

KIEVE WAVUS

NEWS • SPRING '24



A NEW LOOK FOR THE LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

PAGE 6

WINTER ON KATAHDIN

BY MATT BROWN (KIEVE 2013-18; KIEVE STAFF 2021-22)
PAGES 10-13

SUMMER CAMP GLOSSARIES

PAGE 14-17



In This Issue

- i HBC Management Training
- 1 Letter from Sam Kennedy
- 2 Meet KWE's Leadership Team
- 6 A New Look for The Leadership School
- 7 A Community Partnership
Powered by Solar
- 8 Welcoming New KWE Employees
- 10 Winter on Katahdin—From Myth to Memories
- 14 Camp Kieve Glossary
- 16 Wavus Camp Glossary
- 18 Nurse Notes
- 19 The Incredible Reach of The Leadership School
- 20 RSU 40 Students Show Off New Skills With TLS
- 21 Winter and Spring KWE Event Highlights
- 22 KWE's 2023 Financial Update
- 23 2023 Donors
- 28 Paddle & Pines
In Memoriam
Board of Trustees
- 29 Paddle & Pines Spotlight
- 32 Alumni Updates
- 36 Future Campers



HEAD BUNK COUNSELORS MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Eight of our 2023 head bunk counselors have completed our pilot management training program created and led by Kieve alum and parent Rob Webb where they honed skills applicable to any industry — conflict resolution, giving and receiving feedback, delegation, and networking. The cohort worked together through the school year, drafting resumes and cover

letters to showcase the incredible responsibility they have safely leading our campers. The program culminates with May–June internships. If you are interested in hosting one of our staff for an internship, please email President & CEO Sam Kennedy at ssk@kwe.org and join the growing network of parents and alumni tapping into the Kieve Wavus pipeline. ■

LETTER FROM SAM KENNEDY

I started every day last summer by dropping my oldest daughter Stella off at Wavus for Kiddie Camp (our adorable toddler day camp for a growing brood of directors' kids). I've participated in nearly four decades of summer camp, and watching Stella fall in love with Wavus last summer showed me what we do from a brand new perspective. Seeing Wavus through Stella's eyes left me absolutely delighted and, at times, confounded by an endless list of questions: "What's a queechee?" "What happens at Sunday Sparks?" "What is carnival day?" "Why doesn't Wavus have an indoor climbing wall like Kieve?"

It's hard to believe nearly 20 years have passed since Wavus and Kieve merged to form Kieve Wavus Education. We reopened Wavus as a girls' wilderness tripping camp in 2006, realizing our dream of providing young women the same transformational experiences Kieve boys have enjoyed across the lake for nearly a century. Since then, a generation of Wavus campers have rocked out at air guitar, summited Katahdin, paddled the Allagash, and then graduated to join the counselor and director ranks. These women are now role models for the camp's next generation, solidifying the Wavus experience with familiar traditions, culture, and wilderness trips that bond campers and alumni for life.

Naturally, Stella's wonderment has me thinking about the future. How do we keep making Wavus even better? Building a positive culture requires constant and consistent nurturing. It takes time, creativity,

lots of Taylor Swift, countless dance parties in Jewell, and the right leaders. I'm convinced we have the best leader for Wavus, Kate Kaplan. Since 2010, she's grown and fostered the Wavus culture, wearing almost every hat imaginable.

Last summer was one of the rainiest on record, and even though I can't remember a single complaint, Kate and her team often felt that the lack of indoor facilities put a damper on the counselors' creative ideas for fun. We had no arts center, no indoor climbing wall, and nowhere to gather the entire camp together for songs, games, skits, and performances other than Jewell. While people will forever be the ingredient most crucial to the Wavus magic, we must make sure to steward and shape the place that allows our campers and counselors to grow and thrive, learn and care, create and explore. Wavus Point is stunning. The campus rejuvenation that began 20 years ago deserves to be finished with facilities parallel to Kieve's and worthy of Wavus' stellar culture.

Imagine how an already magical Wavus experience might benefit from an indoor space where the whole camp could come together, a building with a stage for performances and yoga, rooms for pottery and arts, a big fireplace for raw, rainy days so the silly songs and skits of Sunday Sparks never end early, a place for a camper to showcase the ceramic bowl she worked so hard to craft, or for a cabin group to work as a team to win air guitar. These moments, big and small, make camp memories stick. We owe our future Wavus generations

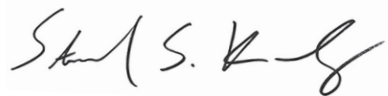
facilities that can support the love, energy, singing, and shouting that echo far beyond Wavus Point.

We've started to dream this building into existence. A Wavus arts center would sit beside the Drumlin, carved out of the hill with space underneath for a more spacious health center for campers and a staff lounge and gym for our counselors. And the campus renewal dreams stretch beyond the arts center. Picture an indoor climbing wall at the edge of the Dorman Kickball Field, a pavilion at the Wavus waterfront where campers can hang their towels, work on friendship bracelets, and take shelter when storms pass through, and an alumni center just past the nature boardwalk where our incredible alumni can stay while camp is in session. We can restore the river stone fireplace in Andrews Hall and transform the historic heart of Wavus into a beautiful gathering space with panoramic lake views.

We have exciting plans for the years leading up to Kieve's 100th and Wavus' 20th with KWE, and we are eager to hear from people who want to help make these dreams a reality. If you're motivated like we are, please reach out to me at ssk@kwe.org.

It's time to make the best summers ever even better.

Gratefully,



Sam Kennedy
President & Chief Executive Officer



Sam with Stella at Kiddie Camp



MEET KWE'S LEADERSHIP TEAM



IN 2022, SAM KENNEDY BECAME THE FOURTH GENERATION OF HIS FAMILY TO LEAD KIEVE WAVUS EDUCATION. His great-grandfather Don Kennedy founded Camp Kieve in 1926 with the torch eventually passing to his son Dick Kennedy, who incorporated Kieve into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Kieve Affective Education. In 1981, Dick founded The Leadership School, permanently expanding the reach of our mission.



When Henry Kennedy took the reins in 1991, he dreamt of a camp on Damariscotta Lake where girls could have the same transformative wilderness tripping experiences that shaped him and generations of Kieve boys. In 2005 his dream became a reality when Kieve Affective Education merged with the Wavus Foundation to become Kieve Wavus Education (KWE), with summer 2006 being Wavus' first as a wilderness tripping camp for girls.

Today, Sam is president and chief executive officer of an expansive educational nonprofit, serving campers, students, and a wide range of programs year round on our beautiful Damariscotta Lake campuses. Kieve and Wavus

continue to thrive as wilderness tripping camps for boys and girls. The Leadership School (TLS) is now a 10-month teacher education program where 16 teaching fellows serve thousands of Maine students a year, and, through a partnership with the University of Southern Maine, can depart KWE with Department of Education teaching certificates. All of our more than 25 full-time TLS staff lead our camps and help facilitate year round events at KWE for local businesses, cancer patients and survivors, veterans, and so many others.

