own memories of discovering the northern waters by canoe.

You can still find the full film on NRS's YouTube channel ("Wood on Water"), and the Director's "Short Cut" (20 minutes) on Maia Media's website. There is also a special edit of the film on permanent exhibit at The Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough, Ontario.



*Jeff Schneider '57, Carl Borntraeger '58 and Carl Schneider '53 met up for a classic Keewaydin story swapping*

**Carl '58** and Courtney Borntraeger, **Jeff '57** and Judy Schneider and **Carl "Bruno" Schneider '53** all gathered for lunch in New Orleans this past fall. Carl and Courtney were on a Mississippi River Cruise.

A wonderful trait that grows from taking long canoe trips in the great Canadian north is relishing the idea of heading out toward a destination you're curious about but don't yet understand because you haven't been there before. That joy in discovering is woven into our fabric stroke after stroke, step after step. This year, **Paul Parker-Johnson '66** and Deb Parker-Johnson made two such journeys: one on the Camino de Santiago in Portugal and Spain, a journey taking by many over time along coastlines and hillsides to appreciate life and reflect on the things we decide to concentrate on. The second was adventuring out to ridge lines in the San Juan Mountains at the southern extent of the Rockies in southwest Colorado. The peacefulness of striding along the ridge tops at 14,000' there rivals the calm of a huge northern lake (say, Temagami or Mistassini in Quebec) on a bluebird day on the water.

**Sandy Chivers '54** with **Paige Sparks '18** and **Henry Blaxter '18** at a men's soccer game, St. Lawrence vs Middlebury.



*All smiles at the pitch*

## BIRTHS

**John Harding '01** and his wife Katie have a baby girl, Eleanor.

Wholesome camp cooking,  
a current Keewaydin  
section favorite



# Recipe



## Pesto Chicken Spaghetti / Pesto Tofu Spaghetti

### Ingredients

2 lbs of spaghetti

4-5 cans chicken  
(or sub tofu)

2 jars pesto

olive oil

4 cloves garlic

2 onions

1" cheddar cheese

parmesan cheese

1 can chickpeas  
(optional)

basil

### Directions

- Cook spaghetti in the spaghetti pot.
- Grate the cheddar cheese.
- In the bean pot, sauté the onions in olive oil. When the onions are tender, add the garlic and chicken (or tofu).
- When the chicken is hot, (or tofu is browned) add your jars of pesto. Mix it up. Add as much basil and olive oil as seems right to extend the basil/pesto flavor.
- When the spaghetti is cooked, slowly mix the grated cheddar and the parmesan cheese into the noodles and stir. When the cheese is melted and spread throughout the noodles, add your pesto sauce mix and stir.

### NOTE

- A store-bought jar of pesto is made from basil, parmesan, pine nuts, and olive oil. If you do not have jars of premade pesto, make your own version with basil, parmesan, and olive oil.
- If the section is hungry, a can of ham or chickpeas bulks it up nicely.



## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

### LEWIS LEHRMAN P'83

Former Keewaydin Camp co-owner and Keewaydin parent passed on March 11, 2026 in Greenwich, Connecticut.



Fred Reimers '51 and Lew during Midseason

Keewaydin Camp and the Keewaydin Foundation remember Lew Lehrman for the critical role he played with co-owner, **Joe Fogg '60**, when they purchased Keewaydin Camp from then owner and Director Fred Reimers. Lew and Joe were partners at Morgan Stanley and came to co-own Keewaydin from 1990 until 2000, Though Lew remained behind the scenes, during the ten-year span of ownership Keewaydin transformed



Lew checking in with his son, John

with two important changes. In 1998 a decision about the future of Keewaydin led to the start of the girl's program and the important merger in 2001 of Keewaydin Camp with the Keewaydin Foundation. Lew's family enjoyed Keewaydin, with his son, **John Lehrman '83**, and his granddaughter **Cree '04** who were campers and staff.

You can read a great piece that Mary Welz, Director of Development wrote about the history of Keewaydin Foundation for the *Northwest Wind* in 2025 at:

[Keewaydin.org/nww-archive](https://www.keewaydin.org/nww-archive)

### WELLS PRESTON '95

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of **Wells Preston**, whose life was marked by adventure, generosity, curiosity, and a profound love of the natural world. Wells died on August 16, 2025, at the age of 40.

For Wells, Keewaydin was part of his personal foundation. As a boy, he spent summers canoeing and portaging in Temagami, where he first learned to navigate by compass, cook over open fires, and sleep beneath the stars—experiences that helped shape a lifelong devotion to wilderness and exploration.

That love of the outdoors stayed with him throughout his life. He climbed, paddled, sailed, skied, hiked, fished, kiteboarded, and traveled widely, always with a camera in hand and a deep reverence for wild places. He was the kind of person who loved to gather others in—around a meal,

on a trail, under a night sky—and share what brought him joy.

Wells is remembered not only for his adventurous spirit, but for his warmth, humor, and the way he made people feel welcome and connected. He clearly carried Keewaydin's spirit with him: a love of community, a sense of wonder, and a life lived fully outdoors.

We hold Wells' wife, Chrissy, and his family and friends in our hearts, and remember with gratitude the life he lived and the path he paddled.

Wells' Sectionmates **Phil Haigh '97**, **Roy Krebs '97**, **Harry Morgan '02**, **Troy Morrison '97**, **Benjamin Rabunksi '97** attended the memorial service.



Sectionmates Phil Haigh, Roy Krebs, Harry Morgan, Troy Morrison, Benjamin Rabunksi

### JOHN WARD KIMBALL '48

**John Ward Kimball** died at his home on January 19, 2026, from natural causes. He was 95 years old. Following graduation from Harvard College in 1953, he taught at Phillips Academy Andover before receiving his Ph.D. in Biology from Harvard in 1972. He was elected a Fellow of the American for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 1987.



# 2026 Schedule • Keewaydin Camp's 133<sup>rd</sup> Season

- June 21 133<sup>rd</sup> season begins - Section I & A arrives
- June 28 Regular Season commences at Keewaydin & Ojibway Family Lodge opens  
Outpost campers on the train
- June 30 Welcoming Campfire
- July 9-12 Alumni Family Weekend at Ojibway
- July 17-19 Midseason
- July 20 First session campers depart a.m.
- July 21 Second session campers arrive p.m.
- July 23 Second Session Welcoming Campfire
- July 31 Keewaydin Club Adult Trips
- August 2 Islander Pot-Luck Dinner at Ojibway
- August 10 Endseason
- August 12 Campers depart a.m.
- August 19 Keewaydin closes for the season
- August 31 Ojibway closes for the season

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