Autumn 2026

THE BIRCH BARK

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Rich Deering '73, Alumni & Community Director • Michael Mattson '83, Camp Director

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF BIRCH ROCK CAMP

100th Celebration Brings Over 400 Birch Rockers to The Hillside

By Seth Brewster '67

In the beginning, Birch Rock Camp was only an idea. In 1923, my grandfather, Bill or "Chief" Brewster, had spent the summer working at Camp Chewonki in Wiscasset, Maine. From that experience, Chief decided boys and young men needed to spend their summers in the Maine woods, exploring, growing, and learning new skills, skills that are not taught in the classroom for the other nine months of the year. So, Chief and his wife, Onie, and Chief's partner, Bartlett Boyden, started to search for the "Promised Land" in western Maine.

For Chief, the land needed certain features: One, it needed to be on the eastern shore of a lake so it would have the afternoon sun and the evening sunset. Two, it needed to be on a hill so the campers would be getting plenty of exercise by walking up and down the hill all day. In 1925, they found the Promised Land: the Sanderson's cow pasture. With a giant rock from which sprouted a pure white birch tree ascending to heaven.

And maybe that's a lesson for us all. Anything from the humblest origins, a cow pasture, can become something special and great, with enough sweat, grit, dedication, and love.

In 1926, Onie and Chief welcomed the first 13 Birch Rock campers. Having built the Lodge and Cabins 1 and 2, their idea sparked into a tiny flame on that recently transformed hillside cow pasture. Over the next

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Seth Brewster, Rich Deering and Mike Herzig

Food, Glorious Food!

By Francie Campbell, P '00s, T '00s

Summer camp is the stuff of keen memories and deep loyalty. Camp food, on the other hand, is the butt of gross-out jokes and childhood dread. Think of campers choking down grayish powdered eggs, scary mystery meat and waterlogged vegetables. Pity the kids with hunger and homesickness pangs that only get worse with each meal.

But thanks to Chef Extraordinaire Jon Allberry, who celebrated his 15th season cooking for Birch Rock, campers and counselors enjoy scrumptious food all summer long.

"I was a little worried maybe it will be like my school lunches, but then I fell in love with camp meals," said camper Hunter. His brother Kieran raved about the Birch Rock Diner-themed meals. Camper Baxter enthused, "What Jon makes is AMAZING." Camper James said everything Jon cooks is "delicious!" and sometimes he goes back for thirds (his sister said her camp's food is nauseating.)



Chef Jon Allberry

James especially loves the 4th of July dinner. BBQ pulled pork sandwiches are counselor Josh's favorite. Head Counselor Peter loves the Sunday fish casserole. Former camper David has fond memories of grilled cheese and tomato soup on rainy days. Chef Jon's Mac n Cheese is a near universal favorite.

Camp Director Mike Mattson said: "Since the days of Chef Albert in Birch Rock's first fifty years, no chef has been as universally loved as Jon. His instinctive understanding of our campers, and the meals they will truly enjoy, is unmatched in the past half century. Each summer, our end-of-season surveys reflect this appreciation, with Jon earning a consistent 5 out of 5 rating. Parents regularly ask for a Birch Rock cookbook,

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FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD...
Continued from Page 1

a testament not only to the quality of his food but to the lasting impression it makes on our camp community."

Staff member Jared pointed out the countless times Jon has woken up to prepare breakfast, "…two hours before the rest of camp so we're greeted with hot cereal and crispy bacon." Jared said what comes to mind about Jon is that he's "quite literally nourishing the community."

Jon, originally from Canton, Massachusetts, moved to Sarasota, Florida at the age of 29 to manage a pizza restaurant. He never had any formal training in cooking, and his first job in food service was making donuts at a Dunkin Donuts in Canton. In 2012 Jon moved to Poland, Maine full time and started at Birch Rock (he had interviewed with then-head chef Paul Wood and they hit it off).

By then Jon had worked at quite a few restaurants and at New College in Sarasota, so he had some experience cooking for large numbers of people.

That first season as Paul Wood's sous chef, Jon quickly became comfortable cooking for a Lodge full of hungry campers and counselors. These days he is typically making 200 meals for 120 people because so many want seconds! Jon is greatly admired for his calm under pressure and his ability to literally take the heat in the kitchen. When the heat and humidity are soaring, Jon and his kitchen staff put towels with cold water on their necks and cook lighter fare. Once dinner is served, Jon can head down for a well-deserved dip in the lake.