We're excited to introduce you to the incredible team that Sam has brought together to lead KWE into Camp Kieve's 100th year and beyond. ■





MEET
Sam Kennedy

President & Chief Executive Officer

CAMPER YEARS:
1995–2002

CAMP COUNSELOR/STAFF YEARS:
2005–08, 2018–present

EMAIL:
ssk@kwe.org

The fourth generation of his family to lead KWE, Sam Kennedy graduated from Colby College in 2009 and worked for a decade in Chicago’s business world before deciding to attend the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He earned his M.Ed. in 2018 and returned to Camp Kieve that summer. Sam was appointed to his current role by our Board in 2022 and lives in the Red Farmhouse with his wife, Sarah, and future campers Stella, Marty, and Maeve, who arrived this April!



“I fell in love with KWE for a million reasons, and two stick out from the rest: I always felt safe to be my truest self here, and the rigorous wilderness trips inspired a sense of adventure and independence hard to find anywhere else.”



MEET
Sam Kaplan

Executive Director
& Chief Operating Officer

CAMPER YEARS:
1998–2001, 2003–2004

CAMP COUNSELOR/STAFF YEARS:
2006–present

EMAIL:
srk@kwe.org

Sam Kaplan has been a part of our community since he was 10, graduating from Bates College in 2009 and spending his next decade at St. Paul’s School in Baltimore, Md. where he also earned his MAT from Loyola University in 2016. He was a teacher, coach, college counselor, and grade dean before becoming dean of students. He and Kate moved to KWE year-round in spring 2020, just in time for their future Wav campers, Natalie and Elsie, to be born in Maine!



“I don’t think there’s any education as meaningful as what we provide to our campers and students. This place was more transformative for me than any other, and Kate and I are so lucky that we get to raise our girls at camp.”

MEET KWE'S LEADERSHIP TEAM (CONT'D)



MEET
**Chris
Renyi**

Business Director
& Chief Financial Officer

STAFF YEARS:
2020–present

EMAIL:
ctr@kwe.org

Chris Renyi joined the KWE team after an 18-year career at Bank of America and Huntington Bank in corporate and investment banking. Chris is a Bates College alum and earned his MBA from Babson College. Additionally, Chris is both an Outward Bound and NOLS graduate where he summited Denali on July 4, 1997. He joined the team in fall 2020 and quickly made himself an integral part of KWE's leadership team. He splits his time between Bristol, Maine and Concord, Mass. where he lives with his wife and three kids.



MEET
**Erin
Gilligan**

Communications Director
& Chief Advancement Officer

STAFF YEARS:
2022–present

EMAIL:
erin@kwe.org

Before joining the KWE team in 2022, Erin Gilligan managed communications and advancement for Fortune 500 brands to arts, agriculture, and academic institutions. Most recently she was the associate director of advancement communications at Colby College. Erin grew up in Portland, Maine and is a 2009 Bates College alum. She lives in North Yarmouth with her family, including a future Kieve and future Wavus camper!

“

“KWE is a place that transforms lives, and I have gotten a front row seat watching the constant ebb and flow of activity throughout the year. Seeing kids come from as far away as Europe or as close as just around the corner here on West Neck Road, it's rewarding to see the smiles and hear the laughter from across campus.”

“

“I'll never forget the wonder and energy I felt when I first saw camp in action. KWE has a really formative and fun way of connecting kids with nature and with each other. It builds character and skills that I admire and want every kid to experience.”



MEET
**Kate
Kaplan**

Wavus Camp Director

CAMP COUNSELOR/STAFF YEARS:
2010–present

EMAIL:
katekaplan@kwe.org

Kate Kaplan arrived at Wavus in 2010 as a counselor and has spent every summer since on Damariscotta Lake. After graduating from Gettysburg College in 2011, she became an educator at The Leadership School and fell in love with teaching. She was a K–2 science teacher at Rippowam Cisqua School in Bedford, N.Y., then accepted a teaching and coaching position at McDonogh School in Baltimore, Md. At McDonogh, she taught seventh-grade social studies and was the head coach of the girls’ cross country, indoor, and outdoor track teams. Kate earned her M.Ed from Johns Hopkins University in 2020, the same year she became the Wavus Camp Director. Natalie and Elsie, Kate’s daughters, are future Wavus campers!



MEET
**Caddy
Brooks**

Associate Camp Kieve Director

CAMP COUNSELOR/STAFF YEARS:
2023–present

EMAIL:
caddybrooks@kwe.org

Caddy Brooks is a Salisbury School alum and 2009 Colby College grad. After spending time in the Boston business world, he made the jump to education, spending a year at Groton School before taking the athletic director role at Hebron Academy. After coordinating several programs at Kieve, he was recruited for his leadership role. In addition to being the Associate Camp Kieve Director, he is a TLS teacher and lives on campus with his wife, Paige, and their legendary Basset Hound, Bug.



“Since I first stepped foot on Wavus Point, I’ve been surrounded by people who live, teach, and learn through our motto: ‘Everyone and everything deserves to be treated with kindness and respect.’ I’ve watched thousands of Wavus campers and counselors grow in strength, confidence, and empathy. The love and joy of caring for and growing with kids drives KWE, and I’m so lucky to play a role in it.”



