

Family Handbook

Summer 2026

First Session: June 23 – July 18, 2026

Junior Session I: July 2 – July 11, 2026

Second Session: July 21 – August 15, 2026

Junior Session II: July 30 – August 8, 2026



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Message from Kieve Wavus Education Leadership

Dear Kieve and Wavus Families,

We strive to make every summer on Damariscotta Lake the best ever, but this one is extra special — it's our 100th!

Our Family Handbook is your resource with all of the helpful information for before, during, and after camp. Summer camp is a transformative experience for our campers and their families, so while we hope our handbook answers many questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us directly. We're here to help and love any chance to connect with our camp families.

You've given your child the ultimate gift: a summer with friends, excellent role models, a break from technology, and true adventure. We hope they return to you stronger, more confident, and full of amazing stories. Thank you for entrusting us with your kids. It's a privilege that motivates us to make Kieve and Wavus better each summer.

Welcome to our family. See you on Damariscotta Lake soon.

Sincerely,



Sam Kennedy
President
Kieve Wavus Education, Inc.



Sam Kaplan
Executive Director
Kieve Wavus Education, Inc.



Family Partnership Agreement

We cherish the responsibility of caring for your camper this summer, and we know that a healthy partnership between camp leadership and every family will make this experience successful.

While disciplinary issues leading to dismissal from camp are unusual, it is important that families understand that bullying, substance use or possession, and significant violations of policies that cause an unsafe environment at camp may require your camper to leave early and take time away from Kieve and Wavus.

To that end, we are asking that you:

- Read this Family Handbook **each year** to familiarize yourself and your camper with camp, our expectations, our educational philosophy, and our policies;
- Understand that when we don't communicate proactively, it's to care for the privacy and well-being of every camper involved in an incident; and
- Agree to work collaboratively with camp directors when issues arise, trusting that our intent is always to help your camper grow and provide everyone with the safest possible camp experience.

Family Partnership Agreement Digital Signature Links

All families must confirm [here for Kieve](#) and [here for Wavus](#) that you have read the handbook and agree with 2026's Family Partnership Agreement.

KWE Photo and Video Use Agreement

By submitting your camper's application and this agreement, you agree to the following:

The images and video we capture during summer camp are used in Kieve Wavus Education's promotional materials and are posted to social media and our website. By submitting this application, you agree to allow Kieve Wavus Education to use these images and videos of your child in camp brochures and promotional materials.

To opt out of our photo and video use agreement, or if you have any questions, email Emmaline Briske (emmaline@kwe.org) at Kieve or Joy Bengtson Giffen (joy@kwe.org) at Wavus.



About Us

Kieve Wavus Education is guided by our mission: to empower people to contribute positively to society by promoting the values of kindness and respect for others, and environmental stewardship through year-round experiential programs, camps for youth and adults, and guidance from inspirational role models.

Our Community

Camp Kieve for boys and Wavus Camp for girls welcome campers who are able to participate in our active program, which includes rigorous backcountry wilderness trips. Our camps promote a space for youth to be themselves and grow in confidence and character. We enroll campers based on the gender identity provided on their application. All members of our community must uphold our values of kindness and respect, as we aim to foster a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Our Staff

Our teams are full of inspirational role models whom our campers *strive in emulation of*. You can learn more about our [Kieve](#) and [Wavus](#) directors and counselors online. Please note that these pages will continue to be updated.

Program Overview

Camp Kieve and Wavus Camp are part of Kieve Wavus Education, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides year-round experiential education programs. Beyond summer camp, KWE creates innovative education opportunities through [The Leadership School](#) (TLS) and [KWE Events](#).

The Leadership School

TLS is a teaching fellowship that cultivates career educators who learn by providing experiential education programs to thousands of Maine kids each year. The 25 staff who lead our school also lead Kieve and Wavus, an incredible resource of full-time, year-round employees that no other camps have. In the TLS fall and spring terms, more than 30 Maine public schools come to the Kieve campus for overnight, [Outdoor School](#) programs. In the winter term, our TLS staff serve 20-week teaching residencies at no cost to more than 25 local, under-resourced public schools. KWE also partners with the University of Southern Maine so that all TLS Fellows can earn their Department of Education professional certification and a [Certificate of Graduate Studies](#), with all coursework paid for by KWE, by the time they complete their fellowship.

KWE Events

KWE Events are year-round, including our Veterans' Camps, 9/11 Camp, cancer retreats, and programs for local colleges, organizations, businesses, and regional and statewide initiatives. And during the TLS winter term, we serve our neighbors in need by producing and delivering more than 7,000 meals to six local pantries through our Lincoln County Food Initiative.

Supporting Kieve Wavus Education

Gifts to the Annual Fund are used in real-time, ensuring our programs can empower people to contribute positively to society by promoting the values of kindness, respect for others, and environmental stewardship. **You can make a gift to support our work at kwe.org/give and through Venmo [@kieve-wavus](https://www.venmo.com/@kieve-wavus).**



About Us (cont.)

Our History

1926 | Camp Kieve is founded by Don Kennedy on Damariscotta Lake as a wilderness tripping summer camp for boys to develop leadership skills, build confidence and self-reliance, and raise their aspirations in an environment defined by an ethos of kindness and respect.

1974 | Camp Kieve incorporates as a nonprofit governed by a Board of Directors and is renamed Kieve Affective Education, Inc.

1981 | Kieve Affective Education establishes The Leadership Decisions Institute (LDI), now The Leadership School (TLS), to positively affect Maine children and the local community.

1990s | Kieve Affective Education begins collaborations with Midcoast Conservancy, then known as Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association, to help protect Damariscotta Lake.

1994 | The Kennedy Learning Center is built on the Kieve campus as a temporary home for staff, as well as for teachers, educators, and community and business leaders to host retreats and workshops in a comfortable, hospitable, and serene setting.

2005 | Kieve Affective Education merges with the Wavus Foundation to create Kieve Wavus Education, Inc., expanding its capacity to empower girls through wilderness tripping and positioning itself to run year-round programs in Jefferson, Maine. Originally home to Damariscotta Camp for boys and Camp Wawanock for girls in 1922, the Wavus Camps were an iconic summer camp destination until a private sale in 1976 left the campus dormant for 16 years. In 1992, former campers and a team of local environmentalists, known as the Wavus Foundation, banded together to buy and preserve the land. The Wavus Foundation renovated Jewell Lodge and hosted programs until the merger.

2006 | Wavus Camp begins its first summer as a wilderness tripping camp for girls.

2013 | TLS creates the Educator-in-Residence (EIR) Program for aspiring educators to blend KWE's experiential approach to social-emotional learning (EASEL) curriculum into the traditional classroom setting for 10-week, winter residencies.