Campers and staff love to make requests of Jon (although camper Robben worried, "I think that's putting more weight on his shoulders if I make suggestions"). In fact, Jon is excited to get ideas from campers and staff. One summer a young man from Romania was working in the kitchen. Jon asked him what Romanian dish he missed and the fellow contacted his grandmother for her Chicken Paprikash recipe (in metric units, with cooking methods Jon could not possibly replicate, to serve 6 people). Jon was thrilled by the challenge! He adapted and adjusted and winged it. The pronouncement by the Romanian fellow: "It tastes just like my grandmother's Paprikash!"

And Jon enjoys broadening the tastes of campers. He cooks Chicken Marsala and the boys love it. One camper announced to him: "I didn't even know I liked mushrooms!" Once in a blue moon, an extremely picky eater arrives at Birch Rock. One summer a young boy wouldn't eat a thing his first day and declared himself on a hunger strike. Jon unleashed his secret weapon the next morning: chocolate chip pancakes with whipped cream and maple syrup. The hunger strike ended double quick! Another crisis was averted when a camper from China who didn't speak English wasn't eating. Jon solved the problem by cooking noodles and giving him chopsticks, understanding that the nervous boy didn't have experience with forks.

In the off season, Jon goes back home to Florida and works at least three days a week for a Shriners restaurant and event hall. Jon has long handled catered events for adults, and he brings those skills to Birch Rock to elevate the culinary experience for Camp. Attendees at Birch Rock's Centennial Celebration in August enjoyed Jon's splendid array of Salty Snack hors d'oeuvres.



During his Florida winter, Jon brainstorms for Camp and puts together a file of possible recipes. Even if it's not obvious at first how to cook the dish for an entire camp, Jon loves to puzzle through how to expand and adapt it. "I live for that," mused Jon. He also lives to play his guitar, and during the summer he has a music family in Maine as well as his Birch Rock family, explained Robert "Dancing Owl" Dow, Birch Rock's Nature instructor. Jon and Robert frequently play at Open Mics around the Oxford Hills area, sometimes even together. Jon's repertoire includes Neil Young, James Taylor and The Black Crowes. "He's very talented yet humble," summed up Robert.

Come the first week of June, Jon is back at Birch Rock getting the kitchen ready and cooking for staff as they arrive in waves on the Hillside. He cleans out Albert's Cabin after all those months of being empty and makes himself at home again. "Birch Rock is the best thing that has happened to me in a long time," said Jon. "Here I get appreciated every single day."

That appreciation is voiced by Camp families. One Mom said of Jon, "Thank you for getting my kids to try different foods." Another Mom said that when her boys come home from Birch Rock, "We hear that whatever we are cooking doesn't measure up!"

Camper Baxter empathized: "It looks very hot. It's a very hard job and I'm surprised he can keep it up!" Camper Thomas stated, "I think all the campers really appreciate the time and effort that goes into making such great food!"

Camp Director Mike said, "Jon's the best of the best!" And camper James hit the bull's-eye with his pronouncement: "Camp wouldn't be Camp without Jon's cooking."

A Chat Between Two Old Dogs on McWain Hill About Birch Rock Camp's 100th Anniversary

By Rich Deering and Bob Plate



In the summer of 1926, the very first thirteen Birch Rock campers dipped their paddles into Lake McWain, and lit the first campfire that still glows in our hearts today. BRC and the Plate family have been neighbors for 86 of those 100 years. Rich Deering, BRC Alumni & Community Director, and his McWain Hill neighbor Bob Plate met recently to chat about the history of Birch Rock Camp.

Bob: Thanks for indulging my love of history, Rich! So, let's start at the beginning. What inspired the Brewsters to open a camp?

Rich: *Chief and Onie Brewster, along with Bartlett Boyden, started BRC in 1926. All three came from teaching backgrounds in the Boston area, and Chief and Onie had worked for 3 previous summers at Chewonki, a highly-respected boys camp in Wiscasset. They wanted to develop their own camp and had 3 particular criteria in mind: 1) to the be on eastern shore of a fresh water pond; 2) to be on a hillside where campers could be physically conditioned; and 3) to keep it small in size and exclusively for boys (because that's who they were used to teaching).*

Bob: All of us reading this newsletter (being not the LEAST bit biased) would agree they made an inspired decision with McWain Pond, but how did they come to choose this location?