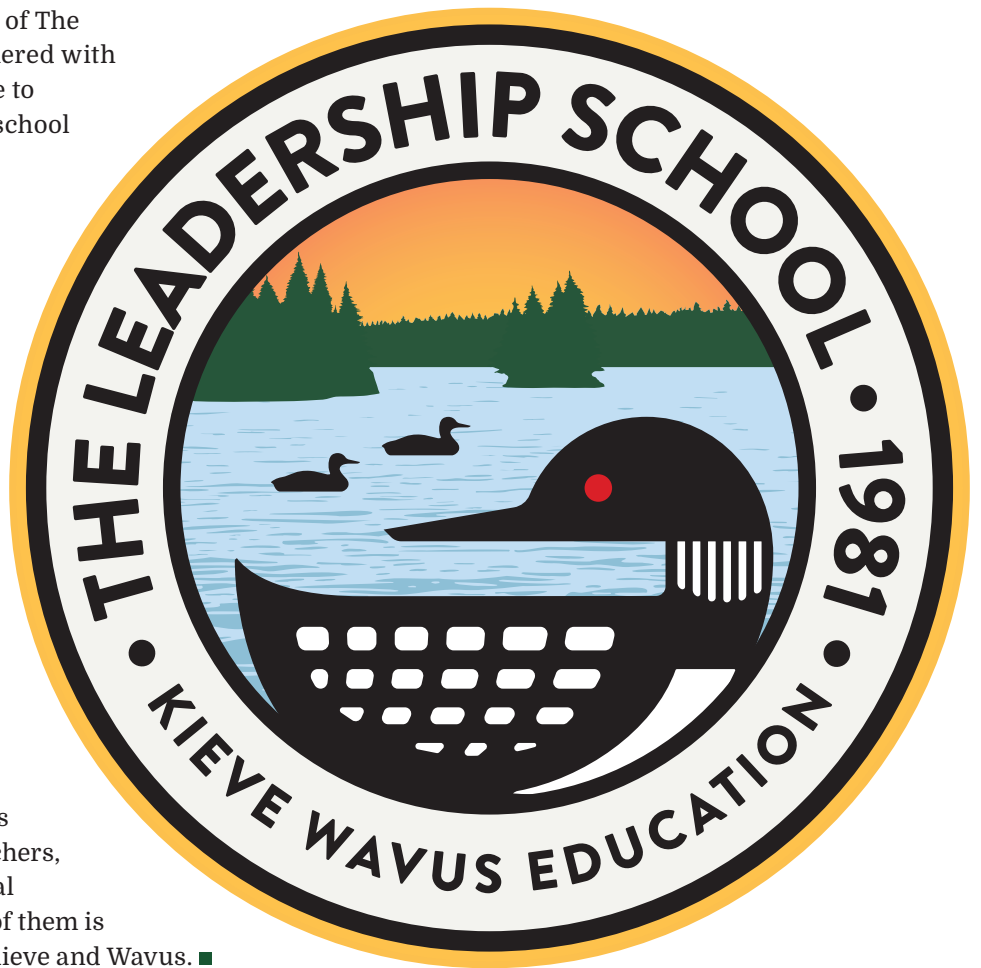
“I got into education for the same reason many of us do — to make a positive impact on a child’s life, and in my roles at KWE, I feel like I have a golden opportunity to do just that. In many ways I still feel like a kid at heart, and I think it helps me connect with, shape, and positively influence the students, campers, and counselors that come through TLS and camp.”

A NEW LOOK FOR THE LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

In an effort to capture the spirit of The Leadership School, KWE partnered with brand design studio Scout Collective to create a new visual identity for our school year program.

The new logo captures the iconic view from Pasquaney porch, where all TLS residential programs take place. In the foreground is a large loon — a beloved Damariscotta Lake inhabitant, which symbolizes a teacher and role model leading the smaller loons, or students, in the background.

This new logo compliments the Kieve and Wavus logos and is emblematic of the evolution of TLS. Since it began in 1981, TLS has grown from a five-week spring session into a 10-month teacher education program central to our nonprofit mission as an educational institution. Each year, more than 25 dynamic TLS educators serve thousands of students and teachers, primarily from under-resourced local Maine communities, and every one of them is connected to the unique success of Kieve and Wavus. ■



KIEVE WAVUS
E D U C A T I O N



A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Since the onset of the pandemic, KWE has remained committed to fighting local food insecurity. Thanks to an incredible partnership with Healthy Lincoln County and Rising Tide Co-op, we have successfully continued our offerings through the Lincoln County Food Initiative (LCFI).

Rising Tide, a cooperatively owned natural grocery located in Damariscotta, has spearheaded its own program — Loving Local Meals — to combat food insecurity. During the pandemic, through the community’s support, Rising Tide employees and a group of dedicated volunteers provided

more than 16,000 meals over the course of 14 months to pantries with food purchased from local farms. This was made possible by generous donations by the Rising Tide community through private donations and contributions made when customers “round up” their purchases to the nearest dollar.

As part of this program, Rising Tide has provided local produce, meat, dairy, and grains to support our work with LCFI. In January alone, more than 700 pounds of food were donated from Rising Tide, resulting in the production of 974 meals in our industrial kitchens that were delivered by our



dedicated team to food pantries in Waldoboro, Wiscasset, Jefferson, and Whitfield. More than 4,000 meals are expected to be delivered throughout the spring.

As part of LCFI, Healthy Lincoln County, who identify under-resourced families and communities, has also picked up 50 warm meals from our kitchens to bring to people who are unhoused or living in tents/campers. As members of the community, we believe it is our responsibility to contribute and help our neighbors in need. ■

POWERED BY SOLAR

Part of our mission at KWE is to connect people with the outdoors to learn about themselves and their surroundings, empowering them to positively contribute to society and responsibly steward the natural environment. In addition to inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards, we must play our part in minimizing our environmental footprint. Our goal is not to expand or overdevelop our campuses but to protect, improve, and leverage our spaces to effectively advance our mission.

One way to minimize our footprint is through the use of



solar power. Solar installations have been completed on the Wavus Barn’s roof, at Round Top Farm in a joint venture with Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust, and most recently on the field west of the Wavus entrance. With the completion of this new ground mount, 100 percent of KWE’s electricity will be offset by solar power. Our 872 solar panels, totaling

419,170 kWh, offset the equivalent of 411,206 pounds of carbon annually.

Through these solar power advancements, KWE is substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other dangerous pollutants, reducing water consumption and withdrawal, and providing significant long-term savings for the organization to put toward other priorities. ■

WELCOMING NEW



**ASSOCIATE
HEALTHCARE
& RISK DIRECTOR**

Sara Hopkins

Sara Hopkins of North Conway, N.H. started at KWE in March 2024. Over the last four years, Sara has worked in the emergency department at Maine Medical Center. While there, Sara had the opportunity to develop strong emergency nursing skills and eventually educate others at the level 1 trauma center. Before that, Sara earned her BSN from the Denver College of Nursing in 2019 and spent years living in Denver and Aspen, Colorado. While in Colorado, Sara held jobs as a nanny, ski instructor, and restaurant server. Sara, who also holds an economics degree from the University of Vermont, has the fondest memories of growing up and attending Camp Huckins in Freedom, N.H. where she was a camper for eight years before becoming a counselor. In her new position at KWE, Sara will oversee the health and well-being of anyone on the KWE campus. She hopes to be an approachable resource for campers and students so they can have the same formative and wonderful experience that she had growing up at camp. Sara is looking forward to applying her experiences in emergency medicine to risk assessment and quality improvement at KWE. She is also excited to get in the lake come May and begin training for the triathlons she plans to do this summer! ■



**ASSOCIATE
ADVANCEMENT &
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR**

Elyse Catalina

Elyse Catalina of Waterville, Maine joined the KWE staff in November 2023. Elyse previously worked at a newspaper and in communications at academic institutions, most recently in advancement communications at Colby College with our Communications Director & Chief Advancement Officer Erin Gilligan. Elyse, who grew up in LaGrange and earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Maine, fondly remembers spending a night on the Kieve campus with fellow classmates while in middle school through The Leadership School. Elyse loves the Maine outdoors, especially camping and hiking, and has climbed Katahdin seven times (so far!). She is grateful to be working for an incredible organization in such an idyllic place and is looking forward to the summer and experiencing firsthand the excitement that campers bring. Elyse is also counting down the years when her two young children Molly and Arthur can join in on the fun. ■