2020 | At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, KWE, in collaboration with Healthy Lincoln County, established the Lincoln County Food Initiative to fight local food insecurity.

2023 | TLS evolves into a full-time, year-round teaching fellowship, offering a teacher certification program in partnership with the University of Southern Maine for its educators.

2022 | 100th anniversary of the Wavus Camps.

2026 | 100th summer of Camp Kieve.



CONTACTING CAMP

OFFICE HOURS FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES:

8 a.m.– 4 p.m., Monday–Friday

Joy Bengtson Giffen (Wavus) at 207-563-5172, ext. 700

Emmaline Briske (Kieve) at 207-563-5172, ext. 209

IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT KIEVE OR WAVUS URGENTLY AND OUTSIDE BUSINESS HOURS, CALL 207-563-5172

Follow the prompt for emergencies at Wavus Camp or Camp Kieve to connect you with a director.

WAVUS CAMP

Shipping and Mailing Address:

88 Wavus Point Road or P.O. Box 350
Jefferson, ME 04348

**Please be reminded that packages are not
allowed unless approved by the director.*

Joy Bengtson Giffen, Registrar and Coordinator

Email: joy@kwe.org

Phone: 207-563-5172 ext. 700

Kate Kaplan, Wavus Director

Email: katekaplan@kwe.org

Hannah Lovejoy, Associate Wavus Camp Director

Email: hannah@kwe.org

CAMP KIEVE

Shipping and Mailing Address:

42 Kieve Road or P.O. Box 169
Nobleboro, ME 04555

**Please be reminded that packages are not
allowed unless approved by the director.*

Emmaline Briske, Registrar and Coordinator

Email: emmaline@kwe.org

Phone: 207-563-5172 ext. 209

Caddy Brooks, Kieve Director

Email: caddybrooks@kwe.org

Robby Ford, Associate Camp Kieve Director

Email: robbyford@kwe.org

Will Bliss, Associate Camp Kieve Director

Email: willbliss@kwe.org

KWE LEADERSHIP

Sam Kennedy, President

Email: ssk@kwe.org

Sam Kaplan, Executive Director

Email: srk@kwe.org

KIEVE WAVUS
EDUCATION



Camp Policies

Our number one rule is that everyone has the right to be treated with kindness and respect, and this guides all behavior expectations at camp.

Harassment and Bullying

We train our staff to identify harassment, bullying, and abusive behavior and to report it to camp directors. We work together through the lens of kindness and respect to empower affected campers while appropriately holding the other camper(s) accountable. We will communicate when we believe the poor behavior of your or another camper is meaningfully impacting the camp experience, and we will always prioritize maintaining a safe environment at camp.

If your child has experienced bullying — defined as the repeated and targeted mistreatment of someone who has less power — or mistreatment of any kind, please let us know. Before camp, encourage your camper to use their evening Med Minute check-in to share how they are doing.

Prohibited Items

- Food/candy
- Drugs/alcohol
- Weapons (*Allagash, Long Voyage, and Maine Trails campers can bring an all-purpose tool like a Leatherman and must let their counselor know they have it.*)
- Hair dryers/styling tools
- Headphones/music players
- Cellphones/tablets/smartwatches
- E-Readers/Kindle/Nook
- All other electronic devices, including video recorders, gaming systems, tracking devices (ex. Apple AirTags), etc.

Technology

Camp is screen-free for campers. That means no social media, phones, tablets, smartwatches, or anything that can connect to WiFi or wireless data. Books, basic cameras, and watches without screens are best. Campers who travel without their families will turn in their devices upon arrival at camp so we can securely store those valuables for the session and return them the morning they head home.

Gratuity

It is Kieve Wavus Education's policy that our staff decline gratuity. Instead, we encourage a gift in their name to our [Annual Fund](#).

Preparing for Camp

Campminder

[Campminder](#) is our online platform for uploading camp details and required paperwork before camp. It is also where we upload camp photos and families email their campers during camp. **We encourage you to download the Companion app and log in using your Campminder credentials. It makes completing paperwork and getting camp updates much easier!**

Required Forms

Following enrollment, the below forms can all be managed in the “Forms & Documents” section of [Campminder](#) unless indicated otherwise. Please note that forms can be scanned and uploaded directly from your phone.

Health History Form (Electronic) – Due April 17

- Please complete, electronically sign, and submit this form on [Campminder](#).
- If significant health changes such as new medical conditions, medications, allergies, injuries, etc. occur after you submit this form, please email Kate (katekaplan@kwe.org) at Wavus or Caddy (caddybrooks@kwe.org) at Kieve.
- **Returning campers:** Please ensure all information is up to date for 2026.

Physical Exam Form (Print & Upload) – Due April 17

- This form differs from the online Health History Form and must be completed and signed by your camper's medical provider.
- We can only accept physicals completed within **one year** of the start of camp.
- You may use your provider's standard form if it clearly states that your camper can fully participate in camp/school/sports activities.

Immunizations Record (Upload) – Due April 17

- Upload a copy of your camper's immunization record.

Health Insurance Card (Upload) – Due April 17

- Upload clear photos of the front and back of your insurance card.

Demographic Form (Electronic) – Due April 17

- Please complete this form in [Campminder](#) to help us learn more about and better serve your camper and family.

Camper Travel Form (Electronic) – Due April 17

- Please complete and submit this form via [Campminder](#).
- Once the form is submitted, you must contact Emmaline Briske (emmaline@kwe.org) at Kieve or Joy Bengtson Giffen (joy@kwe.org) at Wavus to make changes.

Trip Waivers (For Applicable Trips) – Due before camp

- Must be completed and submitted electronically for your camper to go on their wilderness trip.
- All applicable trip waivers will be emailed when cabin lists are distributed.
- Instructions for how to submit will be provided at that time.

Preparing for Camp (cont.)

Family Partnership Agreement – Due before camp

- Please read and digitally sign 2026's Family Partnership Agreement [here for Kieve](#) and [here for Wavus](#) (these are the same hyperlinks shared earlier in the Family Handbook).

Helpful Pre-Camp Conversations

Our counselors will help your camper establish daily routines and pack for their wilderness trip. To support this process, please talk to your camper about the following before camp:

Kindness and respect are expected

- Please review and share in support of our number one principle that everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and respect. Conflict is inevitable, but bullying and intentional disrespect toward others will not be tolerated. It's also important that your camper understands that camp staff are *in loco parentis* and should be respected as such. Camp is about learning, but repeated issues after intervention make camp unsafe for others.

