

CHIPMONK CHATTER

CAMP PATHFINDER 2023

ENJOY A COLLECTION OF SUMMER UPDATES, PHOTOS AND CAMP SPEECHES FROM THIS PAST CAMP SEASON



PATHFINDER CANOE DOCK – THE LAST WEEK OF BOATS ON THE DOCK BEFORE BEING STORED IN THE REC LODGE FOR WINTER

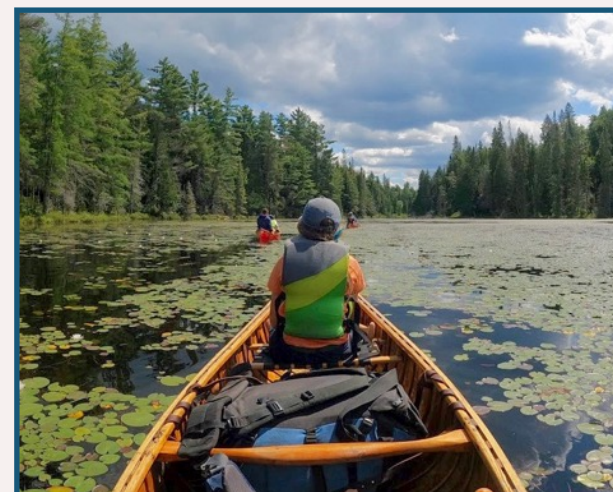
NOONWAY!

Created by Paige Clark, Program Director



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CAMPSICK HAS A CURE

Mike Sladden, 1999-2023 Camp Director and Co-Owner

You've heard of homesick, but do you know the open secret, shared by all, of Pathfinder Campsick?

So few CPI boys experience significant homesickness in a Pathfinder season, and we count our camp lucky for this blessing. The days are so full, the staff so attentive, the friends and laughs so abundant, the sessions in fact so fleeting – that I can count on two hands the number of boys who felt desperately homesick in my 24-years as the camp director.

But we all acknowledge that virtually everyone – camper, staff member experiences their own symptoms of 'campsick' after leaving the Island each year.

What is this affliction? It's unique for each of us, but common for all is the let-down of pulling away. Pulling away from a stunningly beautiful place, from people of all ages you count as authentic friends, from the pleasures of living so simply, the richness of the physical and social milieu, those face-to-face days so much better than screen-to-screen days, those century-old traditions and routines which set our internal emotional clocks to Pathfinder time.

It's hard on us when we have to let it all go.

When the bus rolls, the parent pick-ups are done, the airliners are wheels-up – each of us seems to feel a bit tired, a bit bummed, a bit rattled by life back in the world, a bit wistful for our pals, for the action and daily pleasures of trip trail or basecamp. It's equally true for the staff, especially Fall Crew, the small team who opened up camp and finally buttons things up in October, after the longest season on duty at Source Lake.

If you thought your little let-down after Pathfinder was unique to you, now you know: it's only unique to Pathfinder and to the connection all Pathfinder people share. And it just means the place and people are dear to you, that you're soon ready for a return to these gifts.

Now I'm feeling a new twist on the symptoms of what Glenn and I know too well as the traditional campsick. After nearly two and a half decades, it's time for us to pass on our leadership roles to really wonderful, gifted and committed successors. From Glenn and Sladds to longtime Pathfinder people Will Hopkins and Diane Davis, and their boosters Barrett and Cindy Wadsworth.

As we hand off to them with this edition of Chatter, they are already working hard to take over for Pathfinder Season 111.

We couldn't be happier. Pathfinder is passing into hands that will care for it at least as well as we've tried to. Along with the big, talented crew of staff members staying the course, these new leaders are raised in our system, culture, values; they're already building on what we've worked hard for.

Camp is in a strong, happy place and we can't wait to see what comes next, once we retire to our former roles as alumni and boosters. Handing off camp might feel a bit campsick, loosening the grip on the all-involving daily work. But like any campsick staffer or camper, we have so many positive sensations mixed in.

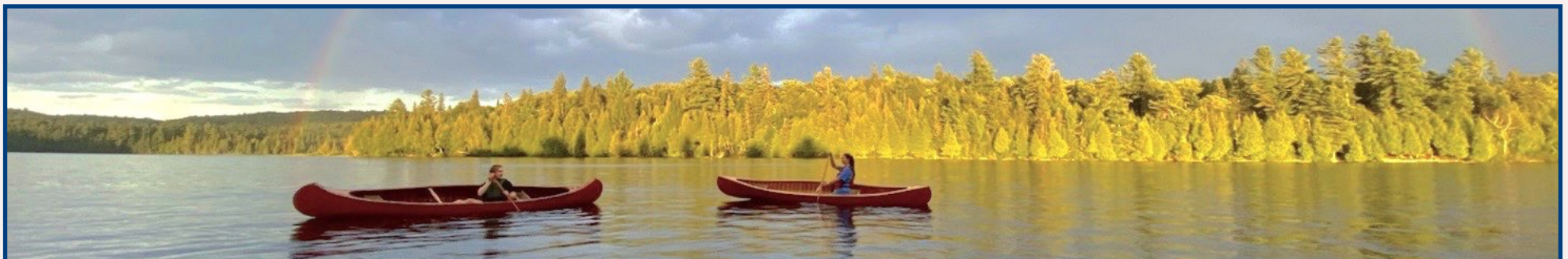
This year matched last year's record enrollment of younger campers. Again this year, 62 healthy trips all ventured out and came home safely. We achieved a notable first -- a 50-50 ratio of Canadian and American boys. We celebrated the camp's 110 year anniversary, we hosted our 24th year of fully-booked spring/fall programs, and our 22nd George Liederhaus alumni fundraiser race weekend.

I could personally relish one of the best staff's in many years – that's saying something – and the singular gift of having my own son Jack be a part of the senior team. Like everyone does, I'll weather my campsick stage by setting sights on my Pathfinder of next season. I'll be an 'old-timer' sanding gunwhales, trucking trips, and teaching a few strokes.

How about you? Maybe you're a rookie camper returning in '24, or a veteran moving up to Raven, Bear or AA. Maybe you're starting your staff career, or stepping into the senior ranks.

However your Pathfinder story is progressing, get back to Source Lake -- whatever you do. And, in the meantime, I wish for you a wonderful wintering-over, feeling proud of your 2023 Pathfinder time, and looking ahead to the ultimate campsick antidote – rounding the point and seeing the Canoe Dock fleet of red.

Noonway,
sladds



WELCOMING OUR NEW OWNERS

This month, Glenn Arthurs and Mike Sladden hand over the reins of Pathfinder to our successors Will Hopkins and Diane Davis. After 24-years, we felt great about the move, having worked hard to build up and steward Pathfinder, but also having found the ideal Pathfinder people, veterans with broad camp and education experience. They'll pick up the work and carry it forward as joyfully and energetically as we've been so lucky to do.