**LEAD CLEANING
STAFF**

Katie Merrill

Katie Merrill, who grew up in Harmony, Maine and currently lives in Somerville, first joined the staff at KWE in February 2023. Before KWE, Katie worked as a Certified Residential Medication Aide (CRMA) at a nursing home and most recently as a stay-at-home mom to her two children, Granger and Ellie. Katie first learned about the job through close friend Associate Maintenance Director James Burk. In her position, Katie maintains the aesthetics of all the buildings on both campuses, making sure spaces are turned over and ready for different retreats and events throughout the year and for campers during the summer. Katie says her main goal in this role is to improve upon former practices and establish a new standard of cleanliness, while also having a staff to maintain it. During Katie's first several months on the job, her "staff" consisted of her five-year-old daughter, who would happily follow her mother around with a spray bottle and rags — putting a smile on everyone's face. ■

KWE EMPLOYEES



**FOOD SERVICES
DIRECTOR**

Mike Flynn

Mike Flynn, who also currently serves as the nutrition director for RSU 12, joined the KWE team in February 2024 after learning about the work the organization does with local farmers and our food initiatives. Mike has a bachelor's degree in applied science and an associate degree in business from the University of Maine, as well as an associate degree in culinary arts from Southern Maine Community College. After graduating from culinary school, Mike worked in restaurants in Texas, California, Japan, and Maine learning about culturally diverse foods while focusing on healthy regionally local ingredients before moving to child nutrition in public schools. At KWE, Mike is looking forward to discussing healthy food options with campers and counselors and preparing innovative food from local sources that everyone can enjoy. For fun, Mike is a certified executive chef and a black belt in Isshinryu karate. Last year, Mike and his wife bought a 10-acre farm in their childhood hometown of West Gardiner, Maine where they plan to raise goats and other rescue animals. Their favorite activities at home are preparing the gardens for growing their own food, collecting chicken eggs to share with their neighbors, and spending time with their adult children Emalee and Jon. ■



**LEAD
MAINTENANCE
STAFF**

Jay Dowling

Jay Dowling joined KWE in June 2023 after moving to Maine last year with his fiancé to be closer to family. Once Jay learned about KWE's mission and strong outdoor focus, he knew it would be a great fit, as his love of the outdoors is deep, with backpacking and ocean kayaking trips bringing him to places ranging from Utah to Iceland, with many of his favorite adventures being right here in Maine. Jay, who grew up in New Jersey, Texas, and South Carolina, graduated from the duCret School of Art and Design (now the duCret Center of Art) in New Jersey and found furniture making, restoration, and cabinetwork to be his passion. For the past 20 years, Jay has been teaching fine woodworking in Massachusetts, as well as working in the antiques and fine art auction world — appraising and cataloging with a focus on clocks and watches. Woodworking still remains as a small business/personal project of his. Jay looks forward to learning more about the reach of the diversity and mission of KWE and what the organization can offer to the community. He hopes to spend many years helping to improve the grounds of the Kieve and Wavus campuses. ■



**LEAD
MAINTENANCE
STAFF**

Tim Dostie

Tim Dostie began working at KWE in January 2024 after learning about the organization's great employee benefits. Tim has experience in a variety of areas including landscaping, automotive paint supply, and logging. Most recently, he worked for the past 12 years as a sporting goods clerk at Hussey's General Store in Windsor. Tim is looking forward to gaining several new skills at KWE. In his spare time, he loves to hunt and fish. Tim lives in Somerville with his wife and three daughters. ■

WINTER ON KATAHDIN

FROM MYTH TO MEMORIES

BY MATT BROWN
(KIEVE 2013–18; KIEVE STAFF 2021–22)





For the longest time, winter Katahdin appeared as a myth to me and to friends that I've eagerly spoken with over the years. Currently in the midst of my senior year at Colby College (with a quickly expiring timer on my closing months as a student in Maine), my final January at Colby seemed like the perfect opportunity to make a push for a winter Katahdin ascent (my 10th ascent). After deliberating this fall with friends from Colby that I'd summited Bigelow with in January 2022, the energy was there, and I certainly wasn't going to pass up this last-chance opportunity.

Preparation for the trip was lengthy but worthwhile. Applications had to be sent to Baxter State Park for winter approval and additional tools such as a portable beacon such as a Garmin inReach became absolutely necessary. Abol was the easiest route up to the summit and required a five-mile hike on the Park Tote Road to the lean-to (Tote Road becomes a snowmobile track in winter though is still accessible via cross-country skis or on foot). After securing reservations from the park for Jan. 27, I called up a close friend and past Maine Trails co-counselor Matt Kellet (Kieve 2008–16; Kieve Council





2017–2019, 2021–22; Assistant Kieve Wilderness Tripping Director 2023–24), who expressed his shared excitement for the prospect of winter Katahdin and brought a vastly superior degree of experience to any potential ascent. Perhaps the most important factor in any winter ascent was the weather — a shift in winds of just 20 degrees could be the determining factor between a successful ascent and a failed ascent. As the days drew closer, Kellet and I found ourselves checking the weather multiple times daily in hope that the conditions would hold out. They most certainly did.

The night prior to our ascent, MK and I spent some time figuring out an additional piece of the puzzle. Sleeping bags and winter gear in general are far too dense to carry in a backpack, so we reinforced plastic sleds with PVC pipe, bungees, and





carabiners in the hope that we could pull additional gear. After a night of good rest, the five of us headed up to Abol Bridge, where we parked cars and began the hike to Abol Campground with bags and two sleds, a journey totaling over three hours. Over a foot and a half of powder rested on the ground at Abol Campground and the trail that awaited us, on top of whatever ice and snow rested underneath. After a fire, and an early bedtime in our tightly nestled lean-to, we rose at 3 a.m. to begin our ascent, wearing and carrying many warm layers, cramp-ons, snowshoes, a med kit/inReach, water, snacks, a stove (to boil water), and exceptionally good attitudes. The hike was blackness for the first half; it took us until sunrise to realize that we were hiking through the clouds, with bright skies padding the sky above them. This experience with the clouds was a first for me in Maine,

and it was amazing. Breaking through the clouds to treeline and soon to the Tablelands, we took in the full scope of the beauty that was the weather we were given. An ocean of clouds rested below us, with only the prominence of the indigenously titled “Greatest Mountain” in front of us. Making the final push to the summit was surprisingly difficult; the trail faded and I often took a step in three inches of snow directly followed by a step into sometimes multiple feet of deep snow drifts.

Reaching the summit, the five of us shared a moment in acknowledgement of the accomplishment and blessing that it was to not only be in Baxter State Park in January, but to reach the peak. Heading down the mountain and leaving the park, the experience slowly set in — what was once a myth was now a weekend to remember for a lifetime. ■



Quality Camp Gear from a Local Partner

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 collection contains nearly every item on the camp packing lists in one place. All purchases receive a 10% discount with the code KIEVEWAVUS.