Self-advocacy is key

- Rashes, cuts, blisters, changes in bathroom habits, etc. Please talk to your camper about bringing these things to the attention of counselors, directors, or healthcare staff. Your camper will have a private nightly Med Minute check-in with cabin counselors to share anything affecting their experience — positive or negative.

Hygiene at camp and in the wilderness is critical

- Please discuss the importance of showering regularly, washing your hands, brushing your teeth, applying sunscreen, and sending towels for laundering.
- Teach your camper to cut their fingernails and toenails regularly before camp.
- If your camper expects to have her period at camp, discuss routines and remind her that her counselors are available to help her manage this during camp and on the trip.

Homesickness and Hardship

- ***Please do not tell your camper that you will pick them up if they just give it a try or get through "X" number of days — it does not work and ruins their experience!***
- Every camper will experience homesickness at some point. Please remember that homesickness is normal, and we have no evidence of long-lasting negative effects.
- If you ever receive the S.O.S. letter, please contact us so we can partner with you to help your child, no matter how dramatic the message is.
- We know when and how to intervene, and persevering through homesickness without family intervention is arguably one of the most transformative experiences a child can have at camp. [Here's a resource](#) on homesickness from the American Camp Association, and our directors are amazing resources as well — please reach out to us if this is a concern for your camper.
- Not every day at camp is perfect! Experiencing hardship is part of camp. We're here to support your camper through these times, and it helps to talk with campers about what to do when camp is challenging, rather than setting expectations that camp will be perfect.

Packing for Camp

A Note From Kate and Caddy

Please leave the expensive clothes, trendy labels, designer pajamas, and multi-step skincare routines at home. One of our hopes for the camp experience is time and space for kids to be kids; to leave the screens and the expensive brands behind and connect with peers through true, shared adventure.

As you can imagine, these items get a lot of attention at camp and can exacerbate that familiar adolescent urge to compare who has what. Not to mention, camp is messy, and things get ruined and lost. We're striving to build a camp environment centered on shared experiences, ensuring every camper can feel a true sense of belonging. Your support of this goal is appreciated.

Pack Light

- Laundry service is provided twice a week for full session campers and twice during the junior session. Your camper must use the laundry bag we provide for them upon arrival.

Label EVERYTHING

- Things get lost at camp. Please label everything!

Duffles, Please!

- Please pack in soft-sided duffles, no trunks.

Wilderness Trips

- Everyone goes on a wilderness trip, and our staff helps campers pack.

Break in those Boots

- **While hiking boots are required only for Maine Trails campers**, your younger camper is welcome to bring them if they are on a shorter hiking trip. Boots must be broken in at home to reduce the likelihood of blisters.

Prohibited Items

**Campers who travel to camp with their device, ID, passport, etc. will turn these items into their counselor upon arrival. We lock them away and return to the camper at the end of the session.*

- Food/candy
- Drugs/alcohol
- Weapons (*Allagash, Long Voyage, and Maine Trails campers may bring an all-purpose tool, such as a Leatherman, and must let their counselor know they have it.*)
- Hair dryers/styling tools
- Headphones/music players
- Cellphones/tablets/smartwatches
- E-Readers/Kindle/Nook
- And all electronic devices, including video recorders, gaming systems, tracking devices (ex. Apple AirTags), etc.

Packing for Camp (cont.)

Medications

Please see instructions for sending medications under “[Medications](#)” in the Healthcare section (pg. 24). While packing for camp, keep medications separate from camper belongings so they may be easily dropped off at the health center upon arrival.

Where to Shop

Shop locally! KWE has collaborated with our friends at [Maine Sport Outfitters](#) to curate a collection of camp necessities. Maine Sport has selected quality gear that will last way beyond camp at a price point where cost and value meet. The camp collection contains nearly every item on the packing list in one place, discounted. If you have any questions about what to purchase, you can use the handy “Moose Chat” on the webpage. Please use the discount code “KieveWavus” for an additional 10% off. [L.L. Bean](#) and [REI Co-op](#) are also great options.

Financial Support for Required Gear

Please contact us if you need assistance obtaining the required gear for your camper:

- Emmaline Briske for Kieve (207-563-5172 ext. 209, emmaline@kwe.org)
- Joy Bengtson Giffen for Wavus (207-563-5172 ext. 700, joy@kwe.org)

Cabin Assignments

Cabin lists are emailed approximately **one week** before campers arrive. Relevant wilderness trip waivers will also be sent around this time. We try to honor cabin requests and balance a number of factors when determining the best fit for each camper. If we do not honor a request, or if we make a change from past summers, we ask you to trust that it is because we believe it will lead to the best experience for your child.

Shipping Luggage

We partner with **Ship Camps** to get your camper’s baggage to and from camp to save costs for our families, protect your camper’s luggage, and streamline the process for our small administrative team. Baggage registration opens on **Feb. 3, 2026**, and all shipments should be booked by or before **June 1**. Shipping dates will be provided at the time of booking.

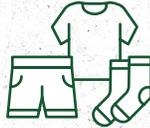
To send luggage home, shipments must be booked at least 10 days before the [end of the summer camp session](#). Options start at \$99 per bag. You can register your bags at shipcamps.com/kieve-wavus or by calling Ship Camps at 855-540-2267.

FULL SESSION PACKING LIST

A NOTE ON MATERIAL: It's crucial that campers have non-cotton clothing, especially for their wilderness trip. Cotton pulls heat away from the body when wet and will not keep your camper warm. Please ensure that your camper has mostly tops and bottoms (long and short) that are synthetic/quick-dry/poly-blend/wool. Please reach out to joy@kwe.org at Wavus or emmaline@kwe.org at Kieve if you need any assistance!

Clothing

- 4 swimsuits
- 10 underwear
- 10 pairs of socks
- 5 bras/sports bras (if applicable)
- 3 pairs of hiking socks - wool/synthetic/poly blend
- 2 pajamas
- 5 short sleeve shirts
- 2 Kieve/Wavus short sleeve shirts
- 5 long sleeve shirts
- 5 shorts
- 3 leggings/long pants/sweatpants
- 2 sweatshirts/hoodies/warm fleece
- 1 nice outfit/dress for special end-of-session dinner (Wavus only)



Bedding and Linens

- Pillow
- 2 sets of twin sheets with pillowcases (regular length)
- Comforter/warm blanket
- Face cloth
- Hand towel
- 2 bath towels
- 2 beach/swim towels



Outerwear and Footwear

- Rain jacket - waterproof
- Rain pants - waterproof
- Warm hat - fleece or synthetic
- 2 warm long sleeve layers - fleece or synthetic
- Sneakers
- Crocs
- Water shoes - Chacos/Tevas/Keens (Crocs are not water shoes)