We began Pathfinder's 110th year with a healthy transition in mind for Will and Diane. Some time ago, they let us know their interest in taking over the Pathfinder project if we were ready to hand it forward to CPI folks. Everyone in the Arthurs and Sladden families is delighted that two so-brilliant and so-immersed Pathfinder people are ready to shoulder this unique place and community, one all its members, especially you reading this note, care for so deeply.

Welcome to our new owners Will and Diane, and their supporting partners Barrett and Cindy!

Will Hopkins

Will started his Pathfinder career as a 12-year old in 1987. After early trips taken with legendary trip staff, Will was hooked on the thrills of canoe tripping and the energy and fun of the Pathfinder experience. He served on the trip staff from 1992 until 2001, becoming a member of the senior staff until 2009. His roles at camp have included Mic&Chipp area supervisor, Program Director, CIT Director and Director of Tripping.

Born and raised in Rochester, NY, Will attended Cornell University and UC Berkeley where he studied forest ecology. After teaching middle and high school science in California and New York City, Will moved into administrative work and most recently served as the Associate Head of School at the Friends Seminary School in New York. Will met his future bride Diane Davis while working at Pathfinder, and took her on a first date in a wood canvas canoe.

Diane Davis

Diane is a member of the Source Lake Davis Island clan and has spent her life summering on Source Lake from winters residing in New Jersey and New York City. Diane's career as an actor has delighted audiences through numerous roles both on television and on-and-off Broadway in NY.

Will and Diane were married on Pathfinder Island in 2010 and have spent every summer possible on Source Lake since then. They have three energetic girls: Eleanor (11), Harriet (8), and Cecilia (5). The girls have grown to love Pathfinder (especially the candy store) and are looking forward to more summers at CPI. In the off season, Will, Diane and the girls live in Maplewood, NJ just outside New York City.

Barrett & Cindy Wadsworth

Barrett began his Pathfinder career at age 11, spending 5 years as a camper and 7 years working as trip staff, eventually joining senior staff as Director of Canoeing. His love and appreciation of camp and the friendships forged at camp have kept him an active tripper and outdoors enthusiast. Cindy first came to camp when Barrett convinced her to come on a canoe trip roughly four weeks after their first date in Buffalo. She immediately fell in love with Algonquin and with the Pathfinder tripping culture, and has enthusiastically logged eight more canoe trips in the years since.

Barrett and Cindy live in East Aurora with their two boys Harry (7) and Oliver (2). Barrett works as a financial advisor at North Woods Wealth Management, a company he founded and runs with his brother and fellow Pathfinder alum, Jeremy. Cindy is an attorney and started her own practice in 2017, where she specializes in estate planning and family law.

Will, who will serve as Pathfinder's full-time director, writes:

In the 110 years of Camp's history, ownership has changed hands 7 times. Since Chief Norton, each transition has occurred within the alumni community. This is an extraordinary feat for a summer camp and one that speaks to the love and loyalty of Pathfinder alums for our camp. Having taken the plunge, I can now say (and I suspect Sladds, Glenn, Mac, Swifty, and Roy would share the sentiment) that I couldn't imagine doing this without the tremendous support of the broader camp community. Diane and I are so appreciative of the many messages of encouragement and good will we have received from every corner of the Pathfinder world.

One of the benefits of an alumni ownership transition is continuity of mission and culture. Please know that I am approaching my turn at the helm with a caretaker mentality -- I know that I don't really "own" camp, I have the honor of leading it through its next chapter. While I hope to continue the outstanding trajectory that Glenn and Sladds have charted for camp over the last 24 years (sturdy overall enrollment, industry leading staff training, robust shoulder season programming), I am committed to the enduring elements of the Pathfinder experience: traditional wilderness canoe tripping for boys in Algonquin and neighboring regions, with emphasis on teamwork, endurance, and humor.

Folks, we're in good hands, and without doubt Glenn and Sladds remain on call to support the new guys in anything they may ask or need. We'll be in the Park and spending invited time at Camp in our long-ago roles as alumni and boosters, now grandparents to rising campers.

To everyone who helped us caretake Pathfinder – and you are legion – we can only say, please give Will and Diane the friendship and support you've gifted us, and ...



Bravo, Bravissimo, Thank You, Noonway!
Glenn and Sladds

OUR STAFF

STAFF NEW AND OLD WHO JOINED US THIS PAST SEASON



Glenn Arthurs OWNER
Mike Sladden OWNER/DIRECTOR
Will Hopkins INCOMING DIRECTOR / OWNER
Diane Davis INCOMING OWNER
Mary Chestnut ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Jack Sladden ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 7th year Headman
Paige Clark PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Andrew Beecher DIR. OF TRIPPING 5th year Headman
Simon McNamme LIT DIRECTOR & DIR. OF FACILITIES 7th year Headman
Virginia Boyer WATERFRONT DIRECTOR
Simon Jeens LIT DIRECTOR 4th year Headman
Nell Brucker CIT DIRECTOR 6th year Headman
Christian Kolaga CIT DIRECTOR 3rd year Headman



Sam Hamlett DIR. OF CANOE 5th year Headman
Gabe Myrick DIR. OF CANOE 3rd year Headman
Ella Born SWIM STAFF
Leigh Moeser SWIM STAFF
Anna Lentz PROGRAM ASSISTANT
Sunrya Peace Friedman PHOTOGRAPHY & ARTS and CRAFTS
Julianne McNamee FALL CREW
Dave Statten CANOE BUILDER
Pete Johnson ALUMNI IN RES.
Aubrey Spring ALUMNI IN RES.
Tiger Lion ALUMNI IN RES.
Corot Reason ALUMNI IN RES.
Kathryn Babin ALUMNI IN RES.
Aaron Orkin MEDICAL DIRECTOR



Julia Orkin MEDICAL DIRECTOR
Gonzalo Parada HEAD CHEF
Omar Terrazas SIOUX CHEF
Thania Flores CAMP COOK
Jay Noble CAMP COOK
Gustavo Pantoja CAMP COOK
Grace Herman CAMP NURSE
Heather Coleman CAMP NURSE
Erin Iserhoff CAMP NURSE
Jenny Woods CAMP NURSE
Erin Brandon CAMP NURSE
Lisa Antonisyzn CAMP NURSE
Autumn Elzinga CAMP NURSE



Ben Zief 4th year Headman
Aidan McPhail 4th year Headman
Simon Cousineau 3rd year Headman
CJ Lenahan 3rd year Headman
Tate Pierson 3rd year Headman
Evan Popat 3rd year Headman
Aidan Walters 3rd year Headman
Ben Kelly 3rd year Headman
Oliver Allshire 2nd year Headman
Dan Bundgard 2nd year Headman
Declan Eady 2nd year Headman
James Fair 2nd year Headman
Graham Hall 2nd year Headman
James Herron 2nd year Headman



Jamie Sills 2nd year Headman
Jacob Seifred 2nd year Headman
Peter Brownrigg Rookie Headman
Max Crocker Rookie Headman
Gideon Dent Rookie Headman
Mac Fabens Rookie Headman
Sam McKenney Rookie Headman
Silas Witmore Rookie Headman
Sam Zionts Rookie Headman
Alex Beecher Veteran 2ndman
Ian Brown Veteran 2ndman
Will Dahmen Veteran 2ndman
Asher Milberg Veteran 2ndman
Wes Price Veteran 2ndman