Interested donors can also visit our Wish List Registry at Maine Sport Outfitters to purchase gear and clothing for campers receiving financial aid.



SUMMER CAMP

GLOSSARY



C is for **Cabin row** — The row of cabins closest to the waterfront is also a way to describe our younger full session campers. The oldest boys (and JK!) are at the Top of the Hill — where you can find the flagpole, green top, Innisfree, and the arts center.

A is for **Aqua Attack** — Aqua Attack is the last big activity of the camp session. It's the most epic water gun and balloon fight out there. Everybody gets covered in colored water, and after the game we have a whole camp tub in the lake!

M is for **island swim** — A right of passage! All new campers do swim tests on the first full day of camp and have the choice to go the full 660 yards to Swim Island. If you can't get it year one, no worries, you can always give it a shot the next year — just no touching the canoe!

P is for **round top** — A locally owned ice cream shop right in Damariscotta. If cabins are lucky, they'll make a trip to Round Top on the way back from their camping trip. The only question is, what is the best flavor?



EVERY SUMMER NEW CAMPERS ARE QUICKLY WELCOMED AND MADE TO FEEL AT HOME AT KIEVE AND WAVUS.

However, there are a lot of words and phrases that are unique to Damariscotta Lake lingo, so we compiled a glossary of the most important Kieve and Wavus terms to serve as a guide for new and returning campers alike.

K is for raft sKits — General swim, aka “G-swim,” happens twice a day, once before lunch and once before dinner. Every kid and counselor hustles down to the waterfront to claim a spot on the best raft and prepare for raft skits. At G-Swim, the officer of the day presents a raft skit prompt. Each raft group produces a short skit based on the prompt and performs their skit. The OD judges the skits and the winning raft swims in first!



I is for Inspection Sunday — On Sundays, every cabin works all morning to tidy up and get their bathrooms and cabin sparkling before the inspection directors swing by. Don't forget to check the secret inspection spot! Ice cream for the winners, and the losing cabin's counselors clean the grills.

E is for Early morning knockout — Anyone can join this pro game of knockout, you just have to be there before 7:30 a.m. Usually there are two games, but if enough people come there will be an epic battle that runs right up until flag at 8 a.m.

V is for riValry day — One of the best days in the best week of camp. Rivalry day pits cabin against cabin and camper against camper in competitions across all the best activities at camp. Knockout, archery, climbing, crossword puzzles, and so many more. Only one champion can be crowned from Cabin Row and the Top of the Hill — will it be yours?



E is for frisbee highway — Frisbee highway is an iconic scene at every Kieve meal. It might look like a road, but the asphalt from the Pasquaney porch to the Top of the Hill is a hive of activity. Both four square courts, frisbees flying to Grahambo's Post, footballs being tossed — gotta keep your head on the swivel!

SUMMER CAMP

GLOSSARY



W is for color Wars — Campers participate in whole-camp Color Wars on the last Friday of each session. Similar to a giant game of Capture the Flag, but with tie dye! Past themes include Aliens vs. Cowboys, Sunbutter vs. Jelly, and Top Bunk vs. Bottom Bunk. W is also for Wav Wedding, Watercolors on the Causeway, and Whisperlite!

A is for Allagash — A 14-day canoe trip on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in Northern Maine. A rite of passage for many campers, this trip includes the infamous Mud Pond Portage, old trains from logging days, and Allagash Falls! A is also for archery and the Announcement Song!

V is for 15-passenger Vans — Whether campers go to J-Scoop, the beach, a mystery van, or your trip — 15-passenger vans are our favorite mode of transportation.

U is for stand Up paddleboarding (SUP) — A favorite morning and afternoon activity for the girls; our fleet of stand up paddleboards gets a lot of use!

S is for Sunday Sparks — Our weekly Sunday evening campfire with silly songs, musical instruments, and s'mores! S is also for Scrambled Brownies, Dock Spiders, Strawberry Shortcake Shuffle, and Stack Master!





C is for Causeway — The link from Wavus main campus to the point — a beautiful spot to sit, relax, swim, SUP, or watercolor. C is also for JW Carnival, Climbing, Contra Dance, and Cinnamon Roll Saturday!



A is for Air guitar — The first Saturday of each session is Air Guitar Day! Each cabin prepares a dance or a skit to their favorite song and performs in front of the rest of the campers. A is also for “All Too Well” (10-minute version) and the Arrowhead!

M is for Mount Washington — Campers ages 10–12 take part in a five-day camping trip to the White Mountains, culminating in a day hike up the highest peak in the Northeast — Mount Washington! M is also for Mud Wrestling, Maine Trails, and Mammy Glombert!



P is for Pine Whispers — our Sunday reflection, held among our towering pine trees on the point. Campers and counselors are invited to share a poem, reflection, or song to illustrate what Wavus means to them. P is also for Parent Trap, Pottery, Parade of Champions, and the Peanut Butter Jelly song!





NURSE NOTES

We're so excited to see your campers this summer! Please help us take care of them by completing your forms and carefully listing any medication regimen they'll be continuing at camp. Please remember that all non-prescription medications — including vitamins, eye drops, nasal sprays, melatonin, supplements, and homeopathic remedies — must be accompanied by written, signed instructions from your camper's medical provider.

See you soon! In the meantime, here are some tips from our health centers to get your campers ready for the 2024 season:

Hygiene: Good hygiene is crucial to maintaining camper health. You can help prepare your camper by discussing the importance of frequent showering (and changing into clean clothing!) to prevent everyday scratches, bug bites, cuts, and scrapes from turning into skin infections like impetigo. The bacteria that cause this common infection can spread easily in communal settings, especially in the presence of sweat and warm, humid summer weather. Each cabin creates a shower schedule so all campers can bathe each day while in camp. If your child develops a skin infection, we'll contact you right away. In the meantime, hipe our mantra: "A shower a day keeps the impetigo away!"

Our Nightly Med Minute: Med Minute is a nightly check-in between a camper and their counselor to discuss the camper's health and well-being, covering everything from bumps and scrapes to social dynamics within the cabin. It's designed to enable campers to comfortably report any personal concerns, and it's also when campers are reminded to conduct their nightly tick check and encouraged to stay on top of hygiene in general: clipping nails, cleaning and covering bites or blisters, you name it. Med Minute notes are reported to healthcare staff who document and follow up with campers individually when warranted. Med Minute is most effective when campers are encouraged to voice any and all concerns. Now is the time to remind your camper about our nightly Med Minute and to emphasize the importance of speaking up: remember, nothing is too small to mention!