Toiletries

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Soap
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Hairbrush/comb/hair ties/scrunchies
- Pads/tampons (if applicable)
- Nail brush and clippers
- Lip balm with SPF
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Shower caddy and toiletry caddy



Wilderness Trip Essentials

**All group gear, including tents, is provided for campers.*

- Sleeping bag - synthetic, 30-degree rating with stuff sack is preferred
- Sleeping pad - the smaller it packs, the better
- Headlamp with extra batteries
- Boundary bag/dry bag - 65 liters and waterproof (SealLine, NRS Boundary Bag). These are recommended for all campers and mandatory for campers on the St. Croix River and up. Some of our directors are still using the same boundary bags they had as campers!
- Day pack/school pack
- Quick dry towel
- Allagash, Long Voyage, and Maine Trails campers are allowed to bring an all-purpose tool like a Leatherman



Accessories

- Stationery and envelopes
- Summer reading/books
- Journal/notebook
- Sunglasses with float band
- Hat
- Bandana/buff
- Crazy Creek chair
- Camera - screen-free preferred! (optional)
- 2 water-bottles
- Costume items - optional but always welcome!



JUNIOR SESSION PACKING LIST

LAUNDRY: Junior campers will be able to send their laundry out twice during the 10-day session.

A NOTE ON MATERIAL: It's crucial that campers have non-cotton clothing, especially for their wilderness trip. Cotton pulls heat away from the body when wet and will not keep your camper warm. Please ensure that your camper has mostly tops and bottoms (long and short) that are synthetic/quick-dry/poly-blend/wool. Please reach out to joy@kwe.org at Wavus or emmaline@kwe.org at Kieve if you need any assistance!

Clothing

- 2-3 swimsuits
- 5 underwear
- 5 pairs of socks
- 3-4 bras/sports bras (if applicable)
- 2 pairs of hiking socks - wool/synthetic/poly blend
- 2 pajamas
- 4 short sleeve shirts
- Kieve/Wavus short sleeve shirt
- 4 long sleeve shirts
- 4 shorts
- 3 leggings/long pants/sweatpants
- 2 sweatshirts/hoodies/warm fleece



Bedding and Linens

- Pillow
- 2 sets of twin sheets with pillowcases (regular length)
- Comforter/warm blanket
- Face cloth
- Hand towel
- 2 bath towels
- 2 beach/swim towels



Outerwear and Footwear

- Rain jacket - waterproof
- Rain pants - waterproof
- Warm hat - fleece or synthetic
- 2 warm long sleeve layers - fleece or synthetic
- Sneakers
- Crocs
- Water shoes - Chacos/Tevas/Keens (Crocs are not water shoes)



Toiletries

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Soap
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Hairbrush/comb/hair ties/scrunchies
- Pads/tampons (if applicable)
- Nail brush and clippers
- Lip balm with SPF
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Shower caddy and toiletry caddy



Wilderness Trip Essentials

**All group gear, including tents, is provided for campers.*

- Sleeping bag - synthetic, 30-degree rating with stuff sack is preferred
- Sleeping pad - the smaller it packs, the better
- Headlamp with extra batteries
- Boundary bag/dry bag - 65 liters and waterproof (SealLine, NRS Boundary Bag). These are recommended for all campers and mandatory for campers on the St. Croix River and up. Some of our directors are still using the same boundary bags they had as campers!
- Day pack/school pack
- Quick dry towel



Accessories

- Stationery and envelopes
- Summer reading/books
- Journal/notebook
- Sunglasses with float band
- Hat
- Bandana/buff
- Crazy Creek chair
- Camera - screen-free preferred! (optional)
- 2 water bottles
- Costume items - optional but always welcome!



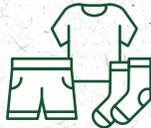
MAINE TRAILS PACKING LIST

MAINE TRAILS CAMPERS ONLY

GEAR: Backpacks and all group gear, including tents, are provided by KWE for Maine Trails campers.

A NOTE ON MATERIAL: It's crucial that campers have non-cotton clothing, especially for their wilderness trip. Cotton pulls heat away from the body when wet and will not keep your camper warm. Please ensure that your camper has mostly tops and bottoms (long and short) that are synthetic/quick-dry/poly-blend/wool. Please reach out to joy@kwe.org at Wavus or emmaline@kwe.org at Kieve if you need any assistance!

Clothing



- 6-8 pairs of synthetic/poly blend underwear
- 4 synthetic/poly blend sports bras, if applicable
- 2 pairs of synthetic/poly blend shorts - Patagonia Baggies are a favorite
- 6 synthetic/poly blend short sleeve T-shirts - two shirts will go out on each leg of the trip
- 2 synthetic/poly blend long sleeve base layer tops
- 2 mid-layers - long sleeve fleece and/or synthetic down
- Sock liners - liners with toe slots are recommended
- 6-8 pairs wool/synthetic hiking socks
- Swimsuit

Wilderness Trip Essentials



- Sleeping bag - synthetic, 30-degree rating with stuff sack is preferred
- Sleeping pad - the smaller it packs, the better (it can be foldable or inflatable)
- Headlamp with extra batteries
- Large quick dry towel
- 2 1-liter Nalgene-type, screw-top closure water bottles
- CamelBak style hydration system (not required)
- Mess kit
- Multi-tool pocket knife (not required)

Outerwear and Footwear



- Baseball cap or brimmed hat
- Warm-fleece/wool/synthetic hat
- Waterproof rain jacket
- Waterproof rain pants
- Fleece pants
- Pair of hiking boots - we highly recommend purchasing boots in a store so that your camper can try the boots on before purchasing. Boots must be broken in before arriving at camp. This will help prevent blisters on the trail, which can be crippling and lead to evacuation.
- Pair of campsite shoes - Crocs are recommended
- Water shoes - Chacos/Texas/Keens (Crocs are not water shoes)

Toiletries



- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Biodegradable Soap
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Lip balm w/SPF
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Pads/tampons (if applicable)
- Nail clippers

Accessories



- Small stuff sacks
- Hiking poles (optional but suggested)
- Buff
- Mosquito head net
- Stationery and stamps
- Summer reading
- 2 bandanas

Arrival Day

Camper arrival for Kieve and Wavus is between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Opening Day.

You will be directed to the health center to drop off any medications and to meet the health center staff when you arrive. Counselors will greet you to unload luggage, and we encourage families to help their camper settle into their bunks.

Travel

Travel by Car

We strongly encourage all families to arrive by car if possible.

| Kieve | Wavus |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 42 Kieve Road Nobleboro, ME 04555 | 88 Wavus Point Road Jefferson, ME 04348 |

Travel by Air

We recommend arriving to camp by car, but if a flight is necessary, please review the following carefully before booking your travel and email joy@kwe.org at Wavus or emmeline@kwe.org at Kieve if you need any assistance.

