



THE LION'S ROAR

Summer 2026

- June 15:** Staff Training Week Starts
- June 21:** Opening Day
- July 19:** Start of Second Session
- July 25:** Annual Corporation Meeting & Hero's Weekend
- August 7:** Last Day of Camp
- September 4-7:** Friends and Family Weekend

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In just a few short days, the 120th Anniversary of Camp O-AT-KA will officially kick off. Our staff team is set to arrive on Monday, June 15th, and shortly thereafter all the traditions, camp songs, slamming cabin doors, bugles, games on the ballfields, and all the other sights and sounds of O-AT-KA will be in full swing.

A lot can change over 120 years, but a feeling that we have all experienced at least once is that Camp seemingly remains unchanged. Over the last year, as I walked around Camp with various alumni, they were all blown away by how much Camp seems the same.

We should all feel lucky to be part of O-AT-KA, because there are very few places that can celebrate 120 years of history, tradition, and impact.

Happy 120th, O-AT-KA!

Jimmy Holmes
Executive Director





WORK WEEKEND

A HUGE thank you to all of those who helped over Work Weekend. For the first time in what feels like forever, we were blessed with warm (dare I say hot?!) weather and sunshine. That made for high spirits and an energetic attitude, leading to a ton getting done around Camp: flower beds were planted, beaches raked, leaves blown, brush chipped, and even new holes for the flagpoles dug...by hand ([see last page for the result](#))!

Thanks again everyone!



THE FLEET HAS ARRIVED

Our new sailing fleet has arrived!

As we unloaded our new fleet of RS Toura sailboats, the excitement was palpable as we all realized we were unboxing a generational addition to O-AT-KA. Personally, it was incredible to hold in my hands a tangible representation of the generosity within the O-AT-KA community. There is simply no way this level of impact on the camper experience could have come to fruition without the support and contributions of our entire community.

I want to recognize those that made this impact possible:

Richard Abbott	Matt Glendinning	Ben Moore
Bob Bittenbender	Jim Goff	Jeff Moore
Deborah Boedeker	Doug Gorman	Robert Morrison
Chris & Stephanie Bond	Jake Gorman	Kevin & Andrea Neubauer
Francis Branin	Tom & Lisa Gorman	Michael Newton
Ronald Broadbent	Matt Guy-Hamilton	Andrew Nickerson
David Carlson	John Hall	Ben Nickerson
Torsten Chase	Scott Hoffman	Daniel Norman
Bob Colburn	Jimmy & Amanda Holmes	Auden Oliver-Yeager
Christine & Brian Cressey	David Howe	Adam Peirce
Matt Crowley	Bob Keeler	Bob Phinney
Theodore Dawson	Bill Kumler	Jeffrey Redding
Sean Dowling	Peter Livas	Marna Redding
Doug Ellison	David Lowenstein	Christian Roth
Dave Fox	Duane Lowenstein	Jeff Tannebring
Nina Frusztajer	Dave McMullin	Stu Tuthill
Marcus & Jamie Fryatt	Thomas McMullin	John Van Siclen





CAMP STORE

Want some limited edition
120th Anniversary O-AT-KA swag?
 Just visit the [Camp O-AT-KA Online Camp Store](#)

From classic camp apparel and hats to water bottles and other camp essentials, the store is the perfect place to gear up and keep the camp memories going all year long. Whether you're a camper, parent, or alumni, take a moment to browse the collection and grab some O-AT-KA gear to celebrate your camp pride.



Camp Upgrades - Thank You!

Corporation Member Steve Anderson and O-AT-KA CFO Stu Tuthill spent an entire day building new rocking chairs for the Bungalow porch.



A new lifejacket rack, built by Jeff Tannebring.



New Junior Unit Pump House and Infirmary Railings by Matt Gosselin



ALUMNI UPDATES:



Ben Nickerson:

Back in April, O-AT-KA alumni and current Board Secretary, Ben Nickerson ran the Boston Marathon with a time of 2:55! **Great work, Ben!**



Will Bolton:

O-AT-KA Alumni Will Bolton graduated from the U.S. Army Special Forces as a Green Beret. **We're proud of you, Will.**



Noah Heller:

O-AT-KA Alumni Noah Heller, and his now wife Katie Ibrahim, got married at O-AT-KA on May 30th. **Congratulations Noah and Katie!**

ALUMNI UPDATES:

Gavin Shaub:

O-AT-KA Alumni Gavin Shaub produced, wrote, and acted in his movie: Cloudbound Eagle. Here's what Gavin has to say about his film:

In 2021 I lost a friend from college named Daniel Perelman. He was training to be a pilot and when he passed I thought a lot about what made him want to fly. A month after he passed I began my summer working as a counselor at O-AT-KA. I was the director of the CIT unit that summer. I found that my time in O-AT-KA was really healing for me, especially time I spent with good friends and in nature.