Ticks: Ticks are an unfortunate reality in Maine. While the thought of your camper coming home with a tick-borne illness like Lyme disease is scary, know that we have many safeguards in place to protect them. We organically treat highly frequented campus areas, regularly mow all grass, and keep cabin med kits stocked with bug spray. When practical, we encourage long pants and long-sleeve shirts — especially during outdoor evening activities. Counselors prompt their campers to do their nightly tick checks, and have the skills to safely remove ticks when found attached. If we do find an attached tick on your camper, we remove it, document the time and location, identify the tick type, and contact you about next steps. We'll make treatment recommendations based on CDC guidelines and will be here to answer any of your tick questions. ■



THE INCREDIBLE REACH OF THE LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

2023-24 TLS PROGRAMS

TLS brings our experiential approach to social-emotional learning and environmental stewardship curriculums to schools through a variety of programs serving local, far away, and diverse school communities.

Educator-in-Residence

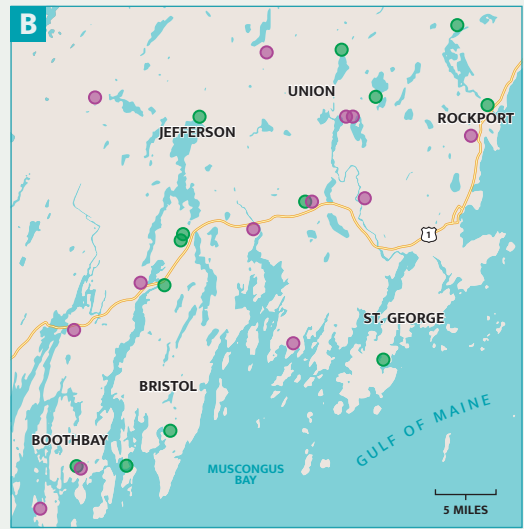
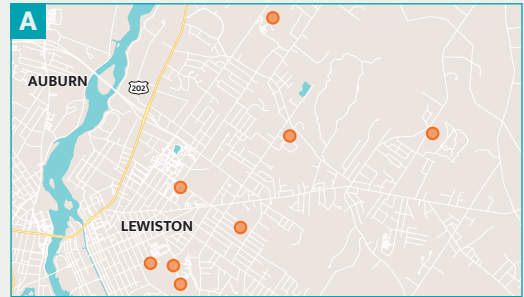
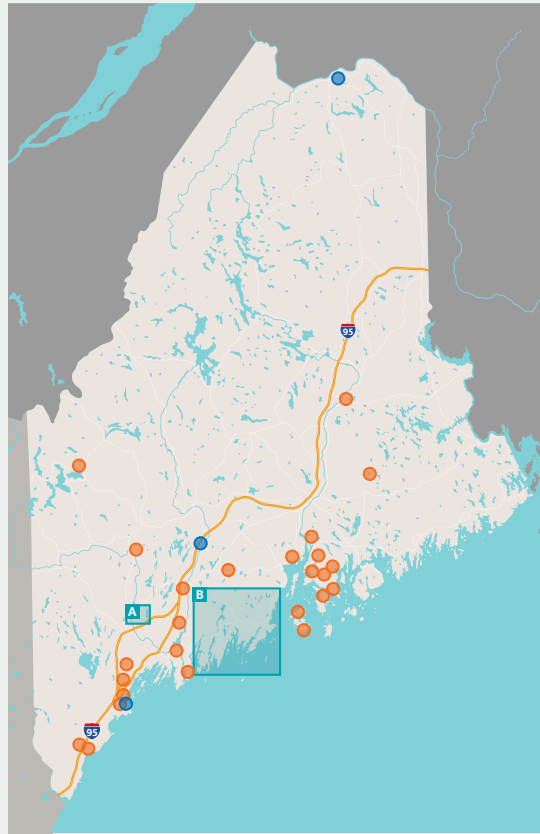
Currently our educators work with 26 local schools for a 20-week residency for the weeks from Thanksgiving through mid-April.

Residential & Outreach

Our Outreach (at schools) and Residential (at camp) programs serve 60 schools across Maine and New England and are invaluable opportunities for our educators to master our curriculum and develop their teaching skills.

EASEL

We offer professional development programs for teachers and organizations based on our experiential approach to CASEL's (The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) five core competencies — self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making.



- Map Legend**
- = EIR Schools
 - = EIR & Residential Schools
 - = Outreach & Residential Schools
 - = EASEL Clients

To view an interactive, detailed map, as well as a complete listing of all participating schools, please scan the QR code.



2022-23 TLS PROGRAM STUDENT DATA

	Residential & Outreach	Educator-in-Residence
Graduation Rates <89%	51%	50%
Higher Education Matriculation	51%	47%
Student Absenteeism >10%	29%	27%
Economically Disadvantaged	33%	33%



RSU 40 STUDENTS SHOW OFF NEW SKILLS WITH TLS



“TLS educators’ commitment to fostering a passion for learning while creating an engaging and inclusive environment for our students is truly commendable. The innovative ideas, teaching methods, and insights they bring have not only enhanced the learning experience but also inspired our educators to continuously strive for excellence.”

Christina M. Wotton, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent, Regional School Unit 40

This past winter was the third and final year of a DOE Innovation Grant that funded 25 sixth-grade students from Warren Community School and 35 students from Miller School to participate in a multi-day TLS after school program from November through May. The program focused on our experiential approach to social-emotional learning and environmental stewardship.

This year marks the largest cohort of participants in the RSU 40 after school program since the grant began in fall 2021. In addition to this work, all eight schools in the RSU 40 district benefit from an Educator-in-Residence.

As part of the after school program, students go through different units of their choosing. During a showcase in February, the students got to demonstrate to their peers the skills they learned. The first unit focused on cooking, where students learned simple cooking skills such as making scrambled eggs, pancakes, and pizza; fire building, which started off indoors then progressed to a “one-match fire” where they can only light it with one match, then ultimately a ferro rod start; and indoor ropes, where students learned essential knots and scaled the Buck climbing wall.

Two more units are expected this spring, with offerings ranging from outdoor adventure like fort building, to sports and arts and crafts, and more time on the ropes course.

The after school program, coupled with the EIR, are important to the district.