KWE does not escort unaccompanied minors for outgoing flights. Please make alternative travel arrangements for your camper's return home.

For **inbound unaccompanied minors**, please fill out the unaccompanied minor documentation with your airline — using Emmaline Briske for Kieve or Joy Bengtson Giffen for Wavus as chaperones — and pay any required fees beforehand. We provide a final chaperone name a few days prior to camp. You must then update the airline with this information before travel.

Due to our camp staff's responsibilities, we are limited in the timeframes that we support shuttles to and from regional airports. **Our staff will be there to greet campers on arrival, and we utilize a local charter service for all departure flights.** If your camper cannot arrive or depart in our shuttle windows, then you must make alternate arrangements for your camper to arrive or depart camp

We can support limited Portland airport (PWM) shuttles for \$250 per camper per trip:

- Flight Arrival: **7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**
- Flight Departure: **8:30 a.m – 1:30 p.m.**

We can support limited Boston airport (BOS) shuttles for \$350 per camper per trip:

- Flight Arrival: **9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**
- Flight Departure: **10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**



Travel (cont.)

Travel by Bus *(Note: For full session campers only. **Not available for junior sessions.**)*

- We charter a bus service from Cyr Bus Lines, chaperoned by KWE staff members, that brings campers to camp on Opening Day.
- Cost per camper is \$300. **(Please note the new PA stop!)**
- Campers traveling by bus should bring a backpack and a bagged lunch, as we avoid stops to ensure camper safety and that we get to camp on time.
- Campers should ship all other luggage to camp as space under the bus is limited.
- **Boarding is 30 minutes prior to the departure time listed.**

STOP #1 — PHILADELPHIA AREA (NEW!!!)

| TIME | LOCATION | DIRECTIONS | DURATION |
|-----------|--|---|---------------|
| 7:30 a.m. | Valley Forge Service Plaza (NEW!) Valley Forge Travel Plaza, Pennsylvania Turnpike, Exit 326 Eastbound, Milepost 324, 6, Southeastern, PA 19399 | I-76 eastbound at Milepost 324, prior to exit 326. Park in the car lot and walk to the bus parking area. | 9 hrs 15 mins |

STOP #2 — NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

| TIME | LOCATION | DIRECTIONS | DURATION |
|--------|---|---|---------------|
| 9 a.m. | Grover Cleveland Service Area Sewaren, NJ 07077 | I-95 northbound between Exit 11 and Exit 12. Park in the car lot and walk to the bus parking area. | 7 hrs 45 mins |

STOP #3 — SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT

| TIME | LOCATION | DIRECTIONS | DURATION |
|------------|---|---|----------|
| 10:45 a.m. | I-95 Darien Northbound Service Plaza Darien, CT 06820 | I-95 northbound between Exit 12 and Exit 13. Park in the car lot and walk to the bus parking area. | 6 hrs |

STOP #4 — BOSTON AREA

| TIME | LOCATION | DIRECTIONS | DURATION |
|-----------|--|--|----------|
| 1:45 p.m. | Lexington Service Plaza Northbound Lexington, MA 02421 | Exit 46a on I-95 northbound. Park in the car lot and walk to the bus parking area. | 3 hrs |

Travel (cont.)

Late Arrival

Should you need to drop off your camper after Opening Day, let Emmaline Briske (emmaline@kwe.org) at Kieve or Joy Bengtson Giffen (joy@kwe.org) at Wavus know as soon as possible. We strongly recommend that families avoid late arrival, but we will do our best to support your camper through those life events that are outside of their control.

Closing Day

All campers must depart on this day. Wavus ceremonies are staggered to begin after Kieve ceremonies so that there is time to boat families with siblings across the lake. Shuttles are available all morning so that you may park at either campus. Counselors will help load cars and can direct you to shipping stations on each campus to mail camper luggage. *The schedule is the same for our full and junior sessions.*

| Kieve | | Wavus | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Arrival | 9 a.m. | Arrival |
| 9:30 a.m. | All-Camp Closing Ceremony | 10 a.m. | Explore Camp |
| 10 a.m. | Cabin Ceremonies | 10:30 a.m. | All-Camp Closing Ceremony |
| 10:30 a.m. | Explore Camp | 11 a.m. | Cabin Group Ceremonies |
| 11 a.m. | Camp Lunch and Farewell | 11:30 a.m. | Camp Lunch and Farewell |

Please confirm any medications are packed and check the lost and found before departing! All items left in poor condition will be disposed of, and items in good condition will be donated to local families in need.

Early Departure

Should you need to pick up your camper prior to Closing Day, let Emmaline Briske (emmaline@kwe.org) at Kieve or Joy Bengtson Giffen (joy@kwe.org) at Wavus know as soon as possible so camp staff can coordinate the departure.

In-Camp

Daily in-camp life is designed to foster relationships, provide healthy opportunities for risk-taking, and strengthen independence. We don't wear uniforms, and our traditions are both silly and serious. The strength of in-camp life comes from the creativity of our counselors. After a busy, structured school year, we push campers to try new things and have fun. In-camp memories will color your camper's stories for the rest of their lives.

Activities

The following activities are offered regularly at camp:

- Arts and Crafts
- Pottery
- Woodworking
- Swimming
- Sailing
- Paddleboarding
- Kayaking
- Canoeing
- Tennis
- Archery
- Riflery
- Ropes Course
- Nature
- Sports

Each night, the counselor in charge ('OD' short for 'Officer of the Day') plans an activity for the entire camp. Examples of some of our favorite evening activities include:

- Capture the Flag
- Boulder Dash
- Air Guitar
- Casino Night
- Carnival
- Olympics
- Gold Rush
- Open Hill

Daily Schedules

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 7:30 a.m. | Morning Bell |
| 8 a.m. | Flag |
| 8:10 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 9:15 a.m. | Gathering Circle |
| 9:30 a.m. | 1st Morning Activity (Assigned by Cabin) |
| 10:30 a.m. | 2nd Morning Activity (Assigned by Cabin) |
| 11:45 a.m. | General Swim |
| 12:30 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:30 p.m. | Rest Hour |
| 2:30 p.m. | Gathering Circle |
| 2:45 p.m. | 1st Afternoon Activity (Camper Choice) |
| 3:45 p.m. | 2nd Afternoon Activity (Camper Choice) |
| 4:45 p.m. | General Swim |
| 5:15 p.m. | Free Time |
| 6 p.m. | Dinner |
| 7 p.m. | Evening Activity |
| 8 p.m. | Evening Flag |
| 8:15 p.m. | Showers, Cabin Meetings, Med Minutes, Flashlight Reading Before Bed |

In-Camp (cont.)

