



CAMP O-AT-KA



Dear Families,

We are so pleased that your camper will be joining us for Summer 2026! Our staff has been hard at work planning and taking steps to ensure we have another safe, comfortable and fun experience. Together, we will make this summer one to remember!

Camp O-AT-KA was founded in 1906 by Ernest J. Dennen, as a place where boys from Lynn, Massachusetts could escape the dust and heat of the mill city and enjoy a summer close to nature. Dennen believed that it is better to build strong boys than mend broken men. Camp O-AT-KA maintains this mission to this day. We seek to instill confidence and build character in a supportive, unplugged and safe community environment.

Campers and staff come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and we bring them together by furthering common interests, promoting a sense of community, achieving progress towards goals, and fostering the development of lifelong friendships.

Whether your camper's interests lean towards team sports, outdoor living and wilderness trips, the fine or performing arts, or what we call the waterfront "beach, boat, and canoe club;" O-AT-KA has the activities and staff to help make the most of the summer.

It is an incredible opportunity and privilege to care for your campers. Our watchful and experienced staff are trained and prepared to treat them as they would their own family. Several of our staff have their own children in attendance and many staff are former O-AT-KA campers themselves.

This family guide is designed to answer questions and prepare you and your camper for his camp experience. You will also find information posted on our website at www.campoatka.org.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail at any time. The camp office phone number is (207) 787-3401, and our email is info@campoatka.org.

We look forward to seeing you soon on the shores of Sebago Lake!

Yours truly,

Jimmy

James Holmes
Executive Director

Chris

Chris Kohl
Summer Director of Camper & Counselor Life



AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION (ACA) ACCREDITATION

We know the most important consideration in choosing a camp is its safe environment and qualified staff. Families nationwide recognize the importance of accreditation by the American Camp Association (ACA) when choosing a camp. O-AT-KA is ACA accredited, having passed an exhaustive periodic review process that is reaffirmed annually. This means we meet industry-accepted and government-recognized standards from staff qualifications and training to safety and emergency management. For more information about ACA Accreditation, visit: www.acacamps.org

PRE-CAMP RESOURCES

NEW FAMILY ORIENTATION (Google Meet)

Wednesday May 20, 2026

7:00pm to 8:00pm (EST)

Link: meet.google.com/hky-evay-fbj

All new families will be invited to a new family orientation in May to answer questions, help you prepare and pack, and make sure your family is comfortable before the camp season starts. We will also record the session for those that can't make it.

O-AT-KA PEN PALS

For our new campers, you will be assigned an O-AT-KA pen pal for you to communicate with before you arrive on the shores of Sebago Lake. We will match you up with someone that is going to be in your Unit during the same session; and make the in-person introduction when you arrive!

CONTACT INFORMATION

The camp office is open daily during the summer from 9:00am to 12:30pm and 2:30 to 6:00pm. We also check messages during the evening hours.

Camp Office

Phone: 207-787-3401

Email: office@camboatka.org

Infirmary

Phone: 207-787-3292

Email: infirmary@camboatka.org

Executive Director after hours (Emergency ONLY)

Phone: 978-771-9855

CAMPER MAILING AND E-MAIL

Mail, packages, and e-mails are delivered to campers once a day. Campers write postcards home approximately twice per week. International campers only are permitted to send emails instead. To mail a letter or a package to your camper, please use the following address:

[Your Camper's Name]
Camp O-AT-KA
PO Box 239
Sebago, ME 04029

Please note: the volume of mail passing through our local post office increases greatly during the camp season, therefore outgoing/incoming mail may be slow. We assure you all mail is delivered to Campers in a timely manner. Outgoing mail is taken to the post office daily (except Sundays) by the USPS – we do not hold mail. With this in mind, we do not recommend sending things to your camper at the very end of their stay.

CAMPER PHONE POLICY

Camp O-AT-KA places a high priority on campers learning independence and self-reliance, and on building community with those around us. As we have found from extensive experience, we are best able to achieve these goals in an unplugged environment. For this reason, **campers are not allowed to bring cell phones, nor do they have access to the camp telephone during their stay.** CIT's are campers and will also not have their phones. This policy is strictly enforced. The campers are encouraged to write home at least twice a week. Members of the camp staff are always available to assist you should you have an urgent matter to discuss with your camper. Birthday boys will have the opportunity to call home on their special day. Parents or guardians will contact the camp office to schedule a time to talk to their camper. **Please help support this policy by not sending phones or other unapproved technologies to camp.**

Please note: If your camper is flying to camp, he can bring his phone to the office at check-in. We will lock it in the office safe until his departure day. We will charge the phone and have it ready for his travel at that time.