“This continued exposure to our staff, both in and out of school, is what makes this experience so meaningful to the students,” says TLS Director Garrett Phillips. ■



WINTER AND SPRING KWE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

While we are all gearing up for both campuses to be buzzing all summer long, the “quiet” months at Kieve and Wavus are also filled with programs for a variety of organizations. This past winter and throughout the spring, our campuses hosted events that benefit multiple groups of people including:

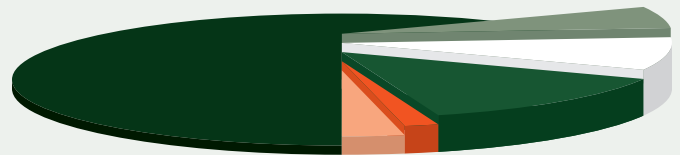
- **TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADULTS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS THROUGH A RETREAT FACILITATED BY LOVE YOUR BRAIN**
- **LOCAL SCHOOLCHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH EVENTS SUCH AS COMMUNITY CLIMB NIGHTS, A TALENT SHOW, SENIOR CLASS TRIP, AND SKILLBUILDING/ COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**
- **MIDCOAST GIRL SCOUTS THROUGH THEIR ANNUAL JUBILEE**
- **MEMBERS OF THE THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY THROUGH OUT MAINE, A PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**
- **MAINE COLLEGE STUDENTS THROUGH A UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FARMINGTON DIVERSITY WORKSHOP AND BOWDOIN WELLNESS RETREAT**
- **LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THROUGH PLANNING MEETINGS**

KWE'S 2023 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Here's a glimpse at how camp tuition, our fundraising, and other revenues enable KWE to expand access to programs and to hire the inspirational role models who lead Kieve, Wavus, and The Leadership School.

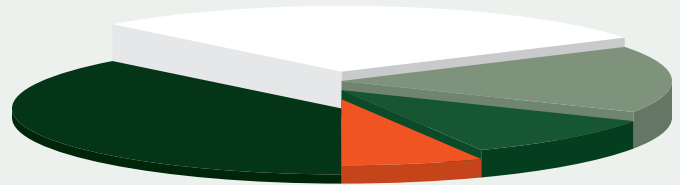
BUSINESS UPDATE*

2023 REVENUE & SUPPORT
\$12,106,000



68.6% Camp Tuition \$8,305,000 5% Retreats, Events, & Fees \$610,000 8.2% The Leadership School \$990,000 13.6% Annual Fund \$1,641,000 1.6% Grants \$200,000 3% Other \$360,000

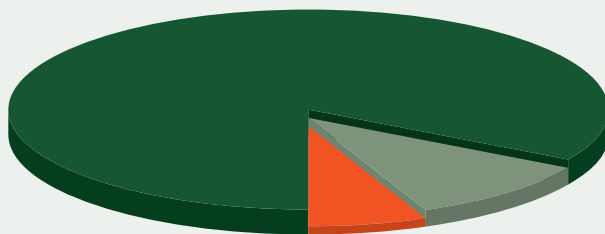
2023 EXPENSES
\$12,106,000



37.9% Salaries, Wages, & Benefits \$4,590,000 28.7% Programs & Operations \$3,480,000 16.2% Utilities, Insurance, Taxes, & Depreciation \$1,960,000 10.2% Scholarships \$1,236,000 7% Reserve for Future Capital & Program Expenses \$840,000

GIVING UPDATE*

2023 SUPPORT
\$1,965,000



By giving to the **Annual Fund**, KWE's dedicated alumni, families, and friends provide essential resources that are put to use in real time — ensuring KWE has the flexibility to address its most pressing needs.

KWE uses its **endowment** to support financial aid. The endowment is valued at \$16,753,911 as of Dec. 31, 2023.

1,097 TOTAL DONORS = 83.5% Annual Fund \$1,641,000 10.2% Grants \$200,000 6.3% Endowment Contributions \$124,000

*KWE's financial audit is completed by September of the following year.

Thanks to our 2023 donors!

We could not be more grateful for your investment, which shapes the KWE experience.

Thanks to the steadfast generosity of our community, we were able to:

- meet 100 percent of need for financial aid at summer camp, ranging from a portion of tuition to the complete cost of camp, including travel and equipment needed for camp activities;
- cover at least 50-percent of the cost of 60 of The Leadership School's residential and outreach programs, ensuring students can benefit no matter their school's resources;
- support 26 local schools, by matching them with a teacher from The Leadership School for 20 weeks;
- provide veterans and their families a fun and safe weekend retreat to connect with each other and those on similar journeys at no cost to the participants;
- partner with Midcoast Conservancy to preserve Damariscotta Lake;

...and so much more!

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Paddle & Pines

We're grateful to our Paddle & Pines friends for making arrangements to leave a planned gift, ensuring that our mission will continue to make an impact beyond our lifetimes.

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[†] — The Paddles & Pines seal denotes deceased.

In Memoriam

Garrett "Gary" E. Cole
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 Rudi Graff
 Jean Gregory
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A planned gift is one of the most flexible and meaningful ways to support future generations of KWE campers, students, teachers, and community members. To learn more go to giftplanning.kwe.org or scan the QR code.



PADDLE & PINES SPOTLIGHT

A PLANNED GIFT is one of the most flexible and meaningful ways to support future generations of KWE campers, students, teachers, and community members. Giving through your estate plan or a gift that provides lifetime income can have significant tax benefits while also providing for KWE and your family.

We invite you to discover more about the long-lasting impact of gift planning at KWE and the reasons so many donors choose to give back in this incredible way by visiting giftplanning.kwe.org and reading the donor story below.

If you'd like to inform us of a planned gift to KWE or learn more about the best way to make your gift, please contact our Communications Director & Chief Advancement Officer Erin Gilligan at erin@kwe.org.

CHRIS AND KOLLEEN DOUGHERTY



Chris Dougherty first came to Kieve when he was 11 years old. He instantly felt right at home, returning for several more years as a camper and then counselor.

“It always stuck as a place where I felt I could be my best self,” Chris says. “The counselors that I met were like these incredible older brothers; these role models that I always wanted to grow up and be like. They had an energy and an excitement that kept me coming back.”

After his counselor years, Chris then went on to join the Advisory Board in 2001 and the Board of Trustees in 2019. His younger brother Jesse also attended Kieve as a camper, while his older brother Mark joined as a counselor. All three have since sent the next generation of Dougherty children to Kieve or Wavus. In fact, there has been a Dougherty family member at camp every year since 1980.

Chris and his wife Kolleen have sent all four of their children — Ellis, Frazier, Harry, and Tessa — who enjoyed pushing themselves during the outdoors trips and came home more independent after every session.

Kolleen credits Kieve with making Chris the person she wanted to marry — a fun, goofy guy who is kind, loves the outdoors, and can be comfortable handling all different kinds of situations. Seeing what the camp had done for Chris and his brothers, Kolleen knew she wanted their kids to have the same experience; to be in a place that fostered their love of the outdoors and challenged them to go beyond what they thought they were capable of.

When it came time to send their eldest child to camp, Kolleen recalled feeling nervous not knowing exactly what to expect. Her anxiety was quickly calmed when then-Director Henry Kennedy called to check in on the first night and let them know their daughter was already right at home.

“That warmth and love that you get — the kindness and respect — it’s with everybody who’s there,” Chris says. “It’s such a part of that culture.”

While setting up their will, Chris and Kolleen knew KWE was where they wanted to leave a legacy.

“My passion is here, and we want to give access to the next generation and acknowledge what an impactful place it has been for us, and what it can be for the community,” Chris says.

In addition to ensuring the longevity of life-changing experiences that Chris and their children had at camp, Kolleen said becoming Paddle & Pines members is also a way to show their appreciation for the organization and what it has done for their family over the years.