Jack Romanowski Veteran 2ndman
Mateo Aragues CIT
Cooper Boulay CIT
Emmett Boulay CIT
Fernando Bustamante CIT
Andrew Clements CIT
Jack Cutler CIT
Peyton Dahmen CIT
Will Harriman CIT
Jake McKenney CIT
Lleyton Rossi CIT
Paiman Sadat CIT
Shane Whiteside CIT
Sam Mendola 2nd Half CIT
Ben Rooney 2nd Half CIT

OUR CAMPERS

CAMPERS SESSIONS A-D WHO JOINED US THIS PAST SEASON

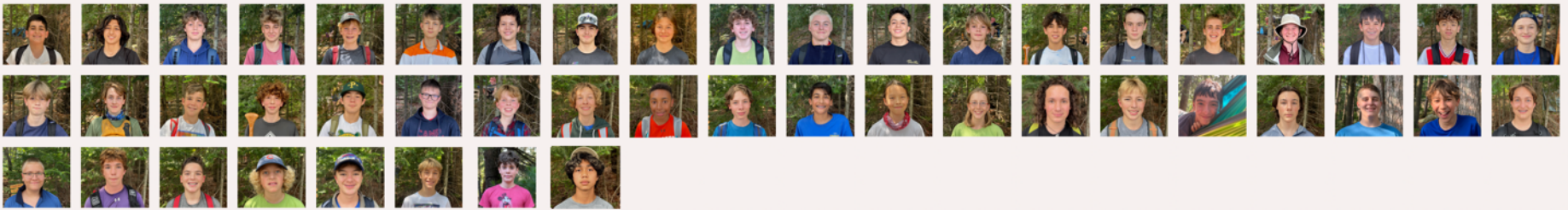
LOONS



RAVENS



BEARS



AA



LIT



CAMPER AWARDS

PRESENTED AT EACH HALF SESSION BANQUET

THE PATHFINDER AWARD

Awarded annually since 1944 to the camper who most embodies the 'Pathfinder spirit'.

The coat hanger plaque represents how one will always be welcome to 'hang their coat' here at Pathfinder.

2023 Pathfinder Award Winner:

JOSH GUPTILL

2022 Winner: Felix Shapiro

THE TRIPPING AWARD

Awarded annually since 1944 to the camper with elite canoe tripping skills.

The paddle plaque represents the strength and skill of this canoe tripper, both on and off the water.

2023 Tripping Award Winner:

HAMISH EADY

2022 Winner: Felix Shapiro

MOST IMPROVED CAMPER

Awarded each half to the camper in each age group who improved significantly in camp and on trip.

FIRST HALF

Loons: Griffis Lampman

Ravens: Lucas Cui

Bears: Simon Adler

SECOND HALF

Loons: Jackson Brown

Ravens: James Yarmich

Bears: Nate Denton

BEST CAMPER

Awarded each half to the camper in each age group seen by peers as the best in their group.

FIRST HALF

Loons: Emmett McCarthy

Ravens: Malcolm Seifred

Bears: Theron Van Zandt

SECOND HALF

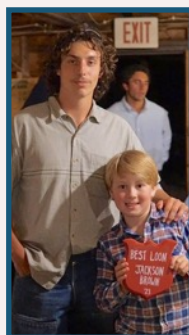
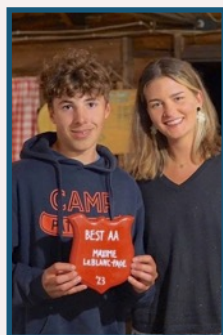
Loons: Hudson Willers &

Yuto Murakami

Ravens: John Henry Bonk

Bears: Henry Spratt

AAs: Maxime LeBlanc Page



FINAL BANQUET HEADMAN'S SPEECH

JACOB SEIFRED, HEADMAN

In all my time here at camp I've always heard of an idea of "the ideal pathfinder person". Someone who can do it all, who loves to be here without exception, has no anxiety about trip and loves every second of it, and never seems to make a mistake.

When I first arrived at camp 10 years ago I was the opposite of an ideal pathfinder person. I was a B session loon who really just wanted to go back home and play minecraft, but I was signed up and I was going. I had a few friends to help me out as I came in, James Fair and Marcus Mila, but that also meant that I was tripping up with ravens. my first trip ever was a 5 day, And one of my first portages was the three k from rock To Louisa. I remember the trip feeling impossible, the camper pack feeling like the heaviest thing ever up on my back, and crying for most of my first night in my soaking wet cotton camp pathfinder hoodie...

...While I'd like to say I enjoyed camp that summer, I can honestly say I left at the end of the half not believing I would return the following year. My friend Marcus left, but thanks to some convincing by James and my mother I was set to return in 2014. This was the first year that I enjoyed camp. I knew what to expect from tripping, I didn't bring a cotton hoodie, and I befriended Seneca Carrie during a one on one archery optional period, removing the greatest danger to my wellbeing that summer, although I doubt he remembers that year very much anyway.

But I was still definitely not a pathfinder person. This was the first year where I really heard the term, and felt like I wasn't it. I was always nervous for trips, I preferred my tent to optionals and cared the most about getting my horseshoes AA

... But I wanted to be one: in 2014 Raffa and Ben Richardson took me on trips I enjoyed deeply and made me enjoy canoe tripping. I thought Tareq was the funniest man alive, and that began my summer of trying to learn everything I could about this place. A big motivation for my return year after year was just to see what else I could discover on this island, what secrets I was promised would be revealed to me

.... I began to love existing in a world of storytelling, where the only way to know anything was to hear it from someone else, and nothing could be uncovered alone. Learning the stories of every little part of the island has always been important to me on a personal level, and it all began during this year when I realized I wanted to be a part of the story of the island.

2015 was the year I really wanted to be a pathfinder person, because this year I tripped with Arch Fraser and Timo Krapf, and stayed at an outpost on Burntroot with Warren and Babs ... This was also the year I began to feel more attached to the island and the people on it, but I still felt out of place. I enjoyed tripping, but I always felt like other people loved it more. I can't remember if this was the year I started carrying the axe or not, but this was the first year I put in effort to try and become the person up here that I wanted to be. My staff seemed to know it all, and this was the year I knew I was going to be one of them.

2016 was similar to 2015, except this was the year I realized I wanted to be a headman, mostly from talking to Riley and having him say that word for word. I also teepeed for a second man on trip to give him breaks during portages while Riley carried a double ribber, which helped make that distinction even more clear. 2016 is also important to me as the first year where I began to try and preserve camp for the offseason, to make it part of my day to day. I started trying to take mental snapshots of moments throughout my trips that half to preserve them for the rest of the year. This was also the first year where I cried when I had to go home, looking at the stars on the canoe dock after Ambrose

... Camp was a part of my personality now, and while it influenced me before it began to define my year more and more, especially as I prepared myself to spend even more time up here with my first full season the following year ...