Rich: *The Brewsters had been searching all through Maine for a suitable location. A friend in South Paris connected them with Helen Sanderson. Helen was a nurse, originally from East Waterford, who in 1923 expanded her summer cottage on McWain Pond into a girls' camp "for the delicate girl", which became known as Camp McWain. Helen introduced the Brewsters to her brother, Burton Sanderson, who had just left a teaching career to return home and take over the family farm on McWain Hill. Burton shared the Brewsters' commitment to education, and agreed to sell the Brewsters an 8-acre parcel of land (now 10) which had been a cow pasture and maple grove. An informal agreement allowed the camp to build a tennis court on Burton's upper hay field, and to use that field and the woods across the road for activities. And later, we were able to add further activities when, around 1997, your father Henry said, "If you need more playing fields, we are happy to open our fields. It's important to have activity and enjoyment, so spread it out."*

Bob: I suspect most folks know the answer to this one, but how did Birch Rock Camp get its name?

Rich: *Native American names were often used for camps at that time, but Chief wanted to do something different. He met with a Norway author of children's adventure stories who suggested naming it after a unique natural feature within the camp. There was a birch tree near the shore which had seeded itself on top of a large boulder… and the rest is history!*

Bob: How big was Birch Rock when it first opened in 1926?



1926 - "Mister Brewster's Tent and group, plus Master Billy Brewster

Rich: *Birch Rock was one of 5 camps on McWain Pond at that time. That first year, we had 5 cabins plus the main lodge, 7 staff members (many of whom were educators who worked with the Brewsters) and 13 campers, adding 13 more campers each year for several successive years. (As a point of comparison, we've now got 33 buildings, and we'll have 42 staff members and 135 campers this year). The waterfront was very rustic, rough and ready, with a main dock and a swim float.*

Bob: What activities did Birch Rock offer in the early days?



1930 Waterfront

Rich: *Swimming was a mandatory activity, because the Brewsters felt it was important not only for conditioning, but also for safety. They wanted kids to feel one with the lake, and confident in their ability to swim. Birch Rock is one of few camps around today which requires instructional swim daily. Additional activities included primitive skills like camp craft, outdoor living and wilderness adventure trips, along with sports like sailing, canoeing, archery, badminton, fishing, horseshoes, baseball, and tennis.*

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100th CELEBRATION...
Continued from Page 1

few years, that tiny flame grew, with 26 campers in 1927, and 39 campers in 1928.

Those first three years were full of the number 13 or multiples of 13, like 26 and 39 so, unlike the rest of the world, Chief's lucky number was 13. Which gives you a small glimpse into Chief's personality: he was not someone who followed the crowd. Having been born and raised on a Vermont farm, Chief adopted the philosophy of another iconic Vermonter, Robert Frost, and took "The Road Less Traveled" ...and that has made all the difference ...for all of us. Onie and Chief were not following the most recent trends in society, searching for the "hottest thing." Instead, they searched inside the souls of their boys to find out what they needed: which was the natural world, adventure, confidence (built by skills, education, and training), community, and fellowship.

Which, truth be told, we all need.

And then while the rest of the world was shaken by monumental events over the last century, Birch Rock steadily continued on with its mission of educating boys and developing young men. During the summer, you can hear our success stories all throughout the campus, with the cheers, laughter, words of encouragement, and instruction. We have much to be proud of. As Teddy Roosevelt said, "Nothing in this world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, [and] difficulty." And this is a core tenet of Birch Rock.

Over the last 100 years, Birch Rock has suffered sudden and traumatic losses of leadership, with deaths of Chief, my brother Ben, and Pete Haas. The Camp has survived the economic upheavals of the Great Depression, the Great Recession, and the contraction of the summer camp business. And Birch Rock endured through the COVID Pandemic.

But how? How does this small camp survive when all rational financial models say it should not?

It is all of you, Birch Rock family members, that keep us going. Every time a crisis hits, our community goes to work like an old-fashioned bucket brigade, putting out the fire and helping to rebuild and repair after the crisis. Building back better than before.

