

LAKETRAILS

LAKETRAILS BASE CAMP

Portage Runner - Summer Recap - 2023

Adventure, Success, and Shenanigans

By Sarah Kremer

Summer 2023 was filled with many adventures, successes, and excitements! We had six sessions this summer and typically sent out four to five trips on the trail. It was so much fun to witness the enthusiasm of trips reaching destinations that hadn't been visited for a few years and to experience the return of the Laketrails magic. Of course, there were some shenanigans to keep life fun and exciting.

There were many successes this summer. Throughout the course of the summer, we became more skilled and efficient in teaching essential wilderness skills before heading out on the trail. By the end of the summer, it was exciting to see the confidence our guides had in teaching these skills to our campers. Our staff also took steps to grow throughout the summer, whether it was pursuing a Laketrails Pilot Certification or taking on new navigational challenges during trips. We also improved our problem-solving skills in response to the ever-changing conditions and needs of the island and our program.

All in all, Summer 2023 was wonderful and meaningful for many reasons. It wasn't just for our staff but especially for our campers. This feeling was consistently evident on the dock each session, during the morning of Day 9 as we boated campers back to Young's Bay, and in the newfound confidence and excitement that shone in our campers' faces.



Session 3's Blueberry Adventure

By Makenzi Ditzler

While there can't be a favorite session, one of my most fortunate experiences was with Session 3. We were wind-bound and off schedule, so we decided to visit Wesley Lake. It was a shorter paddle, and at the portage, we found a vast blueberry patch. We spent hours picking them, and our group gathered so many that we enjoyed blueberry pancakes the next morning and even baked a pie. It was a memorable summer, spent observing grasshoppers and picking berries.

Low Water Levels Impede Access to Lake of the Bays

By Quinn Dudcha

One thing that stands out the most is my session 6 trip. This was the most challenging trip I went on over the summer, as we ventured to Gale—and even tried to get into LOTB. After many long and strenuous portages, we concluded that Gale Creek was too dry for access. Our group was outstanding, and it was amazing how we truly became a family.



LAKE TRAILS

BASE CAMP
ON OAK ISLAND, LAKE OF THE WOODS



Staff Appreciation Returns!

By Magnolia Ditzler

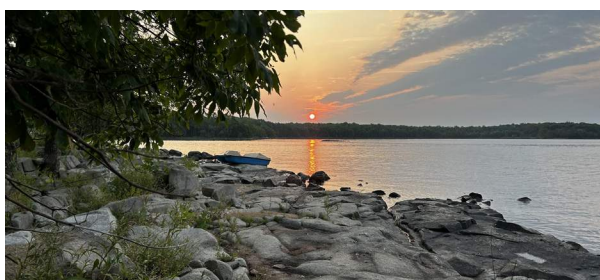
Staff appreciation was a resounding success this summer, and for good reason. The dedicated staff put their hearts and souls into reviving the camp after the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The celebration began with an afternoon of fun and adventure, including tubing, swimming, and blueberry picking on the lake. In the evening, former camper and aspiring chef Addie Kuntz prepared a delicious dinner, showcasing her culinary talent.

The day's success wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of board members and volunteers who

joined in showing their appreciation for the staff. This event highlighted the sense of community at Laketrails.

In closing, a heartfelt thank you to the exceptional staff who breathed new life into the camp. Their hard work and unwavering spirit ensure that every camper leaves feeling like a part of the Laketrails family.



Meet the staff! Sarah Kremer; Program Director

Tell us about your first summer at Laketrails: My first summer at Laketrails was 2013. That was my first year as a guide. 2013 was a pivotal year because it was through guiding at Laketrails that I discovered that I wanted to go into Education.

Whats your favorite destination in LOTWs? Chick Lake – every time I have been there, I have experienced the most unexplainable sunrises

What is your favorite Day 8 activity? Probably one of our new games this summer: Bear, Salmon, Fly, It's a high energy game, and I love seeing our campers' reactions when they see the other team's actions for "Bear, Salmon, or Fly"

What is your favorite camp song? I know I'm a little biased because I'm a band and orchestra director, but I have a special place in my heart for the "Conductor Song"

Keeping up with Laketrails Alumni!

By Janae & Joe

Last August, a group of Lake Trails alumni participated in the Red Bull Urban Portage race. We teamed up for a 3.9-mile portage and an 8.3-mile paddle along the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. The weather was fantastic on race day, and we received lots of support from our fellow Laketrailers. If you're interested in joining us for the race next year, or simply want to come and cheer us on as we portage around the city, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Join the official Laketrails Facebook group to stay in touch with alumni: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/81765155006673>