...To anyone still yet to go on your AA trip: take a good journal, you won't want to forget a day, and don't be scared. There's no reason to be. 30 days will pass in an instant and leave you wanting more, and if you let it it will more than make your year.

And then I was staff: I felt completely unprepared and behind my peers. I'd never tried very hard to get better as a camper when it felt like they all had.

I did not feel like the ideal pathfinder person in any way, and could barely carry a canoe on the training trip. I had set expectations of myself as high ahead of my abilities as Warren was above 12 year old me on Burntroot all that time ago, and with over 20 other CITs to compete it was hard to feel noticed. I guess I did a good job, because they put me on an 8 day as the only 3rd man, but my expectations at the time for myself were high and I always felt my peers were somehow ahead of me, a common theme throughout my career here at Pathfinder.

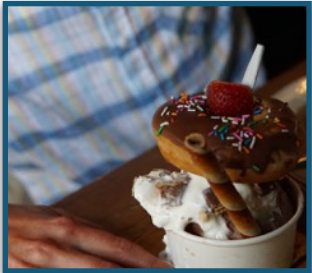
Being a second man was mostly fantastic, except for some trouble at the beginning. I loved being back here after the hiatus of covid and it helped me appreciate camp even more than I already did. I hung out with all my friends from my year, who I was ecstatic to see, and then I had the opportunity to go on the French River. This was also the year I finally started to believe that I belonged here.

And since 2022 I've been a headman. I've stayed here longer than I ever thought I would 10 years ago, and I've been happier in all the time I've spent up here than I have been anywhere else. But despite all my time here I'm still not the ideal pathfinder person. I make mistakes often, but I try to learn from them. I haven't given up on trying to be the ideal, but I have a healthier relationship with my push towards it now, and see it more as a part of my personal philosophy rather than a checklist, because the ideal pathfinder person doesn't exist.

There is no such thing as perfection on this island, because what makes this place special is imperfection. We all share in our own stories of personal growth, our own struggles, but do so together in the most positive environment that I have had the pleasure of being a part of.

Everyone grows at their own rate, and while this place can help you, don't let your expectations of yourself become a source of anxiety, give up, or make you believe you don't belong here, because even if you don't now, you will.

LIFE ON THE ISLAND



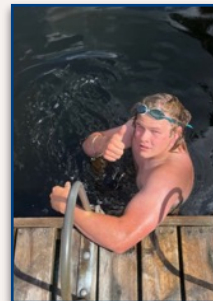
FROM THE SWIM DOCK

VIRGINIA BOYER, WATERFRONT DIRECTOR

This past summer was what camp is meant to be. From the moment the campers ran down for Big Moment swim tests, I could feel their infectious energy bringing the island to life. In my first year as Waterfront Director, I was thrilled to be joined by the amazing swim staff, Ella Born, Leigh Moeser, and Erin Iserhoff. We had a blast putting our own spin on camp's swim program. This summer, we had more programmed swimming than the past few years—a change that allowed us to give more instruction and further develop the campers' swimming skills. This added time also enabled more “silly swimming” periods for the younger campers and more 20-foot-tower jumps for the older campers.

We awarded an amazing number of swimming AAs (activity awards) as campers worked diligently on their strokes, dives, and endurance. For the first time in years, we even had a camper earn his level 5 swimming AA—congrats Joseph Caby! At the end of the summer, the campers that earned their level 4s were allowed to “pie a swim staff” as their reward. As campers keep progressing next summer, I look forward to many more pies in the face!

Our annual swimming and paddling competition, Regatta, was a blast as always, with incredible teamwork across the age groups and a record-breaking Biggest Splash competition. Although swimming in an (at times) cold and dark lake is not always everyone's favorite activity, we saw incredible improvement in campers' skill and comfort in the water. Thank you to all of the Loons for their silliness, the Ravens for their work ethic, the Bears for their humor, the AAs for being a breath of fresh air, and the LITs for setting a great example. Thank you to Ella, Leigh, and Erin, who made this summer such a success. Finally, thank you to the parents who trusted us with your kiddos, I hope to see all of you at Big Moment next year!



PATHFINDER CANOE TRIPPING

ANDREW BEECHER, DIRECTOR OF CANOE TRIPPING

The tripping program in 2023 was one for the books. We had 62 trips head deep into the backcountry of Ontario and Quebec, paddling 30 different rivers and an uncountable number of lakes and ponds. Our crews totaled 415 days of tripping! A particularly ambitious group of Ravens went out for 14 days – tying the record set in 2017 for longest trip by that age group. Loons paddled and portaged all over Algonquin Park, as they braved the waves on Opeongo and explored the caves at Rock. In another corner of the province, the AAs battled winds on Weagamow Lake before reaching North Caribou Lake and paddling down the Paseminon River – the first time Pathfinder has used this route to travel from the Windigo River to the Pipestone River.

This year also saw the return of Bear campers setting out on whitewater trips after a COVID hiatus. Their routes included many of the classics: the Coulonge – Noire, Kipawa – Dumoine, and Spanish – Killarney. Though it wasn't all wave trains and eddy lines, as boys also set out on notoriously difficult flat-water routes like an 18-day Meanest Link trip and a 17-day Tour de Parc. Our second half AAs ventured to Temagami for 14 days, where they waded up rivers and camped next to waterfalls. Ravens got as far away as Kiosk, and Loons made it to places like North Tea and the always-loved Pardee waterslides.

This year was the second year of LIT program, getting another year of guys ready to take on the challenges of being trip staff next summer. Their crew paddled the French River, Georgian Bay, Killarney, the Madawaska River, and all over Algonquin Park.

The canoe tripping program has always been the core of the Pathfinder experience and the roots of our culture. We trip in our own style, almost always in our signature red cedar-canvas canoes. Pathfinder canoe trips are tough, there's no way around it. We go far and move fast, pushing ourselves to new limits – both mental and physical. They're also a lot of fun. Swimming in cool lakes on hot days, paddling past moose and turtles, cooking meals over the fire, listening to the loons while you watch the sunset, playing camouflage on the campsite, telling jokes in the pontoon, and laughing so hard you gasp for breath. Suddenly that portage you thought you'd never see the end of doesn't seem so bad, and you've already forgotten about the weight of the axe pack. The bonds we build out on the trail hold fast through the long off-season, when we spend the winter dreaming up new trips with old friends. Canoe tripping – and all the challenges and rewards that come with it – are what makes Pathfinder so special.

This summer was my 15th at Pathfinder, fifth as a headman, as first as Director of Tripping. In my first summer as the DOT, it was tough at times to stand on the dock and watch as trips paddled away knowing I was unable to join them. But the most rewarding part of the job was listening to the trips returning. From my desk in the Trading Post, I could hear the voices of happy campers causing chaos in the compass room as they hurriedly unpacked while they told stories about all the fun they had out on the trail. The credit goes to this season's staff – an incredible roster of caring, compassionate, and tough-as-nails headmen, secondmen, and CITs who made sure that no matter the weather, route, or obstacle, the campers were going to have smiles on their faces.

The summer of 2023 was an incredible season of canoe tripping at Pathfinder, and I'll be working hard from the DOT winter office in Park City to make 2024 even better.