FAMILY COMMUNICATION FROM CAMP

We want to share your camper's experience with you. Each day you will receive the Galahad Gazette – a one page newsletter that gives a snapshot of what is going on at camp that day. If it is your camper's first year, we will give you a call to update you during their first week. Of course, if there is anything urgent to discuss, we will call you immediately. Photos are posted frequently on our social media sites (no names will ever be used), as well as in your Campminder (CampInTouch) account.

Leading up to camp you will receive frequent emails about necessary camper forms, Zoom orientation meeting, health/safety procedures and travel schedule along with drop-off and pick-up assignment times. Please make sure to read every correspondence thoroughly.

PACKING LIST

This packing list is based upon the experiences of generations of campers. It fits the needs of the campers no matter the length of their session, and it reflects the limited storage space available in our cabins.

O-AT-KA will issue one camp t-shirt, polo, water bottle, and laundry bag to each camper upon arrival. Camp shirts are worn on special days. Additional camp shirts and other clothing are available for purchase in the camp store. We recommend the campers bringing a personal sunscreen and bug spray but know that sunscreen is available at stations throughout camp, as well as bug spray. O-AT-KA also sprays for mosquitos, ticks and brown tail moth.

Please clearly mark all items with your camper's full name (campers might have the same initials).

Clothing

- Camp t-shirt (provided)
- Camp polo (provided)
- 1 additional polo or collared shirt
- 8-10 appropriate t-shirts
- 2-3 sweatshirts
- 2 pants
- 6-8 shorts
- 10 underwear
- 1 non-athletic shorts (special occasions)
- 12 socks
- 2 pajamas (1 warm)
- 2-3 swimsuits
- 2 sweatpants
- Rain jacket
- Hat

Beddings & Linens

Camp O-AT-KA provides sheets, pillowcases, and a laundry bag for campers. We provide pillows and blankets for international campers and, upon request, for those traveling by air. For reasons of hygiene, campers sleep in sheets, not in sleeping bags, while at camp.

- 1 Pillow
- 1 Warm Blanket
- 4 Towels (2 bath and 2 beach)

Footwear

- Sneakers
- Sandals/flip flops/slides
- Cleats (Optional)

Wilderness Equipment (if considering doing trips)

- Sleeping bag
- Bug spray with DEET (non-aerosol)
- Lightweight hiking boots
- Lightweight backpack

Miscellaneous Items

- Trunk or sturdy storage tub
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Toiletry kit or large plastic Zip-lock bag
- Sunscreen

Optional Athletic Equipment – if your camper would prefer his own.

- Tennis racket
- Fishing rod & tackle
- Baseball glove
- Swim goggles (highly recommend)

Other

- Camera (no phones)
- Musical Instruments (piano available)
- Summer reading books
- Board games/playing cards

SHIPPING TRUNKS

O-AT-KA has partnered with **Ship Camps** to make baggage delivery to and from camp easier for everyone. Ship Camps offers round-trip, door-to-door service with outstanding customer support and an experienced operations team that ensures on-time delivery, continuous baggage monitoring and tracking as well as detailed coordination with our camp staff. For these reasons Ship Camps is our preferred baggage handling solution. Through this partnership Ship Camps has guaranteed the best flat rate pricing for our families.

You can visit <https://www.shipcamps.com/campoataka> or call 855.540.2267 to book the service. Once setup is complete, Ship Camps will mail you your shipping labels, pick your bags up from home prior to the camp session and drop off at your desired location after camp. We encourage getting orders booked with Ship Camps by or before Friday May 8th.

LINENS & LAUNDRY

Personal laundry service is arranged by the camp and is included in your camper's tuition. We send personal laundry out each week and get it back one day later. A laundry bag is provided to each camper. Please label all items using full names, as there may be several campers with the same initials. Sheets and pillowcases are provided and are changed weekly. In an emergency, staff have access to washing machines and dryers at camp.