“It was important to give back to let KWE realize how much they mean to us,” Kolleen says. ■





Gifts to the Annual Fund allow KWE to provide need-based financial aid so more campers can challenge themselves to reach new heights!

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Make your gift today at kwe.org/give or scan the code:



Alumni Updates





1 Kieve campers **George Turner** (Kieve 2022–23) and **Wyatt Weymouth** (Kieve 2022–23) get together in London.

2 **Christine Reighley** (Wavus Council 2011–12) and **Cam Held** marry in October 2023.

3 Trustee **Libby Schroeder**, front row left, (Leadership Decisions Institute Teacher 1997; Kieve Council 1997–00, 2002; KWE Parent 2019–23) is named a Presidential Leadership Scholar joining 59 other leaders from around the country to form the program’s ninth annual class.

4 **Lauren Begley** (Kieve Council 2016–19) and **Carter Gray** (KW West 2013; Kieve 2007–12; Kieve Council 2015–17) marry at Kieve in September 2023, with lots of alumni in attendance to celebrate the newlyweds.

5 Associate Camp Kieve Director **Caddy Brooks** and Associate Healthcare & Risk Director **Paige Brooks** attend a Maine Celtics game with camper **Alvin Rutanga** (Kieve 2023) in January 2024.

Alumni Updates

CONTINUED





6 **Brendan Bracewell** (Kieve 2022–23), **Calder Keaney** (Kieve 2021–23), and **Shep Teillon** (Kieve 2022–23) play together on the MOJO National lacrosse team.

7 **Berkeley Sando** (Wavus 2016–2019; Wavus Council 2023–24) takes courses in outdoor leadership, canyoneering, and indoor rock climbing while pursuing an outdoor education and leadership major at Westminster University in Utah.

8 **Paxton Beladino** (Wavus 2014–19, 2021; Wavus Council 2023) spends 30 days mountaineering, 30 days sea kayaking, and 10 days as part of an Independent Student Group Expedition during a NOLS Semester in Patagonia.

9 **Becca Ernst** (Wavus Council 2005–06; Kieve Staff 2006–07), **Adam Haselkorn** (Kieve Council 2002–04, 2006), **Kim McDevitt** (Kieve Staff 2005–06; Wavus Staff 2005), **John McDevitt** (Kieve Council 2002–06; Kieve Asst. Director of Tripping 2007), **Jenny Ireland** (Kieve Council 2002–06), and **Evan Atherton** (Kieve 1998–99; Kieve Council 2002–04) gather to celebrate **Dave Ernst** (Kieve 1994–00; Kieve Council 2002–04; 2006–07) at his 40th birthday party.

10 **Will Hackett** (Kieve 1999–04; Kieve Council 2007–13; Kieve Asst. Tripping Director 2014–16; TLS Educator 2011–17, 2021–22) runs into his former camper, **Eddie Fischer** (Kieve 2008–13; Kieve Council 2017) in New York City.

11 **Henry Kennedy** skis with **Doug Armstrong** (Kieve 1993–98; Wavus Parent 2022–24) and **Woody Davis** (Kieve 1986–90; 1992–94; Kieve Council 1996–04) at Sugar Bowl Resort in California.



Future Campers





7 Challenge Course Director and Lead Facilitator **Cam Miller** and **Kayleigh MacFarlane** (Kieve AD Infirmiry 2015; Wavus Council 2011; TLS Educator 2011-14; Wavus AD Infirmiry 2021) welcomed future camper **Leif MacFarlane** on January 1, 2024! Kieve 2032!

2 **George** (Kieve 2001-03; 2006) and **Katie Brooke** welcomed future camper **George Clymer Brooke V** on January 19, 2024! Kieve 2032!

3 **Marge (Tucker) Cardon** (Wavus Tripping Assistant 2015; Wavus Council 2011-14) and **Liam Cardon** welcomed future camper **Tucker Cardon** on November 27, 2023! Kieve 2032!

4 **Hayley (Bright) Curry** (Wavus Council 2011; Wavus Alumni 1998-00; Wavus Camper 2007-08; Science 2002) and **John Curry** welcomed future camper **John “JJ” Atwood Curry** on October 2, 2023! Kieve 2032!

5 **Anneka (Heher) Harper** (Science 2003) and **Tyler Harper** welcomed future camper **Teddy Harper** on October 28, 2023! Kieve 2032!



8 **William** (Kieve 1994-2001; KW West 2002; Counselor 2005) and **Lauren Dujardin** welcomed future camper **Ella Dujardin** on April 11, 2023! Wavus 2031!

7 Chief Advancement Officer and Communications Director **Erin Gilligan** and **Rich Vessey** welcomed future camper **Alice Saint Onge Vessey** on January 5, 2024! Wavus 2032!

8 **Phil** (Kieve Council 2006-09) and **Emily Field** welcomed future camper **Harriet Robinson Field** on January 30, 2024! Wavus 2032!

9 **Lucy (Clark) Pelletier** (Kieve Staff 2010-12; Wavus Council 2010) and **Erik Pelletier** (Kieve Council 2010-12) welcomed **Molly Turner Pelletier** on February 2, 2024! Wavus 2032!

Andrew (Kieve Council 2009-10) and **Cassie Bevan** welcomed future camper **Samuel “Sammy” John Bevan** on August 28, 2023! Kieve 2032!

Will (Kieve 1998-04) and **Tara Merck** welcomed future camper **Eloise Katherine Merck** on October 26, 2023! Wavus 2032!



9 **Kate** (Science 2002) and **Wylie Leabo** welcomed future camper **Zoe Weston Leabo** on October 8, 2023! Wavus 2032!

Charlie (Kieve 2004) and **Regan Storey** welcomed future camper **Charlie Storey** on October 11, 2023! Kieve 2032!

Tiki Haub (Wavus 2008-16; Wavus Council 2018) and **Steven De La Rosa** welcomed future camper **Gianna De La Rosa** on Sept. 30, 2023! Wavus 2032!

Ellie (Weickert) Mahoney (Wavus 2006-09; KW West 2010) and **Andrew Mahoney** welcomed future camper **Madeline Mahoney** on November 14, 2023! Wavus 2032!

Tucker and **Caroline Wheeler** (KWE friends) welcomed future camper **Slater Whitney Wheeler** on September 3, 2023! Kieve 2032!

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Wavus Arts Center

Nestled in the woods between the Drumlin, Haynes, and Aliquippa, the vision for the first-ever Wavus arts center's top floor includes a large gathering space with stage and fireplace for camp to gather on cold, rainy days. The proposed space would include a classroom, nature center, pottery studio, and arts and crafts room. When the sun is shining, all of Wavus could sit on the Drumlin to watch performances on a porch running the length of the building. Below it would be a new health center, director's apartment, staff lounge and fitness center.