LIT PROGRAM

SIMON JEENS, LIT DIRECTOR

The L.I.T (Leaders in Training) summer is Camp's newest program and its biggest step in staff training. Over the entirety of the summer, the L.I.T.s are learning and growing into what Camp Pathfinder idolizes as staffers and canoe trippers. The difference between the beginning of the summer and end is outstanding. Each of the boys grew so much confidence in just these two months.

This summer we got to embark on three canoe trips. Our first was traveling down the French River to Georgian Bay where we paddled to Killarney and explored that beautiful provincial park. The LITS then got to experience their first 'official' staff training with Mark Orzel at Palmer Rapids, where they earned ORKA Moving Water Certifications. After gaining confidence in moving water, we travelled down the Madawaska River for a week shooting rapids and learning river travel.

Once returning, we put all our paddling and portaging skills together and went on a hard trip through out Algonquin Park for 10 days. Our last day of tripping was one to remember, ask any of the boys and they will agree.

The LIT summer is unlike any I have be a part of in my years at Pathfinder. As a Director alongside Simon McNamee, this was far and away the most rewarding summer seeing growth from day one to the end of the LIT season. It makes me very excited to see what these boys will accomplish next summer as CITs, and what future years will add to the program.



AA TRIPPING PROGRAM

BEN ZIEF, AA TRIP HEADMAN

The AA trip program is almost as old as camp itself, and like most things, age has improved the experience of the AA's every summer. Summer '23 was no exception, with a tight-knit full-AA group of six boys having the opportunity to bathe in the salty waters of Hudson Bay. To get there was no easy feat, we encountered days of paddling 50 kilometers, wind, rain, and cold that seemingly wouldn't relent until we crawled into our sleeping bags, and portages that took us across watersheds into the trail-less bush of the north. These arduous acts were merely burdensome necessities of Canadian shield canoe travel, allowing us to reach the lazy rivers of the Hudson Bay lowlands. Relative to the age of this planet, the 'ancient' rivers we travel are so young. It's cool that we even get to experience them as they are, with all their tribulations and triumphs.

AA campers who did not come for a full season also experienced Pathfinder-Style canoe tripping in beautiful areas such as in Temagami and the Dumoine River in Zec Kippewa. For most of the boys these experiences came after years of attending camp and serve as a capstone for their career as a camper. As former Director of Canoeing Kathryn Babin once said, "The best part about learning is that we can do hard things", and these boys used the skills they gained as younger campers to make the hard life on the trail more enjoyable for themselves, their peers, and the staff who guided them. My favorite part of leading our canoe trip was watching the campers shift their approach to the trip: they evolved from thinking of it as an experience given to them by camp and their staff towards an opportunity to make the trip their own, with their own jokes, games, and connection to the land we traveled on.

To take a step back and look at the AA program without a camp lens is an activity we rarely do at Pathfinder. Sending 9-12 men into remote territory with little to no other human contact for over a month may seem a bit odd ... at best. However, ask any one of the campers or staff when they come back if they would do it again, maybe after a shower, and you would know from the light in their eyes the answer.



COUNSELORS IN TRAINING PROGRAM

NELL BRUCKNER AND CHRISTIAN KOLAGA, CIT DIRECTORS

This year, Christian and I had the privilege of heading the CIT program and had an absolute blast doing so. Getting to show our youngest staff the ropes while simultaneously leading fantastic trips of our own allowed us to get the best of both worlds in our in-camp and on-trip leadership roles. I had the pleasure of leading five of our oldest campers on a 14 day trip through Temagami (with the help of two of our awesome CIT's, Lleyton Rossi and Jack Cutler), while Christian embarked on an epic 17 day trip that I'll let him tell you all about next. I just want to say thank you to the CIT parents for the opportunity to teach, learn from, and lead with your boys, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone back next summer!

— NELL

I had a great time directing the CITs with Nell this summer! During 2022, I co-led the inaugural LIT trip on Lake Superior, and it was really exciting to lead the CITs this summer after seeing many of them grow as LITs the year before. As Nell mentioned, I did lead a 17 day trip during the second half of camp, during which I got to paddle and explore the Coulonge and Noire rivers in Quebec with 6 of the Bear campers (age 14). During first half I did two 5 day trips in Algonquin Park, both with CITs who had never tripped with campers before. It was a real pleasure to teach those guys what it's like to be staff on a Pathfinder trip, and I learned a lot myself about teaching young staff about camp. I can't wait to see all of the CITs back next summer as secondmen!

— CHRISTIAN



This summer at Pathfinder was a success for the Counselors in Training Program. The CITs were introduced to being camp staff during staff week, full of hard skills practice, bronze cross training, and soft skills workshops. They spent the first few days of camp getting to know their campers and completing Wilderness First Aid Training.

The CITs who participated in the LIT program were entrusted with trip staff roles right away, while the CITs who missed their LIT year staffed trips led by CIT directors Christian and Nell in order to learn the ropes of guiding a trip with campers.

During the changeover break between first and second half, the CITs went to Palmer rapids and earned their ORCKA Level 1 certification for whitewater canoeing, instructed by experienced guide Mark Orzel.

As the summer continued, the CITs did lots of tripping, staffing trips on the Petawawa and Spanish Rivers, in Temagami and throughout Algonquin Park. This year's CIT class was an integral part of the trip staff for the summer of 2023, and will be crucial as members of the Pathfinder staff for years to come.



PATHFINDER CANOE TRIPS



PATHFINDER ANNUAL CANOE RACES

JOE LIGHTNING

The Joe Lightning Race is a Pathfinder tradition going on since the 1990s. Every year at the end of our camp season, red cedar boats line up at the motorboat dock on August 19th for a paddle and portage sprint to landlock and back.

Racers run a bushy tree-fallen section of the railed narrowly avoiding bumping each others boats before their final paddle back to the cheering campers and staff awaiting them at the motorboat dock finish line.

This years race was between 21 pairs of racers including Headmen, Secondmen, CITs, LITs, AAs and Directors of Program, Tripping, Waterfront, Canoe, CITs and LITs. We also had 3 boats of brothers racing together - bravo to all who competed!

1st Place: Ben Zief & Aidan Walters - 37:11

3rd & 4th Year Headmen, our 2023 AA Trip Headmen

2nd Place: Simon McNamee & Paige Clark - 37:20

LIT Director/Dir. of Facilities & Program Director

3rd Place: CJ Lenahan & Evan Popat - 37:26

3rd Year Headmen, Coulange & Dumoine Trip Headmen

GLM AROUND THE HORN

The George Leiderhaus Memorial Race is an annual October camp reunion and fundraiser for Pathfinder Headmen and senior staff. GLM raises money for the Algonquin Campership Fund, a fund providing camper scholarships to kids and school groups in need of financial assistance for camp.