THINGS TO LEAVE AT HOME

In order to promote the healthy social and community aspects of camp life and to maintain an "unplugged" environment, we require that cell phones, iPhones, Apple watches, televisions, radios, stereo systems, computers, PDAs, hand-held electronic games, internet-connectable devices, drones, and other electronic devices be left at home. Any camper who brings electronic devices to camp in violation of this policy will have them held in the office for the duration of his stay. In addition, in view of the limited electrical supply in our cabins, we ask that campers not bring fans and plug-in lamps to camp. There will be a fan in each cabin for ventilation.

Middle and senior unit campers are allowed to have non-video and non-wi-fi iPods and other MP3 players for use during quiet times (siesta, lights out). They may not be used outside the cabins at any time. Phones without SIM cards are not acceptable. Unauthorized use of wireless connections at camp is not permitted and will result in confiscation of the device. As with any personal property, campers bring them to camp at their own risk.

CAMP STORE

Campers can obtain sundries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, postcards, stamps, insect repellent, and batteries at the camp store. Various camp apparel is also sold in the store. Purchases are charged to the camper accounts. Families will establish an amount in the camper account prior to camp or at arrival. If your camper's purchases are going to exceed this amount, we will call home to check. No money is exchanged at camp for any purpose so please do not send your campers with cash.

PACKAGES

Campers love to receive occasional "care packages" from home during their stay at camp. In an effort to keep our cabins free of critters, you may only send non-food items. In addition, many people have food allergies. We need to ensure that the only food served is safe for all campers and staff. Comic books, Graphic novels, trading cards (ex. Magic the Gathering, Pokemon) and magazines are great. Please do not send gum, candy, or snacks. Campers will open all packages in the presence of office staff. Any food will be confiscated.

Rest assured that meals at camp are nutritious and plentiful. There are also designated snack stations should a camper need something between meals. Your camper will get a candy bar/candy of his choice after lunch twice a week in exchange for a postcard home. If your camper has a summer birthday, he will receive a birthday cake to share with his cabin mates.

Remember that space at camp is very limited. Campers live out of their trunks, which are often packed to the brim, and only have a cubby and shelf area for storage. Please be prudent in your number of packages and what you send. Good old-fashioned letters are often a favorite thing to receive from home!

ILLEGAL ITEMS

Please discuss the serious ramifications of possession or use of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, fireworks, and firearms with your camper prior to his arrival at camp. Possession or use of these items by your camper constitutes grounds for immediate dismissal from camp without refund. This includes e-cigarettes and vaping products.

TRAVELING TO CAMP O-AT-KA

The physical address for Camp O-AT-KA is 593 Sebago Road, Sebago, ME 04029. Sebago Road is Route 114. The main entrance is on the lakeside of the street near the tennis courts.

For campers arriving by plane, we ask you to consider Portland Jetport as the “home” airport. International campers and those traveling from further away may need to fly into Boston. We will confirm all travel plans with families prior to camper travel days.

Those that will be traveling in camp vehicles to and from camp will be accompanied by two staff members and in a camp insured vehicle. For unaccompanied minors, O-AT-KA can provide the name and contact information for the staff member meeting your camper. The summer office will confirm arrival when your camper is at camp. We will track flights but also ask you to keep us posted on any changes, delays, etc. For camper departures, staff members will not leave the airport until the camper’s flight is in the air.

2026 ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

The Importance of Arrivals and Departures

Professional research has established that for children, rituals and traditions play an important part in building community, providing a sense of belonging, and creating a supportive environment – all important components of O-AT-KA’s mission to build strong boys. Our opening and closing day rituals and traditions such as: unit orientation, Council Ring campfire, Candlelight Service, or evening cabin time help connect campers to the fabric of camp, provide stability, and create shared values. Opening and closing days are extremely important for our campers and staff. Campers that arrive late for a session or who leave early miss out on these rituals and traditions, which interferes with their ability to integrate into the community or leave with a feeling of closure.

Arriving & Departing from Camp

To allow for families to avoid overcrowding and receive the utmost personal attention from our staff, the drop-off and pick-ups will be scheduled by unit at designated times; this applies to campers arriving by car.

When you arrive a staff member will greet you at your car and give instructions for next steps. The check in process will be held at stations and our staff will help you navigate the stops. Your camper’s bags will be given to our staff and they will safely deliver them to his cabin for you. Your camper will then check in with our Office and Infirmary stations. Any medications should be brought to the Infirmary staff at this time.

