The Lion's Roar

Fall 2026



2027 Important Dates

May 22-23	Spring Work Weekend
June 21-26	Staff Training Week
June 26	CIT's arrive
June 27	First Session starts
July 25	Second Session starts
August 1	Corporation Meeting
August 2	Heroes Sunday
August 13	Closing day – all campers and CITs depart
Sept 3-6	Friends & Family Weekend

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The 120th Anniversary summer of Camp O-AT-KA has come and gone, and it couldn't have been a better one. Supported by an amazing staff team, our campers had a summer to remember as they experienced all that O-AT-KA offers. It was a special summer to celebrate our history, but more importantly, it was a summer that reminded us why the traditions and values of O-AT-KA continue to matter. As we look back on 120 summers, we can also look ahead with great excitement for what the next 120 years may bring.

Despite 120 years of tradition, we did see some new things around Camp. Most notably, our new sailing fleet. Our new boats led to a 50% increase in sailing participation. We had successful regattas, both at home and away, and look to continue developing top-tier sailors in future summers.



The Chevron program (O-AT-KA's craft achievement measurement system) went through a change as well, as we shifted to a focus on individual program mastery and eliminated achievement thresholds based on camper units. Chevrons are no longer classified as "Junior," "Middler," or "Senior" level Chevrons; they are now labeled Shield, Sword, and Crown levels. This created a culture where our campers continued to challenge and push themselves to achieve the highest level possible.

Even Green and Gray results were different! Gray had a dominant win during first session for the first time in many, many years. Green got back on top in second session, but that first-session victory still feels sweet!

All that said, O-AT-KA's longstanding and impactful character development program, the Order of Sir Galahad, continued to guide and shape our entire program at O-AT-KA. Under the great leadership of King Nicky Harris, we had tremendous participation in the Order of Sir Galahad, which translates to 88% of campers now being part of the program. We also had nine new staff members go through the Knights' Vigil. In other words, the Order of Sir Galahad continues to guide our Camp's moral compass and help us create the wonderful and impactful men that O-AT-KA has produced for over 120 years.

In summary, the 2026 summer at O-AT-KA was exactly what it should have been: seven weeks of traditions, friendships, brotherhood, and new challenges.
In other words: perfect.

Jimmy Holmes
Executive Director



STAFFING UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that Emma Taggart has joined the O-AT-KA team as a full-time employee in the role of Marketing and Development Coordinator.

Emma started with O-AT-KA just before the summer of 2025 as a Social Media Intern, where she quickly took our social media game to the next level. She stayed on part-time after that summer, taking on a variety of tasks for Camp, ranging from marketing and social media to helping with camper recruitment.

In her new role as Marketing and Development Coordinator, Emma will continue to ensure that O-AT-KA's digital and marketing presence stays active and engaging, while also helping to grow O-AT-KA's development efforts.

Please join us in congratulating Emma on this new and exciting chapter with O-AT-KA!

JUNIOR MAINE GUIDE PROGRAM

One of O-AT-KA's most challenging programs, Junior Maine Guide, had a very strong year in 2026. Not only did we have seven total participants, but two successfully completed the program and earned their JMG certifications.

Please join us in congratulating Will Norman and Aidan Chase on their impressive accomplishments and becoming O-AT-KA's newest Junior Maine Guides!



Will Norman, Aidan Chase, and Counselor Whit Armstrong

O-AT-KA'S SHOULDER SEASON

This year, we saw a very busy and active shoulder season here at O-AT-KA. In addition to multiple weddings and facility rentals, we also had some amazing groups and events take place.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine

First off, we were thrilled to have the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine join us for a week of fun and excitement. The Boys & Girls Club brought about 40 Club members from all over Southern Maine to experience all that O-AT-KA has to offer—from the Goff Center and trips to Outer Island to archery and meals in the Commons. The Club members loved every minute of it, and we are excited to have them return next year.







Sebago Public Library

We were also happy to host a fundraiser for the Sebago Public Library on Monday, August 24. The event featured live music, food trucks, and the opportunity to enjoy our beautiful waterfront. Despite many of the attendees being from right here in Sebago, many had never seen our campus and were truly blown away. Trips through the tunnel were even a highlight for some!





FRIENDS AND FAMILY WEEKEND

O-AT-KA's shoulder season can't be mentioned without including Friends and Family Weekend. This year's Friends and Family Weekend featured beautiful weather and a weekend full of fun family activities, including tie-dye, The Amazing Race, an '80s party, and all the other activities that Camp has to offer.

Mark your calendars now for next year's Friends and Family Weekend, September 3-6, 2027!









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.



O-AT-KA 2027

Don't hesitate—register by October 31 and receive a free trip during Summer 2027!

Campers can choose from a free Whitewater Rafting Trip (Middlers or Seniors), Tubing Trip (Juniors), or Deep-Sea Fishing Trip (Juniors, Middlers, and Seniors).

Register today by clicking HERE, or visit our website at campoatka.org and click the green "ENROLL" button.

HELP CAMP

Write a Google review

Leaving a Google Review for Camp O-AT-KA is a simple way to help more families discover what makes the camp experience so special. Reviews not only build trust with parents researching summer camp options, they can also strengthen O-AT-KA's visibility in Google search results. More positive, recent reviews can help the camp appear more prominently when families search for summer camps in Maine, making it easier for new campers to find O-AT-KA and feel confident choosing it for their summer experience.

Write your review >

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!

Give Today

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