It also is our people who work tirelessly to feed us, like Albert Bryant and Jon Allberry (and our kitchen staff).

It is our people who have built this campus and then maintained it, like Omar Moxey, Roy Moxey, Donn Munn, and Charlie McDonald. And our own Janice Walker, who is celebrating her 40th year of "Helping the Other Fellow."

And it has been our leadership, like Chief, Bill Allen, Mike Denault, Dave Weeks, Ben Brewster, Doug Dickey, Toby Brewster, Brad Smith, and our current leaders, Rich Deering and Mike Mattson.

Welcome to the Birch Rock Fellowship, which is built on our motto of ***Help the Other Fellow*** and our core principles of loving kindness to all.

We are grateful that you are here to celebrate our past 100 years as well as our next 100 years.

Celebrating Janice Walker's Ruby Anniversary

By Rich Deering, Alumni & Community Director '73

As Camp celebrates its 100th milestone, we also celebrate another major achievement: **Janice Walker's 40 years of dedicated service.**

Janice has done it all — cooking, cleaning, laundry, managing the camp store, provision shopping, caring for the grounds, mowing the fields, and creating beautiful gardens with her iconic humming bird feeders hanging throughout the campus. For four decades, she has nurtured campers and counselors alike. If Janice tells you directly the way something needs to be done, then you immediately stop and acquiesce. Her characteristic blunt delivery is accompanied by her bellowing laughter and pure love.

Janice may not like onions in her salads, but she certainly knows how to mix the natural and nurturing greenery of Birch Rock Camp life - with her wisdom, down to earth humor, hard work and deep devotion to making Camp phenomenal down through the decades.

Congratulations to our beloved Camp Lady! Your 40 years of service are a treasured part of our history and we are forever grateful to you!



Janice Walker with staffer David Colasin and camper Julien Nesher

Scenes from BRC's Grand Centennial Celebration Weekend
August 14-16, 2026













HELP US UPDATE

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Birocapedia

ALL HANDS ON DECK!

Birch Rock needs YOU to help us sign up young gentlemen for camp this summer for our 101st season! You are our BEST ambassador. Please tell prospective families about our website **www.birchrock.org** and put them in touch with Mike Mattson (mike@birchrock.org) or Rich Deering (rich@birchrock.org). Always in the spirit of ***Help the Other Fellow!***



Birch Rock holds on to Keoka Cup

In late July, four Birch Rock campers sallied forth for the 8th Annual Keoka Lake Association Sailing Regatta. Competing in a friendly but fierce rivalry against neighboring Waterford camps Wigwam and Waziyatah, our boys showed incredible skill and true Birch Rock gentlemanly sportsmanship. Congratulations to Jack Manson, who sailed his way to first place yet again this year, bringing the coveted Camper Cup back to its rightful spot on the BRC Lodge mantle! Thomas Porter-Zuckerman also won third place! A big shout-out to John Flannery and Jared Whichard for escorting the crew, and to our entire stellar team — **Spencer Arnett, Jack Manson, Thomas Porter-Zuckerman** and **Eton Munn** — for representing the Rock so beautifully. A good time was had by all in the Waterford camping community, and we couldn't be prouder of our sailors!



Tremendous Turnout for Triathlon

This summer, 13 brave Birch Rockers competed and excelled in our annual triathlon! ***Aden Rankin, Nathan Mason, Julian Molina, Emmett Cho, Gabe Engler, Rhodey Vining, Tom Crovitz, Ethan Neff, Lukas Jerman, Javier Solis, Mateo Rodrigo, Spencer Cole,*** and ***Gustavo Freedlander*** swam ¾ of a mile from Birch Rock to Camp Buck, biked almost 5 miles up and down the hilly McWain Pond Road, and ran the traditional mile back to camp. The times across the board were outstanding, and a special shoutout to our first, second, and third place finishers, Emmett Cho, Nathan Mason, and Lukas Jerman. Well done!



Nathan Mason, Emmett Cho and Lucas Jerman

Reflections From The Rock

By Mike Herzig, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Birch Rock Camp

A few weeks before the 100th, I asked Rich to send me any past communications in his archives from prior Board Chairs.