All paperwork must be filed out prior to arrival. A member of our Infirmary staff will review medical documents and a member of our Office staff will review other forms to ensure your family is ready to go! If anything is needed, we will call you the week prior to camp starting.

After your camper is checked in, they will meet their counselors. You will also have a chance to meet the team! Campers will start bonding with their cabinmates and at the end of the scheduled arrival time, they will all go to the Unit together. This is so we can immerse them in cabin life immediately. They will then set up their cabin and bunks, participate in an orientation to the camp’s programs and staff, learn safety rules, have fun with cabin ice breakers, and enjoy their first dinner and our opening council ring campfire. Having clear expectations at drop-off and staying busy the first day is the best way to combat homesickness. The regular activity schedule will begin the next morning. We understand this process can be difficult (more so for guardians), but again it is research driven.

ARRIVAL SCHEDULE: FULL SUMMER, FIRST SESSION & 2-WEEK STARTER SESSION A

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 - CIT's & International Camper Arrival

- CITs should arrive at camp between 3pm and 4pm.
- International campers should arrange to arrive at Boston Logan airport between 10am and 6pm, where they will be greeted by O-AT-KA staff and transported to camp in time to settle into their cabins before dark and get a good night's sleep so that they are ready for opening day.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 – Full Summer, First Session & Two-Week Session A

- Campers arriving by car will have a scheduled time, by unit, between 1pm and 3pm. Please arrive during your scheduled time. If you are going to be late, please call to let us know. Families will be at camp for no longer than an hour to complete check-in. *Note: **Please have lunch before you arrive.***
 - Senior Unit: 1:00pm – 2:00pm
 - Middle and Junior Units: 2:00pm – 3:00pm
- Domestic campers should arrange to arrive at Portland Jetport or Boston Logan Airport before 3pm, where they will be greeted by O-AT-KA staff and transported to camp in time for dinner, orientation, and the opening campfire.

ARRIVAL SCHEDULE: SECOND SESSION & 2-WEEK STARTER SESSION B

SUNDAY, JULY 19

- Campers arriving by car will have a scheduled time, by unit, between 1pm and 3pm. Please arrive during your scheduled time. If you are going to be late, please call to let us know. Families will be at camp for no longer than an hour to complete check-in. *Note: **Please have lunch before you arrive.***
 - Senior Unit: 1:00pm – 2:00pm
 - Middle and Junior Units: 2:00pm – 3:00pm
- Domestic campers should arrange to arrive at Portland Jetport or Boston Logan Airport before 3pm, where they will be greeted by O-AT-KA staff and transported to camp in time for dinner, orientation, and the opening campfire.

DEPARTURE SCHEDULE: 2-WEEK STARTER SESSION A

SUNDAY, JULY 5

- Families of campers departing at the end of a 2-Week Session will pick-up their campers during the hours of 10am and 12pm.
- Upon arrival, you will check in with our office staff in the Bungalow. Our staff will radio for your camper to meet at this designated area.
- We will have your camper's things ready to go for you with trunks and medications packed and any equipment or art projects ready. Because we will know your pick-up time, your camper will have had time to say goodbye to friends and counselors before you arrive.
- Final check-out will be through the summer office in the Bungalow.

DEPARTURE SCHEDULE: FIRST SESSION

FRIDAY, JULY 17

- Upon arriving, you will check in with our staff in the Bungalow and park in the designated locations. Our staff will radio for your camper to meet at this designated area.
- *****New for 2026 – Closing Day Schedule*****
 - *Families should plan to arrive around 10:30am*

- *Families will tour Camp with their camper and pick-up any activity projects throughout Camp*
- *Camp's basketball and tennis courts will be open for families to play, if interested*
- *All families should plan to be at the Great Hall for 11:00am for a brief recognition ceremony of Campers receiving their 5 Year Jackets and All-Around CO's.*
- *All families are welcome to stay for a cookout and to enjoy the waterfront for swimming*
- *Families are welcome to enjoy Camp until 12:30pm, at which point Camp staff will begin preparing for the arrival of our Second Session campers.*
- Campers flying out of Boston Logan Airport or Portland Jetport should try and depart before 6pm. We understand this may not be possible so please use your best judgement with travel plans.
- For those that need to depart on Saturday, July 19, campers need to be checked out no later than 10:00am. This will allow for proper time to sanitize the camp and provide proper time for our staff to prep before Session II begins the following day.
- We will have your camper's things ready to go for you with trunks packed and any equipment or art projects ready. You will need to pick up any medication from the Infirmary.
- Final check-out will be through the summer office in the Bungalow.