The three day fall-foliage event is based around a multi-hour hour race 'Around the Horn' (Camp - Little Source - Ouse - Smoke - Little Island - Tanamakoon - Found - Camp Road - Home) That evening, we celebrate a Canadian Thanksgiving feast followed by awards. The race winners stamp their names onto the GLM cup, and the second place winners who are generous to be awarded the task of doing all of our dishes. The 'Heart and Courage Award' is given to one or more people who showed great heart and a dedication to Pathfinder throughout their time with us. The event is a wonderful reunion of friends and colleagues and a tradition we see continuing for years to come.

1st Place: Warren McDermott & Simon McNamee

Former and Current Headmen - 1 hr 56 min

GUIDES RACE

The Cache Lake Leaserholder's Regatta is put on annually in front of the old Highland Inn grounds on Cache, home to our ACF sister camp Camp Northway. For decades the Regatta has taken place there, and in the mid-20th century Pathfinder would take place in many of their wonderful canoe themed events. In recent years, a few of our headmen take the morning to head over to Cache and race in their Cache-Railbed canoeing and portaging race, 'The Guide's Race'.

The race involves paddling the long stretch of Cache lake channels, rounding the Northway point and swim dock, continuing past the Cache train tressle ruins, running the thin railbed path, and speed paddling back to the finish line. After a few years away from the race due to Covid, Pathfinder returned this year with one canoe. Senior Headman Simon McNamee and Rookie Headman Max Crocker were awarded second place.

Thank you to our Cache Lake friends for a wonderful time! See you next year.



CAMP REUNION STAFF SPEECH

SIMON MCNAMEE, HEADMAN, DIR. OF LITS / DIR. OF FACILITIES

EXCERPTS FROM SIMON'S SPEECH TOUCHING ON HIS PATH TO CAMP, AND CAMP'S PATH THROUGH COVID AND INTO THE FUTURE.

... After a couple years at camp, I have heard all the stories of my peers having brothers and fathers and grandfathers, uncles and cousins who all attended Pathfinder. Hearing about all the connections that run so deep here at Pathfinder, I asked my Mom what drew her to sending her 11 year old son to an island in Algonquin Park not knowing anybody or anything about it. She told me that after searching many canoe tripping camps in the region one camp stood out. On the website at the time there was a bio about every staff. Hometown, field of study, school, years at camp, etc. My mom was taken away by the diversity of the staff here at Pathfinder...something that hasn't changed. Pathfinder has always been a melting pot. It's this wonderful space where people from all over can come and find common ground out in the wilderness of Algonquin Park. She believed that this would be the perfect environment for her son to find mentors and be exposed to all different kinds of personalities and people... and as moms often are, she was right.

Fast forward 14 years later to earlier this Spring. I was working on the waterfront porch when a family came by on a tour. They mentioned they were from Ottawa so I dropped my tools and decided to give a helping hand with the tour, since I was also from Ottawa. I started talking with the mom about her 10 year old son and she started telling me about her family legacy at Ahmek. How she had meet her husband there and they had a multi generation legacy. Despite all this, they decided to send their son somewhere else. I asked her what attracted them to Pathfinder. They had friends who recommended Pathfinder but also some other camps in the region; but one thing that stands out from any other camp. On our website still lies this magical list of faces, names and backgrounds.

Rochester, Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo, Spain, France, Mexico, California...Engineers, Mathematicians, Musicians, Economists, Outdoor Educators, Nurses, Historians, Lawyers...

There truly is no other Staff like the one that gathers here every summer to give boys the summer of a lifetime.

Enter COVID-19. 2020: Camp was closed for the first time ever. A small staff crew tended to the island. Then came 2021: A year of cohorts and masking. A year without our American campers. A year of massive influx in new campers who knew nothing about Pathfinder culture and traditions. A year of difficulty but a year that took so much energy and effort on behalf of our Director to even happen at all.

I remember sitting on the PX porch with all of 2021 spring crew, listening to an impending announcement from Doug Ford about the fate of summer camps. I remember Sladds turning to us and saying "prepare yourself, theres a chance this might not happen". I remember when the decision was made to push to start of camp back. I remember so many hurdles thrown at us and I know there are so many more I am not aware of. Sladds worked day and night for us and his efforts are the primary reason we found a way through COVID here at camp. We will forever be thankful to him, because despite all these hurdles, he made it happen.

As a group, we pushed through. We made the adjustment and we knew this year would be difficult. Making it happen was the only thing that mattered to us. We stuck with it as Pathfinder people always do when put in a difficult situation, we don't go backwards, we only go forwards.

I won't lie, 2021-2022 was difficult. But are we ever glad that Pathfinder opened in 2021 because it gave us the chance to start putting the pieces back together. We worked through difficult tripping and acceptance, we worked through learning about mental health in both our campers and staff. We worked with outside sources, mental health professionals and camp psychologists, to make sure we were putting our best foot forward. We learned and grew a lot as a community and are still learning to be better.

... In 2020 the trails we all walk here everyday at Pathfinder started fading away. It took 1 year for the trail to start fading and dissolving back into the bush. Imagine what that year did to our culture and traditions here on the island? As summers 2021, 2022 and finally 2023 came and went, it's starting to be hard to notice that year. The trails are back to being that dust like brown that so perfectly carve a path through the island. The lost turbo balls are staring to pile up in the woods again. The dining hall tables are starting to break again from all that summer cheer.

I am now very happy to start talking to you about the year that was 2023.

This year saw the biggest spring crew in Pathfinder history. By the third week of May we had over 20 headman on the island helping with the spring program. Sladds made sure that staff were able to get that time on the island surrounded by peers, conversing and learning about what the summer and future hold for them and camp. We now have a larger group who have inherited this knowledge of what it takes to make the summer happen. Being able to share the island with so many young headman early on in the spring helped bridge the gap lost in the COVID summers.

Transparency and openness are extremely important to the future of camp as we saw this year. Staff week became easier, friendships between years became stronger, and the staff and camper unit became one. The idea that every member of the staff is valued and important is so crucial toward a productive, trusting and free flowing summer. Cohorts and masks became a thing of the past. Tripping became easier. Groups became stronger. Fun became a regular part of everyday life at camp. Smiling was the new normal. Everyone felt empowered in being part of this Pathfinder summer.

Pathfinder is not trying to find its way out of COVID anymore. Pathfinder is now again thriving and leading the way as the best tripping camp in Algonquin Park.

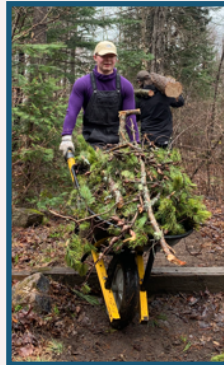
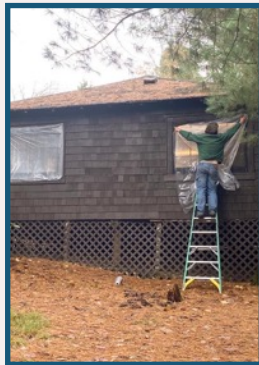
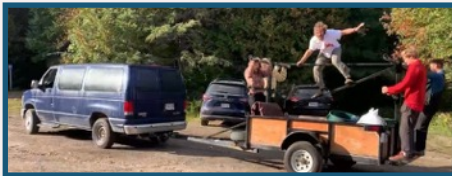
SPRING AND FALL POWERCREW

A DIVE INTO WHAT OUR SHOULDER SEASON CREW GETS UP TO

While camp is traditionally a summer event, Pathfinder staff work and run events through the Spring and Fall 'shoulder seasons' to get camp up and running, as well as shut down and ready for a snowy Canadian winter. Spring crew, for the last 3 decades, is comprised of 6-10 senior camp staff who arrive on May 1st and work tirelessly through to June staff week to prep for summer and run school groups. (this year we saw a record breaking number of spring crew staff, numbering over 15 by May 17th.)