After reviewing all those materials, it was a paragraph from a 1993 letter written by then Chair Cris Miller and his Strategic Committee which stood out to me:

"To continue the efforts of the past nearly 70 years and to ensure that recent changes are fully realized, significant investment must be made by a large number of people. What is your ROI, Return of Involvement? Return on time and effort involvement. Return on monetary involvement. Return On asset donation involvement. Return on material involvement? Each of us has to answer these questions for himself."

Little did Cris know that when he wrote those words, Birch Rock's leadership was on the precipice of facing our existential "Lodge Crisis," through which Cris and his team would produce the monumental "ROI" which has propelled us over the last quarter century to where Birch Rock is today.

Well, a couple of months removed from our 100th celebration, I think we ALL should be very proud of our own efforts to produce and execute one of the most memorable weekends imaginable. All of our "investment" of time and treasure has indeed produced a priceless "return," in the form of an immense emotional response from our community which, if we can sustain it, will indeed propel Birch Rock well into its second century.

We have so many people to thank for the 100th's careful planning, relentless marketing, and flawless execution. Rich Deering brought the vision and tireless energy to get us to the starting line three years ago and over the finish line on August 16th. David Nesher and his planning committee brought that attention to detail which guaranteed success. Francie Campbell and Kim Rubin produced a beautiful commemorative book which will stand the test of time. Mike Mattson and his staff, having just put the finishing touches on an epic 2026 season, powered through for another week and were so professional and caring of our 400 guests. Mother Nature did her part as well!

We have a remarkable Board and Campaign Cabinet. You all have demonstrated so much commitment, not just in recent months, but some of you over the course of many years. But it will be our work in the coming months and years which will bring the Board's contribution to Birch Rock to another level. Some will be able to make incredibly generous monetary contributions, but just as importantly, it will be our energy and ideas which collectively solidify the path that Chief and Onie set for us 100 years ago, for more and more generations of Birch Rockers.

Some of us were fortunate to be able to stay for Dave Week's and Ryno Massey's closing Tree Talk that Sunday morning of the 100th, where we heard from all walks of our community: present campers, alums, staff, and even grandparents. The sound of each word uttered and the crackling of those chips in the fire still resonate with me. But Duncan Zuckerman's words perhaps best encapsulated my emotions, when he said, "It has been the pleasure and the privilege of my life to be part of this Camp."

We all have this privilege of serving Birch Rock. We are each serving in so many ways. When we engage with our Committee Chairs. When we follow the example of trustees like Rich Rotman, who sensed the strong need for a senior staff mentoring program, designed it, and leads it, or Paul Tringale, who has raised the standards of our governance to keep our Board operating smoothly and professionally. And, lastly but most critically, when we each text Mike with a camper referral.

Let me close by sharing with you the end of Cris's 1993 letter: *"As your new Chair, I would like to share with you my ROI: life long friendships, the joy of knowing I have helped a boy or young man learn the values and skills that let him be the best he can be, the inner energy that comes from* ***HELPING THE OTHER FELLOW****."*

Roosevelt or Churchill could not have said it better, Cris. And I, and today's Birch Rock Trustees and Centennial Cabinet, will do our very best to uphold the amazing legacy of all our prior Board Chairs, Trustees, and leaders for the future of Birch Rock Camp.

A CHAT BETWEEN TWO OLD DOGS...
Continued from Page 3

Birch Rock has expanded greatly over the 100 years. We've now got 22 different activities, including pickleball, wind-surfing, kayaking, rowing, Junior Maine Guide, music, art, crafts, lacrosse, volleyball, soccer, basketball, mountain biking and fishing. We've got a library, and even offer tutoring services for those campers who are interested.

Bob: What impact did the Depression and World War II have on a new camp still finding its footing?

Rich: *There were ebbs and flows just like economy, and the Depression definitely had an impact, but most Maine summer camps survived the crisis. Birch Rock closed in 1943 because of the war, and in 1944 it operated at Kimball Union Academy in New Hampshire, where Chief and Onie had become Headmasters.*

Bob: For a camp hidden in the Western Foothills of Maine, Birch Rock has a sizeable international representation. When did that begin to happen?