DEPARTURE SCHEDULE: 2-WEEK STARTER SESSION B

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

- Upon arriving, you will check in with our staff in the Bungalow and park in the designated locations. Our staff will radio for your camper to meet at this designated area.
- *****New for 2026 – Closing Day Schedule*****
 - *Families should plan to arrive around 10:30am*
 - *Families will tour Camp with their camper and pick-up any activity projects throughout Camp*
 - *Camp's basketball and tennis courts will be open for families to play, if interested*
 - *All families should plan to be at the Great Hall for 11:00am for a brief recognition ceremony of Campers receiving their 5 Year Jackets and All-Around CO's.*
 - *All families are welcome to stay for a cookout and to enjoy the waterfront for swimming*
 - *Families are welcome to enjoy Camp until 12:30pm, at which point Camp staff will begin cleaning and closing of Camp.*
- We will have your camper's things ready to go for you with trunks packed and any equipment or art projects ready. You will need to pick up any medication from the Infirmary.
- Final check-out will be through the summer office in the Bungalow.

DEPARTURE SCHEDULE: SECOND SESSION & FULL SUMMER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

- The closing awards ceremony will be held on Thursday before pickup.
- Families of campers departing at the end of the second session/summer season should plan to pick up their campers between the hours of 10am and 12pm.
- Upon arriving, you will check in with our staff at the Bungalow and park in the designated locations. Our staff will radio for your camper to meet at this designated area.
- We will have your camper's things ready to go for you with trunks packed and any equipment or art projects ready. You will need to pick up any medications from the Infirmary.
- Because we will know your pick-up time, your camper will have had time to say goodbye to friends and counselors before you arrive.
- Final check-out will be through a staff member in the summer office of the Bungalow.
- Campers flying out of Boston Logan Airport or Portland Jetport should try and depart by 6pm. We understand this may not be possible so please use your best judgement with travel plans.

VISITING OPPORTUNITIES

2-Week Session A & B; and Second Session: No visiting days.

First Session: Campers enrolled in our four-week first session will have an opportunity to schedule a phone call with families during the weekend of July 4-5.

Full Summer and CIT's: In addition to a call during the weekend of July 4, you may check out of camp during changeover weekend. Families may check campers out starting at Noon on Friday, July 17 and must be back at O-AT-KA by Noon on Sunday, July 19. Campers are not required to leave camp and we'll have fun and unique activities for them during this time.

Campers are not allowed to leave camp with anyone except an authorized guardian. If you would like someone other than those authorized to have permission to take your camper off-site O-AT-KA requires written permission to do so.

HEALTH SERVICES

Registered Nurses and Nurse Assistants are available 24 hours a day to provide first aid, assessment, and referral of medical problems for your camper. There are some differences between the healthcare at camp and your healthcare at home. Because of the shortness of camp, and our strong sense of obligation towards families, we are more likely to take your child to be seen by a doctor to rule out any greater concerns. Our nurses may act more quickly to x-ray a sprain or medicate a sore ear or throat than your physician would at home. Camp O-AT-KA is not a rehabilitative or therapeutic program and does not specialize in serving children with special needs, including mental, emotional, social, or behavioral difficulties. The infirmary supplies and distributes most over the counter (OTC) medications per the camp protocol. Therefore, we request you do not send typical OTC medications with your camper. No medication will be allowed to stay with campers in cabins with the exception of inhalers and Epi pens.

If your camper requires an Epi Pen or inhaler and you would like him to carry it while at camp you must meet the following:

1. Epi Pen/Inhaler must be in a clearly labeled pharmacy container showing the child's name, physician's name, name of medicine, dosage, and expiration date.
2. If your camper needs to carry an Epi Pen or inhaler at all times, a second Epi Pen/inhaler must be provided to the infirmary to ensure access during out-of-camp trips.