Spring crews work powercrew days: chopping fallen trees from the windy winter, rebuilding structures, building new tents, setting up water systems, putting up canvas, opening buildings, placing docks and floaters, setting up activity areas, window glazing, seeding and watering the ballfield, ropes course training and set up, emptying the rec lodge of canoes and setting up canoe dock, fixing boats, repairing vans and bikes, and the list goes on... On top of this, they run multiple school group 4-5 day stays, giving them the camp experience through canoe training, day trips, ropes course, evening activities, swim time and even overnight canoe trips. To top it off, they run weddings, corporate events, and Spruce Root every two years.

Fall crew powercrew days: splitting cedar for kindling, filling Lodge 1 with kayaks, sailboats and SUP boards, removing and storing all tent canvas, cleaning and shutting down all lodges, van repair and tuner storage, boat repair, paddling and storing all canoes into the rec lodge, window glazing, painting buildings and floors, installing support beams throughout the Dining Hall, storing cots and mattresses, sweeping roofs, deconstructing the swim tower and swim dock, moving all docks and floaters to the Burma Trail shoreline, emptying and cleaning the grey water trap and grease trap, setting up the PX with cooking supplies and re-arranging for winter use, capping chimneys, clearing out program areas, plastic windows, and once again...the list goes on. Fall Crew also hosts 4-5 day school groups, weddings and camp reunions. Fall is always a wonderful opportunity to see a stunning orange and yellow Algonquin fall and see the island become quiet once again for another winter.



SPRING AND FALL SCHOOL PROGRAM

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CLASSROOM...

Allendale Columbia School's 2023 trip to Camp Pathfinder marked my tenth consecutive year of organizing and chaperoning this annual seventh-grade event. Allendale Columbia, located in Rochester, NY, has been making the trek to Source Lake each year since 1999, with a short hiatus during Covid. As the trip coordinator, I am able to witness firsthand the positive impact such an adventure has on our students. In a culture dominated by technology, it is vital for our students to have the opportunity to unplug from their electronic devices for a few days and immerse themselves in nature.

Some students who go on the trip are leaving home or Rochester for the first time. They are scared and uncertain about what to expect. Others are experts in the outdoors and look forward to spending time in the wilderness. There are students in between who love a challenge or who have been camping with their families a few times. Regardless, I believe every young person who goes to Camp Pathfinder comes back changed to some degree.

The seventh-graders have the privilege of spending five days with one another in an environment where they work together, develop new skills, practice their independence, solve problems, gain self-confidence and self-awareness, learn to deal with adversity, and build greater respect for the natural world. Old friendships are strengthened, new friendships are formed, and leaders emerge from unexpected sources. I am passionate about helping our young people grow through outdoor education. As a middle school English teacher, I also love to use this trip to teach a nature writing unit in my seventh-grade classes. I always get some of the students' best work from this project.

The profound beauty of Algonquin Provincial Park becomes our classroom and teacher for the week we are there. We stand in awe of its tapestry of autumn leaves, its spellbinding sunsets, and the immense magnificence of its night sky. Its history fascinates us, and its very existence reminds us that there are havens of peace in this ever-more chaotic world.

We want to say thank you again to Will Hopkins, Paige Clark, and the rest of the wonderful camp staff who helped make this year's trip a truly memorable experience.

And, of course, our gratitude would not be complete without recognizing Mike Sladden for all of his years of welcoming us to Camp Pathfinder. His connection as an Allendale Columbia alum makes our memories of working with him that much more special. Thank you, Sladds, and congratulations on your retirement!

AARON SHEPARD
LEAD ALLENDALE CHAPERONE

SPRING GROUPS

World of Inquiry HS
Wilson/Franklin Outdoor Club
City Honors HS
Rockford Elementary School

FALL GROUPS

Nichols School
Buffalo Seminary 11th Grade
Strata Montessori
Elmwood Franklin Middle
Orchard Park Family Weekend
Allendale Columbia School



CANOE TRIPS THIS SEASON



1. Return of the King - 17 days
2. All Quiet on the Waterfront - 5 days
3. Unlicensed and Unhinged - 4 days
4. The Meanest Link - 18 days
5. The Legend Lives on from Sunnyvale on Down - 4 days
6. Not This Again, Fred? - 6 days
7. Simonbob Squarepants - 2 days
8. Windigo - Pipestone - Ashewieg - Fawn - Severn - 38 days
9. 18:22:13, Maybe the Other Way is Faster? - 7 days
10. Could it be the North Wind They'd Been Feelin? - 2 days
11. Sorry for Pardee Rocking - 4 days
12. Got Milk? - 4 days
13. Mosquitos Love me, Fish Fear Me - 5 days
14. It Was a Dark and Stormy Nell - 3 days
15. Eighty-Two and None of Them Were French - 11 days
16. The Microburst - 3 days
17. When the Boss Goes to Town - 11 days
18. The Armada Sails Down the Spanish - 10 days
19. Sweeping Out the Tent - 2 days
20. Symptomatic Arguments - 5 days
21. The Quest for the Missing Organ - 5 days
22. Underground Rush - 6 days
23. On Belay - 7 days
24. Walking to Cole's - 6 days
25. These aren't the Loons You're Looking For - 3 days
26. Episode III: Revenge of the Loons - 5 days
27. Episode V: The Loons Strike Back - 3 days
28. Episode VI: Return of the Mac - 4 days
29. If Nautical Nonsense Be Something You Wish - 7 days
30. Did the Dinosaurs Make Jokes About Meteors? What Do You Call Spherical Pasta? Global Boiling. - 3 days
31. UpperSternDecks at 130bpm - 5 days
32. Quebec Makes Me Wanna Shout - 17 days
33. Ottersliding Into the DMs - 4 days
34. Keep Your Irises Away from the Sunbeams - 4 days
35. Lyrical Nightmare - 4 days
36. Treatise Twenty-Seven - 6 days
37. Le tour de Parc - 17 days
38. Run Like the Ox - 8 days
39. The Galipo River? Can I Bring a SUP? - 6 days
40. Necks and Shoulders and Ankles, Oh My! - 2 days
41. Absentee DOW - 3 days
42. Arnold Palmer - 5 days
43. Mushroom Madness - 4 days
44. Go Get Chris P. Bruschetta We've Tied the Record! - 14 days
45. Researchers Gone Rogue - 5 days
46. Back Again with the White Van - 3 days
47. Full Circle - 14 days
48. Cecilia Calls This One Bob - 3 days
49. On 15 Make a Cool Trip Name - 10 days
50. Ravioli Ravioli, Get Me the Formuoli - 10 days
51. Joe Police's Most Wanted - 9 days
52. Don't Trip - 7 days
53. ChatGPT Made This One - 6 days
54. Mutt & Jeff Go Tripping - 6 days
55. Sam Start Outfitting Dude - 7 days
56. Colorado to Camp Pipeline or Camp to Colorado Pipeline? - 4 days
57. Screenwriter's Vacation - 5 days
58. Canoe Shop After Dark - 5 days
59. Directors Directly Directing Directions - 3 days
60. Pardee in the USA - 4 days
61. Will the New Boss Still Get Us Things in Town? - 3 days
62. 2 days - I Want to Wake Up in the Morning... Where the Pine and Balsam Grow, Where the Loons are Calling and the Sun is Shining and the Whole World Says Hello! I Want to Tramp on All Those Blaze Trails Underneath My Old Canoe, For It's Here at Old Pathfinder Where the Days are Never Blue; I Want to Go Back Every Summer to the Camp on Old Source Lake (Source Lake!), Where the Wolves are Howling and the Fox is Barking and the Bugler Bids Me Wake; I Want to Tramp on All Those Blaze Trails with a Tumpline on My Head, and When the Sun Sets Over the Hilltop, Turn to My Balsam Bed

