



CAMP O-AT-KA

A summer camp for boys



FOUNDED 1906 - SEBAGO MAINE

Founded in 1906, Camp O-AT-KA is a traditional boys summer camp located on the beautiful shores of Lake Sebago in Southern Maine.

Rated as **one of the top ten camps** in the country by Family Life Magazine, Camp O-AT-KA has been a favorite summer destination for boys aged 8-16 for more than 100 years.

O-AT-KA provides a nurturing and supportive environment for boys ages 8-16 with sessions of 1, 2, 3, 4, & 7 weeks. The camp offers superb land and water-sports, along with a strong arts program located in an 8 studio art center. For older boys the camp offers a variety wilderness trips including sea-kayaking and canoeing, and hiking. Traditional values, an integral part of camp life, are reinforced by a superb staff, through group living and daily camp gatherings... all helping to build a solid, safe foundation for life which stresses values and skills development, friendships, and fun.

We know the most important consideration in choosing a camp is its safe environment and qualified staff. Parents nationwide recognize the importance of accreditation by the American Camp Association when choosing a camp for their child. **O-AT-KA is ACA Accredited®**



Program

Five days a week, campers participate in selected activities at their level, which we call "crafts". Craft days have six periods – three in the morning and three in the afternoon. One morning period is spent taking swim lessons, and the last afternoon period is "free" choice. Wednesdays are trip days when each unit enjoys outings to the ocean or hiking and swimming in the mountains. Campers go on at least one overnight trip each session.

Unique to O-AT-KA is programming designed on a three-tier plan. It doesn't matter where a boy is in his skill level or interest; we have a program so he can be placed into a craft that meets his needs.

Our recreational level, for a boy who is new to a craft, teaches introductory skills in a hands-on and fun way. Our chevron level is oriented to the camper interested in attaining specific skill requirements. This camper wants to achieve some level of mastery and ultimately achieve a chevron.

O-AT-KA's clinics are designed for the boy more narrowly focused on one particular craft and interested in spending two periods per day to work on that craft. All campers can elect to join competitive inter-camp teams.

Facilities

Only 40 minutes from Portland, Maine and situated on nearly 75 acres along a half-mile stretch of sandy Lake Sebago shoreline, O-AT-KA boasts exceptional facilities.

Camp facilities include 22 camper cabins. The seven-studio Goff Center is the home to our extensive arts program. The camp has rifle and archery ranges, a private sandy beach and protected cove for aquatic sports, a covered basketball court, a climbing wall and two large outdoor playing fields. O-AT-KA's Wheeler Tennis Center features three clay courts and two hard-surfaced courts. O-AT-KA's library offers a quiet setting for reading and playing board games. The Castle, located in the Junior unit, provides a fun and special space for the Juniors to gather for evening activities. The Great Hall is ideal for drama, dances and movie nights. Campers come to the dining Commons three times daily to enjoy family style meals prepared by camp chefs. The camp has a screened woodland Chapel used for daily Password and Sunday services. The five-bed Infirmary enables our nursing staff to attend to the campers' needs.



which means we meet industry-accepted and government-recognized standards.

With decades of camp expertise, our staff creates a caring, supportive and safe environment for every camper. Our mission is to provide to 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.

Today, O-AT-KA serves 175 campers. Members of the camp community come from more than 30 states and 12 foreign countries. Lifelong friendships are established and camp is a perfect place for boys to grow into self-assured young men.



Staff

The dedication and commitment of the staff at O-AT-KA have both ensured the camp's excellent reputation and preserved the defining spirit of the O-AT-KA experience.

Experienced staff members include educators, clinicians and youth service professionals. In fact, nearly a third of O-AT-KA's staff are educators outside of camp. The average age of our counselors is 21. Counselors must be at least 18 and have graduated from high school. Many of our counselors have been campers in past summers.

O-AT-KA's camper-to-counselor ratio is 3 to 1, providing a superb opportunity for individual attention. Overseeing every camper cabin is a Cabin Counselor and an Assistant Cabin Counselor. Additional support is provided by our Counselors in Training (CITs) who help out with cabin cleanup and bedtime routines.

Our Infirmary, staffed by nurses and medical assistants, provides coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Daily Schedule

Morning

7:15 Reveille

7:40 Colors

7:45 Password

8:00 Breakfast

8:30 Cabin Cleanup

9:00-12:00 Morning Activity Periods

Afternoon

12:30 Lunch

1:30-2:30 Siesta

2:30-4:30 Afternoon Activity Periods

4:30-5:30 Daily Choice Activity Period

5:00-5:30 Free Swim/Waterfront Open

Evening

6:00 Dinner

6:45 Colors

7:00-9:00 Evening Activities

9:00-9:30 Taps

Sundays

Sundays are a modified schedule with an optional chapel service, a larger lunchtime meal and free swim/leisure time in the afternoon.





Traditions

Founded by the Rev. E.J. Dennen, O-AT-KA focuses on traditional values, character building, leadership skills, and group living close to nature. Every aspect of camp life – from starting the day with a password service, to eating meals family style, to the Order of Sir Galahad, promotes an environment where a strong community is formed. Mr. Dennen's vision, still carried on today, brings campers closer to the woods, the streams, the fields, and the lake, enabling boys to learn about their unique self and become valuable members of the community.

Mr. Dennen developed a character-building program modeled after King Arthur's court called the Order of Sir Galahad. In fact, Camp O-AT-KA grew

out of the Galahad organization. He purchased land on Lake Sebago, an ideal spot for bringing boys of his parish up from the city to reward them for their efforts in the Galahad program. Mr. Dennen's motto was, "It is better to build boys than it is to mend men." Within the Order, there are five degrees. Each one serves as a building block in character development, leading a boy toward a better life. The mottos are helpfulness; obedience; truth; chivalry; and service. Each step in the Galahad program reflects the developmental challenges of the boys and young men of that age group.

In keeping with this tradition, the theme at Camp O-AT-KA revolves around the legend of Sir Galahad and the knights of

the roundtable. Camper cabins are named after both real and mythical castles. The camp King presides over pomp and ceremony during conclaves and "King's Day" activities. The mottos are woven throughout the fabric of camp life.

Another important O-AT-KA tradition is Password service – a short period of reflection led by a staff member who gives a short talk designed to provide campers inspiration for the new day. A few moments are set aside each evening for campers to reflect upon the day and to consider the password message.

Mission

Camp O-AT-KA will provide to every camper and every 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.

To Enroll

Please call **(207) 787-3401** or email us at **info@campoatka.org** to request an application packet or to set up a home visit by a member of our staff. The camper application can also be found on our website at **www.campoatka.org**



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Camp O-AT-KA is accredited by
the American Camp Association.

Camp O-AT-KA is a member of the
Maine Youth Camp Association.



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boys summer camp



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