Sunday Schedule

Siblings and cousins can get together for lunch on Sunday afternoons. We alternate between campuses.

| Kieve Sunday Schedule | | Wavus Sunday Schedule | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 8 a.m. | Morning Bell | 8 a.m. | Morning Bell |
| 8:30 a.m. | Breakfast | 8:30 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 9:15 a.m. | Cabin Inspection Prep | 9:15 a.m. | Cabin Inspection Prep |
| 10:30 a.m. | Chapel* | 10:30 a.m. | Pine Whispers |
| 11:30 a.m. | Cabin Inspections | 11:30 a.m. | Cabin Inspections |
| 12:30 p.m. | Lunch | 12:30 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:30 p.m. | Rest Hour | 1:30 p.m. | Rest Hour |
| 2:30 p.m. | Gathering Circle | 2:30 p.m. | Gathering Circle |
| 2:45 p.m. | 1st Activity Period | 2:45 p.m. | OD's Activity |
| 3:45 p.m. | 2nd Activity Period | 4 p.m. | General Swim |
| 4:45 p.m. | General Swim | 5 p.m. | Free Time |
| 5:15 p.m. | Free Time | 6 p.m. | Dinner |
| 6 p.m. | Dinner | 7 p.m. | Sunday Sparks Campfire |
| 7 p.m. | Evening Activity | 8 p.m. | Evening Flag |
| 8 p.m. | Evening Flag | | |

*Sunday Chapel is a non-religious Kieve tradition — just like Pine Whispers at Wavus — run by the campers for the campers. It's a time to slow down, reflect, and share stories, thoughts, poems, and songs.

Birthdays

While packages are NOT allowed in camp or on resupply, we do make an exception for birthdays! You may send your camper a package for their birthday, but please do not send food items. In addition, we always ensure our campers and their cabins get a special treat for their birthday at camp.

Camp Communications

Part of the magic of camp is the independence it provides. Our goal is to help campers navigate challenges with guidance from inspirational role models, without the pitfalls of social media and technology. As parents and educators ourselves, *we know it's hard*. There will be rainy days, skinned knees, friendship bumps and bruises, and even some failure (although plenty of opportunities to try again!). We want your camper to leave here with greater confidence in their own ability to be a resilient problem-solver and achieve what once seemed out of reach. Those lessons will certainly transcend their time here on Damariscotta Lake.



Camp Communications (cont.)

Please remember that no news is good news! We will contact you if there is a significant issue, and we encourage you to reach out to the camp director if you receive a concerning letter home from your camper. We value the opportunity to partner with you to ensure that camp is one of the hallmark learning experiences of their childhood.

How and When Camp Will Contact You

Sunday Director's Note

- A Sunday email reflection from Kate and Caddy about life in camp and in the woods.

Photos

- In-camp photos are posted to Campminder on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- Wilderness trip photos post on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday after the group's return to camp.
- Photos can be purchased through your Campminder account, and you can allow friends and family to view them by sending them a guest invitation in Campminder (**note that guests can only use Campminder, not the Companion app**).
- We periodically post photos to our social media feeds.

Resupply Updates for Penobscot/Bank, Allagash, Long Voyage, Maine Trails

- Sent via email as soon as possible after the resupply is complete, typically the next business day.

Mid-Session Update for Full Session Campers

- Sent via snail mail and includes an update from your camper and their head bunk counselor.

End-of-Session Letter for All Campers

- Sent via email and includes a reflection from your camper's head bunk counselor.

Wellness Issues/Concerns

- Parents will be contacted in the following situations:
 - Overnight stay at the health center.
 - Camper requires outside healthcare (doctor, urgent care, or ER).
 - Social-emotional or behavioral concerns that are significantly impacting the campers or their cabinmates.

Camp Communications (cont.)

How and When You Can Contact Your Camper

Snail Mail

- To write letters to your camper, please address them using the following format.

| Kieve | Wavus |
|--|--|
| <i>Camper Name, Session, Cabin Name</i> Camp Kieve P.O. Box 169 Nobleboro, ME 04555 207-563-5172 | <i>Camper Name, Session, Cabin Name</i> Wavus Camp P.O. Box 350 Jefferson, ME 04348 207-563-5172 |

Emails via Campminder

- Emails sent via Campminder are printed for campers Monday–Saturday.
- Please note that you do not need to purchase “Camp Stamps” through Campminder to send emails. That’s just for decoration.
- Parents can create guest accounts for family and friends to email their camper. When you log in, click the “My Account” menu. From there, scroll down to the “Online Community” section and select “Guest Accounts” (remember, this only works on Campminder, not the Companion app).

Birthdays

- We allow campers with birthdays during camp to call home. Please reach out to the camp director to coordinate.

We know this is a long time to be away from your camper. If you just need an update, etc., please don't hesitate to reach out to us!

Please remember that packages are NOT allowed in camp or on resupply. Contact us if your camper needs an essential item.

Healthcare

Our Team

KWE’s Healthcare Director, Sarah Kennedy, FNP-BC, lives onsite, overseeing the Kieve and Wavus health centers and all healthcare in consultation with Full Circle Direct Primary Care. Our Associate Healthcare Director, Sara Hopkins, RN, also lives onsite year-round and directs one of our health centers each summer. Each health center is staffed by a director with an associate director and supporting assistant directors. The healthcare team is available 24/7 for needs that arise at camp and on trips.



Healthcare (cont.)

Illness and Injury

Our focus is on preventing illness and injury. Teaching your child about the importance of frequent hydration, adequate sun protection, and good hygiene ahead of camp is important. Our centers treat illness and injury as they arise and consult with our local physician's office (Full Circle Direct Primary Care) and local hospital (Miles Campus-Lincoln Health) as necessary.

On wilderness trips, each head bunk counselor is certified in wilderness advanced first aid and carries a Garmin inReach satellite texting device to consult and communicate with camp directors in case of a medical issue or incident. We will contact you if your child experiences significant illness or injury, needs to stay overnight in the health center, or requires outside medical attention.

Medications

All medications must be entered on the Health History Form in Campminder by **April 17, 2026**.

Any medications that you add to the Health History Form after its submission must be communicated to Kate (katekaplan@kwe.org) at Wavus or Caddy (caddybrooks@kwe.org) at Kieve as soon as possible. *It creates a significant risk to distribute medication that is not accurately entered into the Health History Form prior to your camper's arrival at camp — please work with us to avoid medication surprises.*

To ensure safety, campers are not permitted to keep any medications in their cabins, except for authorized EpiPens and rescue inhalers. Please bring all medications (prescription and non-prescription) to the health center upon arrival.