Meal time in the 1940s

Rich: *Well, Chef Albert Bryan, who started at Birch Rock in 1929 and was our chef for 52 years, was from Jamaica, so you could say we've had an international presence almost from the beginning. Since then, we've had campers and staff from Korea, Mexico, England, Spain, Italy, UAE, Israel, Ireland, France, Japan, China, Portugal, Netherlands, and Sweden.*

Bob: I need to broach a scary question, because I've heard rumors. My grandson Jameson will be a first-year camper at Birch Rock this year, and on an introductory Zoom call a few weeks back, one of the incoming campers asked about the Midnight Phantom. Should the rest of us around the Pond be worried?

Rich: *The Midnight Phantom has been lurking in the woods of Birch Rock for many, many years. No one knows for sure whether it is one or a group of beings. Some have said it is a group of wood gnomes who strike at night while others firmly believe it's just the staff. Many staff members have been accused by campers over the years, but very few campers have any real evidence of what they think they see. What we do know is the Midnight Phantom, while mischievous, is mostly harmless and just wants to have a little fun. There are also tales of the McWain Monster, which lives under the lake, roams around during summer, and hibernates in the winter.*

Bob: I'll remember that the next time I go for a moonlight swim and think it's a sunfish nibbling at my toes! Final question: there used to be 82 boys camps in Maine and now there are only 21, so congratulations to you and the entire Birch Rock Community on reaching this impressive Centennial milestone. That's a really big deal… not just for the difference you've made in these young men's lives, but the exponential difference they go on to make as they ***Help The Other Fellow*** throughout their lives. What's the secret to your success?

Rich: *Lots of factors have helped us get where we are. The Brewsters established a strong foundation at the start, supplemented since by neighbors, vendors, families, partner organizations, and the young men who return each year, both as campers and as counselors. How do you really define that? We are especially grateful to our McWain Pond community. How lucky is BRC to have such loyal and helpful neighbors, specifically the Plates, Sandersons, Whichards, and the McLaughlins at Camp Waganaki? Because Birch Rock Camp is embedded in a community, our neighbors are essential to our success!*

Going the Distance: Our 2026 Whales

Congratulations to our two Whales, **Julien Nesher** and **Jesus Rodrigo**, who met the challenge of Lake McWain with a 5.75-mile swim around the full circumference of our proud lake! It is a grinding test of mettle for our senior and leadership campers, and both rose to it. We also honor the historic achievement of **Seth Brewster**, who completed this milestone during our 100th celebration.



Josh Rubin, Jesus Rodrigo and Jonah Keates



Robben, Julien and David Nesher

Leadership Campers & Junior Counselors 2026



This summer, our three Leadership Campers: **Brady Chalmers**, **Kiran Farley**, and **Jesus Rodrigo** (clockwise from top left with counselor **Josh Rubin**) showed up ready to do real work, and that they did. You could find them ***Helping the Other Fellow*** all over camp, but especially down at campcraft, on the waterfront with swimming and kayaking, and out on the basketball court, where their help made activities run smoother and feel better for the younger campers. They threw themselves into their own capstone activities, too, which ranged from Whales to completing MWA. Off camp, they volunteered at the Waterford library and lent a hand to our neighbors around the lake. They earned their Red Cross lifeguard and first aid certifications along the way, and finished the summer with a two-day rafting trip down the Kennebec. Through all of it, they got better at the things leadership is actually made of: speaking in front of a group, working as a team, and planning and running activities from start to finish.

Our six Junior Counselors: **Michael Niola**, **Rowan Gallagher**, **Liam Bamberger**, **Zac Mason**, **Javier Marquina**, and **Lenny Calderon**, were every bit as important. They lived in the Otters and Wolves cabins and quickly became the kind of co-counselors you're lucky to have, helping teach activities and pitching in wherever hands were needed. Over the summer they grew from a group of individuals into a real unit, bringing fun energy to camp every day and backing up the staff when it counted. They even carried the long-distance swims, taking turns as lifeguards and rowers to get swimmers across the water. We are incredibly proud of the young men they are becoming, and thank them for an amazing summer on the shores of Lake McWain!

Maine Wilderness Adventure 2026

Below is an excerpt from a speech given at the Badge Ceremony, a final celebration of summer achievements, given by Jeffery Napier-Kane, MWA Leader and former Wilderness Director at BRC. MWA this year covered the entire state of Maine: hiking the Appalachian Trail up to the top of Katahdin, white-water rafting on the Penobscot, canoeing the Allagash Wilderness, rock climbing the seaside cliffs of Acadia National Park, and going on a sea-kayaking journey around Mt. Desert Island's Southwest Harbor.

