



ALGONQUIN CAMBERSHIP FUND

2021 Annual Appeal

Dear Friends of Camps Pathfinder and Northway,

As we sat down to write this letter, we realized all at once how much there is to say about a year unlike any other our camps have had to face in their 100+ year histories. Perhaps it would be safer to say the shutdown of the 2020 season was the hardest our community has ever faced. Instead of children's joyful laughter bouncing off the pines, only wind and wild creatures passed between the trees-- if anyone was there to hear them. Collectively, America and Canada continued to face harsh realities about our culture and society, and horrendous truths regarding our pasts. But, dare we say it, 2021 proved harder still.

While many camps didn't make it to the other side of the pandemic, our beloved Pathfinder and Northway persevered. As always, they found the courage, strength, and expertise to operate safely and wholly this season and once again laughter and stories by the fire resounded throughout the park. With shorter dining hall tables and trips kept to small cohorts, the life-changing experiences of summer camp resumed-- not without raising questions and highlighting the opportunity of how we can all build back our camp culture better than ever before.

At Algonquin Campership Fund, our mission has always been to provide financial assistance to children so they may experience outdoor education and leadership through attending traditional canoe tripping camps in Algonquin Park, Canada. We envision a world where all children, regardless of circumstance, have access to outdoor camping experiences and carry with them the skills to be the future leaders in environmental stewardship. We also know now, that beyond affording youth these experiences, we must carry the spirit of Algonquin to our local communities, share the history and knowledge of the peoples who land we live, eat, and canoe through, and work even harder to ensure that outdoor recreation experiences of all kinds are not limited by our own homegrown biases.

Thank you to our Standing Committee Members:

*Kathryn McDermott, Callum McCance, Jim Coakley, Mary Lee Scalise, Pamela Thompson,
Daniel Kennedy, Wyatt Arthurs, Laura Shaw, Whitney Brice, Bill Shaw*

Our campers and our communities need your support to help them make it to those beloved shorelines, to learn that our strength lies in our differences, and that no matter where we come from or what our experience level is, we all deserve to know the lessons life in the park can teach us. As families continue to face financially trying times and change is happening across Canada and the U.S., we are 100% committed to ensuring that every young person who wants to attend summer camp has the funding to do so. If you know a young person who could benefit from a camp experience and a campership, send them our way. Our camp community makes us stronger and we rely on your commitment to help us achieve our mission.

As 2021 comes to a close, your charitable gift to ACF can be the reason a child goes to camp. Giving is easy! Choose from an option below:

1. Click to ACF's online giving option, at www.racf.org/ACFund
2. Mail your gift directly to: Community Foundation, 500 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14607. Please make your check out to Algonquin Campership Fund.

All gifts are tax deductible and giving before Dec. 31 will be key! You may direct your funds exclusively to 2021 award use or to the endowment, or by default split your gift 50/50. In many cases, your generosity can also be matched by your employer.

Thank you so very much to all who have given over many years. Please share our work with those in your circle so we can reach more families, and in turn work towards rebuilding our camp! Our camps and our fund are vibrant because of you and all the alumni who keep paddling for Northway and Pathfinder.

Happy Holidays!

Trip Pierson, Foundation Director