Prescription Medications

- Please pack enough medication for the session **in its original packaging, clearly labeled with your camper's name, dosage, and frequency.**

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medications

- Please leave all vitamins and dietary supplements at home unless prescribed by your camper's physician.
- If your camper takes an OTC medication daily, such as an allergy pill or nasal spray, please enter it in Campminder and bring it to the health center upon arrival.
- Our health centers are fully stocked with commonly needed OTC medications for minor illnesses, so all other non-prescription medications should be left at home.

Emergency Medications

- If your camper has an emergency medication they must carry and self-administer, like an inhaler or EpiPen, please authorize this on the Physical Exam Form and send two of each. **Per Maine state law, this authorization must be signed by both the medical provider and guardian.**



Healthcare (cont.)

Medication Administration

- Medications are administered during meals and before bedtime. If your camper requires medication outside of these scheduled times, please contact Kate (katekaplan@kwe.org) at Wavus or Caddy (caddybrooks@kwe.org) at Kieve to discuss a plan.

Mental, Emotional, and Social Health

It is essential to share all mental, emotional, and social health challenges your camper may experience before camp begins. Overnight camp and wilderness tripping can exacerbate symptoms of mild or past mental health conditions, and talking through these potential symptoms and effective coping mechanisms will allow us to better serve your child at camp.

While we can manage many mental health challenges, we are not a therapeutic camp and may be unable to adequately support some campers with more acute needs. If our team decides that camp is not a safe place for your child, we will work with you to facilitate an early departure.

Please refer to the following chart with examples of what we usually can and cannot provide, and contact us if you have concerns about your camper’s readiness.

| Camp Can Usually Provide | Camp Cannot Safely Provide |
|---|--|
| Strategies for coping with symptoms of anxiety and depression | Therapeutic treatment or care for campers experiencing significant or recurring distress (ex. frequent panic attacks, severe depressive episodes, suicidal ideation) |
| Care for campers who have engaged in non-suicidal self-harm in the past but are now in remission | Care for campers actively engaging in non-suicidal self-harm at camp |
| Supportive environment for campers with a history of disordered eating or whose eating disorder is well-managed | Care for campers currently struggling with severe eating disorders |
| Prescheduled phone calls with a camper’s therapist from home when not on a wilderness trip | Contact with therapeutic providers on demand |
| Supervision and redirection for campers who may need short breaks from group settings | 1:1 behavioral support to function in group settings |

Med Kits

Each cabin’s medical kit contains the supplies necessary for counselors to utilize their first-aid training to manage common illnesses and injuries on wilderness trips.



Healthcare (cont.)

Med Minute

Med Minute is a nightly check-in for counselors to have 1-1 conversations with their campers to evaluate their health and well-being, from bumps and scrapes to social dynamics within the cabin. Med Minute notes are reported to the camp director and healthcare staff the following morning.

Immunization Requirements

All campers must be current on all [standard vaccinations](#) to attend Kieve or Wavus.

Allergies and Food Preferences

Please use the Health History Form to communicate all allergies and dietary restrictions before camp. KWE staff are trained to manage allergies and anaphylaxis. EpiPens are available around campus and in wilderness trip med kits. The dining halls are nut-free, and our kitchens can accommodate reasonable dietary restrictions. Meals on wilderness trips are planned based on the group's specific needs, and certain foods will be omitted if a severe allergy is present.

Hygiene

Good hygiene is crucial for maintaining camper health. Each cabin maintains a shower schedule so that all campers can bathe each day. Please help prepare your camper by reviewing the importance of frequent showering (and changing into clean clothing) to prevent infection. The bacteria that cause the common skin infection [impetigo](#) can spread easily in communal settings, especially in the presence of sweat, scratched bug bites, and warm, humid weather. Minor cuts, scrapes, and bug bites can quickly become skin infections without good hygiene. Our healthcare staff will contact you if your child develops a skin infection, such as impetigo, or comes into close contact with an active infection.

Sun Safety

We emphasize sun safety and have sunscreen readily available throughout camp. Please send your child their own broad-spectrum sunscreen supply and teach them to apply it independently. This is especially important for campers going on longer trips. If your camper has sensitive skin, please consider sending them with a UV-blocking sun shirt and a wide-brimmed hat.

Lice

Please carefully check your camper's hair for nits and lice, and ensure all personal items, such as blankets and sleeping bags, are clean before arrival. We check every camper for lice on the first evening of camp. If lice are found, we contact you to arrange treatment with an over-the-counter shampoo or to offer the option of having them treated at Nits End in Portland.

Tick Safety

Ticks are an unfortunate reality in Maine. To mitigate risk, we organically treat high-traffic campus areas and regularly mow the grass. When practical, we encourage long pants and long-sleeved shirts and discuss tick checks every evening during the daily Med Minute. If a tick is found attached, we remove it, document the time and location, and contact families. If the tick has been attached for 36 hours or longer, we will recommend prophylactic treatment with doxycycline. We follow CDC guidance on tick-bite prophylaxis, available [here](#). Repellent and preventive treatments to consider before camp are available [here](#).



Healthcare (cont.)

Browntail Moth

The browntail moth caterpillar is an invasive species found in Maine. Direct contact with its poisonous hairs can cause an itchy rash similar to poison ivy. Our campuses are treated to prevent browntail moth infestation, and the risk of rash decreases by mid-summer. If a camper develops a rash that may be due to caterpillar exposure, we help treat their symptoms and ensure their clothes and bedding are cleaned. More information on the browntail moth caterpillar is available [here](#).

Bedwetting

If your child experiences bedwetting, it is essential to include details in the Health History Form, including severity and any strategies your child may use to minimize the occurrence or effect. Our staff is trained to manage bedwetting respectfully and discreetly. Communicating with us beforehand will help us select the appropriate bunk and have a plan in place.

Ear Care

All bodies of water can carry harmful bacteria and parasites. To help prevent swimmer's ear, we administer ear squirts, a 1:1 mixture of white vinegar and isopropyl alcohol, after lake swimming.

Periods

We are well-equipped to help campers feel comfortable during periods. Our counselors and trip directors teach campers about proper hygiene and the proper disposal of supplies during a trip. Please pack your child with pads or tampons if a period is expected, but know that we have plenty available.

Wilderness Tripping

Wilderness trips are the core of each camper's experience. Every camper will spend at least one night out in the woods away from camp with their cabin group. As campers grow older, their trips become more extensive and demanding; the youngest are away for one or two nights, and the oldest spend up to 22 days canoeing or hiking in the most beautiful and remote parts of Maine. These trips build a deep appreciation for the natural world, as well as grit and resilience beyond what can be learned in the comforts of home.