835 miles of driving, 17 ½ hours of music, 42 miles of hiking, 1.8 of those miles going the wrong way, 58 miles of canoeing, 5.5 miles of sea kayaking, 3 class 5 rapids, 14 different climbs and scrambles with our boy (Mt.) Adam, 14 deer, 3 moose, 38 ducks, 26 seals, 5 bald eagles (even though that first was definitely a vulture) 112 packets of Propel, 84 packets of oatmeal, 11 ghosts, plenty of twin snakes floating down the river, one lost water bottle, one lost paddle, one lost toothbrush that should've definitely been made aware about, enough gallons of water to make the Allagash at least a little canoeable, 5 girls' phone numbers, 27 bandaids, 6 days without pooping, one incredible buffalo chicken dip, 4 laundromats, 2 Tim Hortons, the most northern McDonald's in New England, a beautiful rendition of "Through the Wire," 10 tickets to Minions and Monsters (supposedly the best in the Despicable Me franchise), 8,478 grams of protein (20% of it being soy), one wonderful mule for the king, not enough GORP, too much ice cream, a dozen fire pits under the stars, one Privvy Witch, one Notch Monster, and one thousand demerits.



MWA participants included: Emmett Cho, Ethan Neff, Gabe Engler, Kiran Farley, Spencer Cole, Rhodey Vining, Tom Crovitz and Trip Elliott.

BIRCH ROCK CAMP
P.O. Box 148
Waterford, ME 04088

ACCREDITED CAMP
American Camping Association®

Mark Your Calendars for 2027!

Camp Clean Up Saturday	May 15 (Sat)
BRC Summer Office Opens	June 1 (Tue)
BRC Staff Orientation	June 16 (Wed)
Junior Counselor Orientation	June 20 (Sun)
Leader Camper Orientation	June 23 (Wed)
Opening - First Session & Cubs I	June 26 (Sat)
Cubs Camp I - End	July 10 (Sat)
Cubs Camp II - Start	July 11 (Sun)
First Session & Cubs II - End	July 24 (Sat)
Opening 2nd Session Maine Wilderness Adventure Cubs Camp III	July 25 (Sun)
Cubs Camp III - End	August 7 (Sat)
BRC for Boys & MWA - End	August 14 (Sat)
BRC Family Camp	August 19-23 (Thu - Mon)

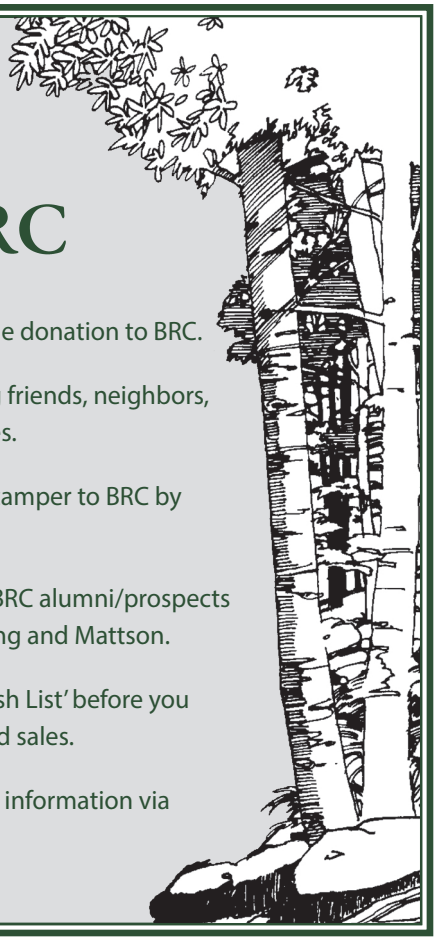
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It's Easy to Help BRC



- Send a tax-deductible donation to BRC.
- Promote BRC among friends, neighbors, family and colleagues.
- Refer a prospective camper to BRC by phone or email.
- Host a gathering of BRC alumni/prospects with Directors Deering and Mattson.
- Ask us about our 'Wish List' before you have your spring yard sales.
- Update your contact information via www.birchrock.org.