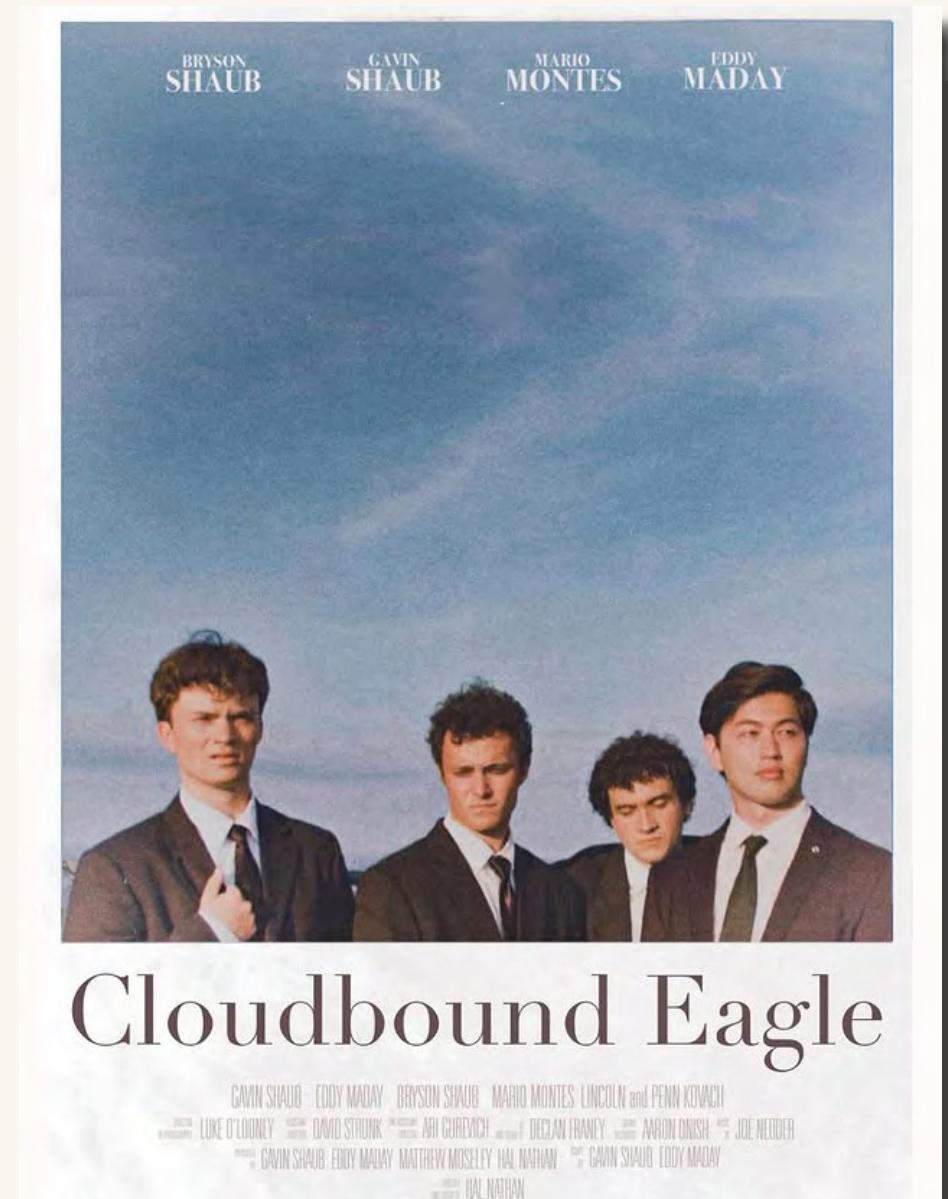
Reflecting on that summer, I wrote a film script that spiritually touched on the experiences I had, even if the events of the script were fictional.

Cloudbound Eagle tells the story of four camp friends who reconnect on the campgrounds to memorialize their friend Jonah. These young men are tasked to take his ashes to the top of Douglass Mountain and spread them to the wind. The film touches on grieving in nature and with community, and implores young men to lean on their brothers in times of crisis.

We shot the film entirely in Maine, featuring St. Andrew's Chapel, the Waterfront, Greenridge, Douglas Hill, and Step Falls.

I'm excited to share that Cloudbound Eagle was accepted to its first film festival! It will be premiering at the Maine International Film Festival July 17th at 4pm and July 18th at 1pm. We are in consideration for the Tourmaline Prize, a prize specifically granted by a jury to the best Maine-made short film at the festival! It is all very exciting, especially as a first-time filmmaker.

The film is dedicated to many people, including Daniel Perelman, Charles Donovan, Peter Powers, Amy Heller, and Bob Courtney.





Its not too late
to register for
the 2nd session.

Camp opens on June 21st but the Second
Session doesn't start until July 19th

INFO: For more information on session
dates and rates: [Click Here](#)

REGISTER: To register: [Click Here](#)

QUESTIONS: Call us at 207-787-3401 or
email info@campokatka.org.



Give to Camp O-AT-KA

Over 100 years ago, EJ Dennen created O-AT-KA so thousands of boys could grow and thrive. His mission of "providing every camper and staff member a caring community, close to nature, where the body, the heart, and the spirit are strengthened through experiences that are fun and challenging" is still as strong today as it was in 1906. To fulfill that mission camp needs the support of our family and friends. New family referrals, time, attention, and financial support will be crucial for the continued health and success of our beloved camp.

Did you know? Many employers will match their employees' charitable giving! Be sure to ask your employer about this and potentially double your gift to O-AT-KA!

[Please consider a gift today!](#)

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