[Kieve Wilderness Trips](#)

[Wavus Wilderness Trips](#)

Staff Training

Every cabin at Kieve and Wavus has a certified Maine State Camp Trip Leader and counselors with certifications in Wilderness Advanced First Aid, Swiftwater Rescue, and/or lifeguarding. There is also significant in-camp training.

Trip Preparation at Camp

Cabin Trip Talk

- A tripping director reviews the itinerary and maps with campers, goes over relevant skills, and answers any questions.



Wilderness Tripping (cont.)

Counselor Trip Talk

- A tripping director reviews the itinerary, maps, and emergency action plans with the head bunk counselor.

Menu Planning

- Counselors submit a menu prior to departure for review by our tripping directors.

Health Center Meeting

- The head bunk counselor meets with the health center director prior to their trip to review their med kit, camper medications, and all medical concerns.

Canoe Clinic

- All campers who are scheduled to go on paddling trips complete a canoe clinic with our tripping directors to cover the following skills:
 - Parts of the canoe
 - Canoe strokes
 - T-rescues and capsizing
 - Navigating white water and lake paddling
 - Basic knots

Final Gear Check

- A tripping director does a final gear check with the head bunk counselor before the group departs.

Communication Protocols

Every cabin carries a Garmin inReach satellite device on its trip, which allows counselors to text camp directors in case of emergency and to confirm that they have reached their campsite.

Evacuation Protocols

Counselors are trained to communicate via their inReach device if an evacuation is necessary due to injury, illness, or mental, emotional, or social health concerns. Our priority is camper safety. Due to the isolated nature of our trips, any incident that escalates to an evacuation request triggers a collaborative risk assessment among our executive director, camp directors, healthcare director, and wilderness tripping directors. If we believe the safest course of action is to evacuate a camper, we will communicate with families and coordinate the next steps.

Safety & Risk

Training & Risk Management

All staff members complete interviews, background checks, and rigorous training in all facets of camp. Every trip leader earns a Wilderness Advanced First Aid certification, which includes CPR, AED, and EpiPen administration. We have a full lifeguard staff, and all employees complete extensive child safety training — covering healthcare, risk, staff standards of behavior, mandated reporting, and mental, emotional, and social health (MESH) assessment.



Safety & Risk (cont.)

Staff also learn to recognize and prevent bullying, harassment, and abuse of any kind among campers and between campers and staff. Parents can help by talking about respecting boundaries and speaking up if something feels unsafe.

We have robust emergency and crisis response plans that every staff member is trained on, and that our leadership staff review and update throughout the year. We take nothing more seriously than the responsibility of caring for your children and are always available to discuss any questions or concerns you might have.

Staff Standards of Behavior

KWE has standards of behavior for conduct and relationships with all youth participants, year-round, on and off KWE property. These standards apply to all adults interacting with youth participants, including employees, contractors, volunteers, parents, and any other third party interacting with youth participants in connection with our programs.

Roles: Adults must maintain clear and appropriate roles when interacting with children.

- Serve as a role model.
- Act consistently with your appropriate adult role, such as counselor, educator, staff, coordinator, director, or other representative of KWE.
- Avoid acting as a peer or alternative parent.

Boundaries: Set and promote awareness of appropriate boundaries in all relationships with children.

- Establish and maintain healthy boundaries to ensure safe, healthy, and positive interactions with children.
- Be alert to the comfort zones of different children and how culture and identity might affect perceptions of boundaries.
- When possible and practicable, adult and youth interactions should be within hearing or sight range of another adult.

Power: Use your influence and authority to promote the healthy development of children.

- Be alert to the imbalance of power between adults and children.
- Use your influence to promote the healthy development of children.
- Put the well-being and emotional needs of the children before your own.

Accountability: Be accountable for your own and other adults' interactions with children.

- Always act in the best interest of children.
- Take responsibility for the impact of your actions on children and others.
- Seek and accept assistance for personal issues before they impact children.
- Actively support others in the efforts to meet these Standards of Behavior.
- Promptly address or report concerns about adherence to these Standards of Behavior to your supervisor, the Healthcare Director, the Executive Director, or the President.

After Camp

Camp Survey

After camp we will send you the link to our post-camp survey and feedback form. Your family and your camper's feedback is invaluable, and we appreciate you taking the time to submit it.

Healthcare Concerns

If a healthcare concern arises within 10 days of camp, please email our camp directors. It's important for us to identify patterns and communicate issues to other families if necessary. Checking for lice and reporting rashes and other illnesses will help keep our community healthy.

Behavior Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's experience at camp due to behavioral issues, please contact the camp director. We don't tolerate anything but kindness and respect for others. It is important for us to support your child and to not miss a learning opportunity for an unkind or disrespectful camper.

Off-Season Communication

Kindness and respect are our guiding principles, and we expect campers to honor them with one another outside camp. This includes their communication through text and social media. We coach our staff to maintain healthy boundaries in their contact with campers after camp, adhering to our Staff Standards of Behavior. You can always contact a camp director to schedule a check-in with a favorite counselor during the school year.

Enrollment for Next Summer

Enrollment for Kieve and Wavus fills up FAST — often before open enrollment begins in mid-October — because we aim to admit all siblings and returning campers.

Returning campers MUST apply before October 13, 2026, to secure their spot.

Please note our application dates and visit our website to read our full enrollment policy. If you know of a prospective camper family, please refer them to kwe.org for more information and to submit a formal application. The sooner they submit an application, the better chance they have of being accepted from our waitlist!

2027 Applications Open on September 4, 2026.

Priority enrollment for returning campers and their siblings starts before October 13, 2026.

2027 Enrollment for New Families Begins on October 13, 2026.

New families are enrolled in age groups with available spaces or placed on our waitlists.

KWE Professional Network

The commitment, creativity, and responsibility that come from working summers at Kieve and Wavus foster a set of “real-world skills” that an internship can't teach. That sort of experience, paired with school-year internships in industries our counselors are passionate about, will no doubt set them up for success.



After Camp (cont.)

If you think your company might benefit from hiring one of our outstanding counselors as a school-year intern, or if you're interested in being a career resource in any way, please reach out to Associate Alumni Engagement Director John McDevitt at johnmcdevitt@kwe.org. You're not just helping our counselors, you're ensuring our campers have role models who are experienced and prepared for the enormous responsibility of leading Kieve and Wavus.

Staying Connected

Follow us on Instagram @kieviewavus and like us on Facebook.

*Thank you for entrusting your child to us.
We are so excited for the summer!*