Prescription Medications

Camp O-AT-KA uses the CampMeds pre-packaged medication program. Every camper who will be taking medication while at camp, with the exception of short-term antibiotics, dissolving tablets (e.g., Reditabs), or injectable medications should register with CampMeds at www.campmeds.com, e-mailing info@campmeds.com or by calling the account manager Zoe at (954) 577-0025 ext 229. CampMeds will send pre-packaged doses of your camper's medication directly to the camp infirmary for administration.

The only exception will be families whose insurance is not accepted by CampMeds or those for whom CampMeds was unable to provide a particular product.

Any medications (including vitamins) being left at the infirmary must be in their original package or our nurses cannot accept or dispense them.

Ticks

Ticks at camp are rare since the entire camp is sprayed for ticks, mosquitoes and brown tail moth prior to campers arriving. When ticks are encountered, it is typically during out-of-camp wilderness trips or overnights. The ticks which are typically encountered are dog/wood ticks which do not carry Lyme disease. Deer ticks, which can carry diseases such as Lyme and Anaplasmosis, are widespread in the northeast of the United States. We educate our staff and campers on the importance of regular tick checks, as well as encourage them to wear long pants and/or insect repellent in grassy or wooded areas. We recommend you send your camper with an EPA-registered insect repellent with DEET, Picaridin, or Eucalyptus Lemon Oil.

Eyewear

If your child wears eyeglasses or contact lenses, please consider sending an extra pair. We will gladly store the extra pair or lenses in the Infirmary for safe keeping.

Family Notification

Parents or guardians will be notified by the Camp Nurse, Summer Camp Director or Executive Director if an overnight stay in the infirmary is required. In addition, parents or guardians will be notified for illnesses lasting more than 24 hours, emergency medical care, doctor's visits, and medication questions or refills. If your child writes to you about an illness/injury you have not heard about from the Infirmary staff, please call camp and ask to speak with a member of our healthcare staff to reassure yourself everything is fine.

Meeting with Infirmary

If you would like to have a conversation with one of our health care professionals prior to your camper's arrival, our staff will be onsite starting on Monday, June 15. Please make an appointment for a phone call, as this is staff training week, so our nurses may not be in the Infirmary throughout the day. We encourage families who know they will need extra time with the nurse to do this, as check-in on Opening Day is a busy time. This way you will receive uninterrupted time. You can make an appointment with the Infirmary staff by calling 207-787-3292.

REQUIRED FORMS

Many important forms, such as the health history, travel form, activity preference form, and counselor information form, can be found on your CampMinder/CampInTouch account. Forms should be completed online or (in some cases) printed out, completed/signed and uploaded back into your account. **Forms are due by June 15. Any overdue forms must be brought to camp on opening day of your camper's session.**

The web address to access all forms is: <http://oatka.campintouch.com>.

CABIN & UNIT ASSIGNMENTS

Cabin life is a key ingredient of the camp experience. The cabin is your camper's home away from home and his cabin mates and counselors will become a significant part of his extended camp family. O-AT-KA alumni attest that cabin friendships really do last a lifetime! Unit & cabin assignments are based upon grade in school.

Campers are limited to making ONE cabin-mate request through the form on Campminder, since meeting new people and making new friends are important parts of the camp experience. Our staff will make every effort to honor requests if they are mutual, but please understand that they are not guaranteed. Staff place a great deal of care into creating the strongest possible cabin combinations in each unit; because of the ripple effects that last-minute changes can cause, we are not able to accommodate change requests on arrival day.

DAILY ACTIVITIES

O-AT-KA has over 30 daily activities, which we call crafts. When you receive the information on activity selection, please help your camper complete it and submit it online as soon as possible. Some programs are age or resource-limited and are filled on a first-come, first served basis. Every two weeks, a new schedule of activities will be developed for your camper based upon his interests. We make every effort to ensure campers get as many of their top picks as possible. Campers whose information is not complete by the deadline of June 15 will find it harder to get their top activity choices.

WILDERNESS TRIPS

Wilderness trips offer campers a chance to experience the natural beauty that surrounds them more fully, while providing an age and skill-appropriate challenge. Juniors will enjoy things such as a night under the stars at the Green Ridge campsite on property and a hike up nearby Douglas Mountain. Middlers and seniors have the option to go on at least one wilderness trip each session. Outings may include visits to the lakes and mountains of Maine and New Hampshire, whitewater rafting, tubing or canoeing the Saco River, and overnight hikes. All wilderness trips are led by certified trip leaders. Registration information will be available once the campers arrive at camp.