A LOOK AT OUR NUMBERS...

WE CRUNCHED THE NUMBERS FOR SPRING SUMMER AND FALL

DOGS: 12

SUMMER CANOE TRIPS: 62

FISH CAUGHT: 30 +

TURBO GAMES: 14

MISSING MUGS: 23

MEALS EATEN: 504

RIVERS PADDLED: 30

DOUBLE RAINBOWS: 4

ZIPS ON ZIP LINE: 400+

TOWN RUNS: 32

MOOOOOOSE!: 9

STAFF: 80

ALUMNI IN RES: 8

CANVAS TENTS: 35

AAS: 15

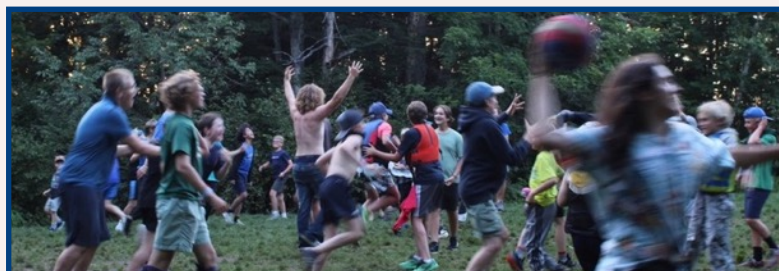
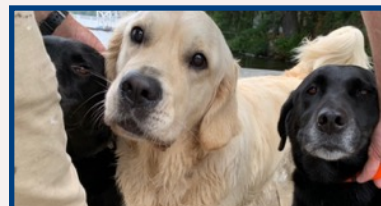
LITS: 8

CITS: 12

DAY TRIPS: 27

SCHOOL GROUPS: 9

DAYS ON THE ISLAND: 167



PINE MARTINS: 2

MESSAGE TO GARCIAS: 9

AWARD WINNERS:

FLAGPOLES: 232

G-RUNS: 145

TOWER JUMPS: 600+

HEADMEN: 30

ROOKIE HEADMEN: 7

SECONDMEN: 6

DAYS TRIPPING: 415

LOST TURBO BALLS: 7

9 OLD MEN: 9 ;)

LBS OF HO CHO: 60

LOON CAMPERS: 79

RAVEN CAMPERS: 76

BEAR CAMPERS: 51

NEW CAMPERS: 73

BAGS OF LAUNDRY: 243

BOWLS OF CEREAL: 2,000

CORNUTS EATEN: 68,000

NEXT SEASON'S CALENDAR SO FAR

SPRING

May 1 Spring Crew arrives!	June 10 – 17 Wilderness First Responder Course
May 16 – 21 World of Inquiry HS	June 18 – 19 Wilderness Water Safety Course
May 22-23 Ont. Search & Rescue Training	June 20 – 23 Headmen's Palmer Rapids ORCKA Training
May 20 – 25 Vermont Commons School	June 24 All junior staff arrive Pathfinder
May 24 – 28 Wilson-Franklin	June 25 Staff Week 2024 !
May 31 – June 2 Spruce Root V	June 30 Second Men Palmer Rapids Training
June 6 – 9 City Honors HS	
June 11 – 14 Rockton Elem. School	



SUMMER

July 1 Big Moment 2024	July 27 Big Moment II !
July 6 – 9 Family Camp July	Aug. 1- 4 Family Camp August
July 8 1-Weeker Session End	Aug. 3 1- Weeker Session End
July 13 Two-Weeker A Session Changeover Session B Begins!	Aug. 8 Two-Weeker C Session Changeover Session D Begins!
July 24 LITs / CITs Palmer Rapids Training Ambrose Zilney Awards Banquet and Film	Aug. 16 All Trips In!
July 25 First Half Ends	Aug. 19 Awards Banquet 2024
July 26 Changeover	Aug. 20 Second Half Ends



FALL

Aug. 22 – 25 Bonnor/Goodwin Wedding	Sept. 13-15 Shaible - Keskikyla Wedding
Aug. 26 – 29 Nichols School	Sept. 19 – 22 OP Dads Weekend
Aug. 29 – Sept. 1 Buffalo Seminary	Oct. 7 – 12 Allendale Columbia School
Sept. 3 – 7 Strata Montessori School	Oct. 12 – 14 23rd Annual George Liederhaus Memorial Race
Sept. 9 – 13 Elmwood Franklin School	Oct. 15 Camp Close-Up Begins



HOW WE STAY CONNECTED

INSTAGRAM

Follow @camppathfinder for photos, videos and information. Stay up to date with posts throughout our spring - fall season each year, as well as throughout the winter off season.

EMAIL

Have questions? Want to say hello? Contact us and welcome our new Director Will Hopkins at whopkins@camppathfinder.com

STAFF CONTACT

Looking to reach out to a staff member? Ask for their contact information by emailing us...
whopkins@camppathfinder.com
mike@camppathfinder.com
glennarthurs@gmail.com

CAMP POSTER

Campers and staff - keep an eye on your mailbox if you haven't already received your annual poster, a tradition capturing a moment in the camp season.

HOLIDAY CARD

The Holiday season is here! Keep a space on your fridge open for our annual camp Holiday card coming to your mailbox this Holiday Season.

POST CARDS

Per tradition, each winter our trip staff send out a post card to their canoe trippers. Check your mailbox!

PHOTOS

Head to our [Camp Pathfinder 'Smugmug'](#) page to see all photos from this past season, as well as previous seasons, events, and camp albums.

VIDEOS

Check out amazing trip videos, camp videos, and of course our classic Pathfinder drone video on either of our video platforms.
[Pathfinder Vimeo](#) [Pathfinder YouTube](#)

WEBSITE

Visit camppathfinder.com to see news updates and enroll for next year and learn about our camp, staff, traditions and more.