FULL-SEASON PROGRAM

There is far more to do at camp than can be reasonably accomplished over the course of a few weeks. For this reason, our seven-week full-season program allows campers the greatest opportunity to take advantage of all that O-AT-KA has to offer. Seven-week campers take three different sets of crafts over the course of the summer, experience each of the season's special events, and are able to develop stronger ties and friendships over the course of a full summer. Since it was EJ Dennen's founding mission for O-AT-KA to "build strong boys," the longer a boy is with us, the greater the opportunity we have to build him! All full-season campers receive special recognition at the closing awards ceremony in August.

EXTENSIONS

If space is available, campers who come for 2-week starter session A or B have the option to extend for one week or the remainder of the session. Campers may also be able to extend from session one into session two. All family's expectations are different, both in terms of schedule and financing, so there is never any pressure placed on a family or camper about extending. If you indicate that extending is a possibility, camp staff will contact you by phone during the session for a check-in. Only after all agree that extending is a good idea will a conversation be initiated with the camper.

INCLUSION

Camp O-AT-KA is committed to a diverse and inclusive experience for all.

Camp O-AT-KA believes that the differences among us, including race, ethnicity, gender, religion, political thought, sexual orientation, family composition, or individual talents and interests, are instrumental to making us a strong and vibrant educational community.

Camp O-AT-KA aims to explore, respect, and celebrate diversity.

Camp O-AT-KA adheres to a policy of anti-racism and anti-discrimination, and is committed to continuing to educate our leadership, staff, and campers on how to achieve equality and inclusivity at camp and beyond.

TUITION

Tuition at O-AT-KA is all inclusive – this includes trips out of camp, transportation, craft projects, over the counter medications and swim course materials. The only fees that are not included are purchases at the camp store, the shipping of trunks/ luggage, opt-in events such as road races and white water rafting.

CAMPER ACCOUNTS

In addition to the tuition, a camper account is used in place of cash for miscellaneous expenses, including purchases at the camp store. Please do not send your camper with cash. Large purchases require a parent or guardian’s permission, and our office will contact you directly. If your camper is going to go over the allotted camper account, our summer office will call you. At the end of the session, any balance can be donated to the Camp O-AT-KA’s scholarship fund or families will be sent a check. For balances under \$20, funds will be automatically donated to the scholarship fund – unless otherwise requested by the family. If your camper’s account exceeds the initial deposit, an invoice will be sent after the season or you can pay at pick-up.

PAYMENT POLICIES

Tuition payments are due by May 1. Tuition, minus the \$1,000 deposit, is refundable up until April 15. Refunds are not applicable if a child attends and leaves camp early. Checks are made payable to Camp O-AT-KA and all major credit cards are accepted. All payments must be made in U.S. Dollars. Payments received from outside the United States may be remitted by international money order or as drafts channeled through a U.S. “corresponding bank” or Federal Reserve Bank. Checks returned for insufficient funds or otherwise deemed uncollectible are assessed a \$35 administrative fee. Refunds are not granted to campers who are asked to leave camp for disciplinary reasons.

CAMPERSHIPS (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE)

In keeping with the tradition of making O-AT-KA affordable to as many campers as possible, a limited number of campers whose families demonstrate financial need are given camperships each year. Financial aid forms are available upon request. Campership aid is not directly refundable to families.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS AT AND NEAR O-AT-KA

The Bungalow at O-AT-KA is our summer office hub, as well as having bedrooms on the top floor for our guests to rent. There are 6 bedrooms (each with 2 twin beds) and 3 bathrooms for those that need an overnight accommodation. Overnight fee is \$100. For a full list of local accommodations, please visit: www.camboatka.org/lodging/

2026 SESSION DATES AND RATES!

https://camboatka.org/?page_id=13372

SAVE THE DATE FOR FRIENDS WEEKEND 2026

Friday September 4th – Monday September 7th

Held over Labor Day weekend, Friends Weekend is a chance for families and alumni to enjoy O-AT-KA! The waterfront will be open, lodging and meals available, fun-themed activities and a relaxing way to close out the summer on beautiful Sebago Lake. More information will be sent out - it's a great way for families to experience the wonders of camp together.