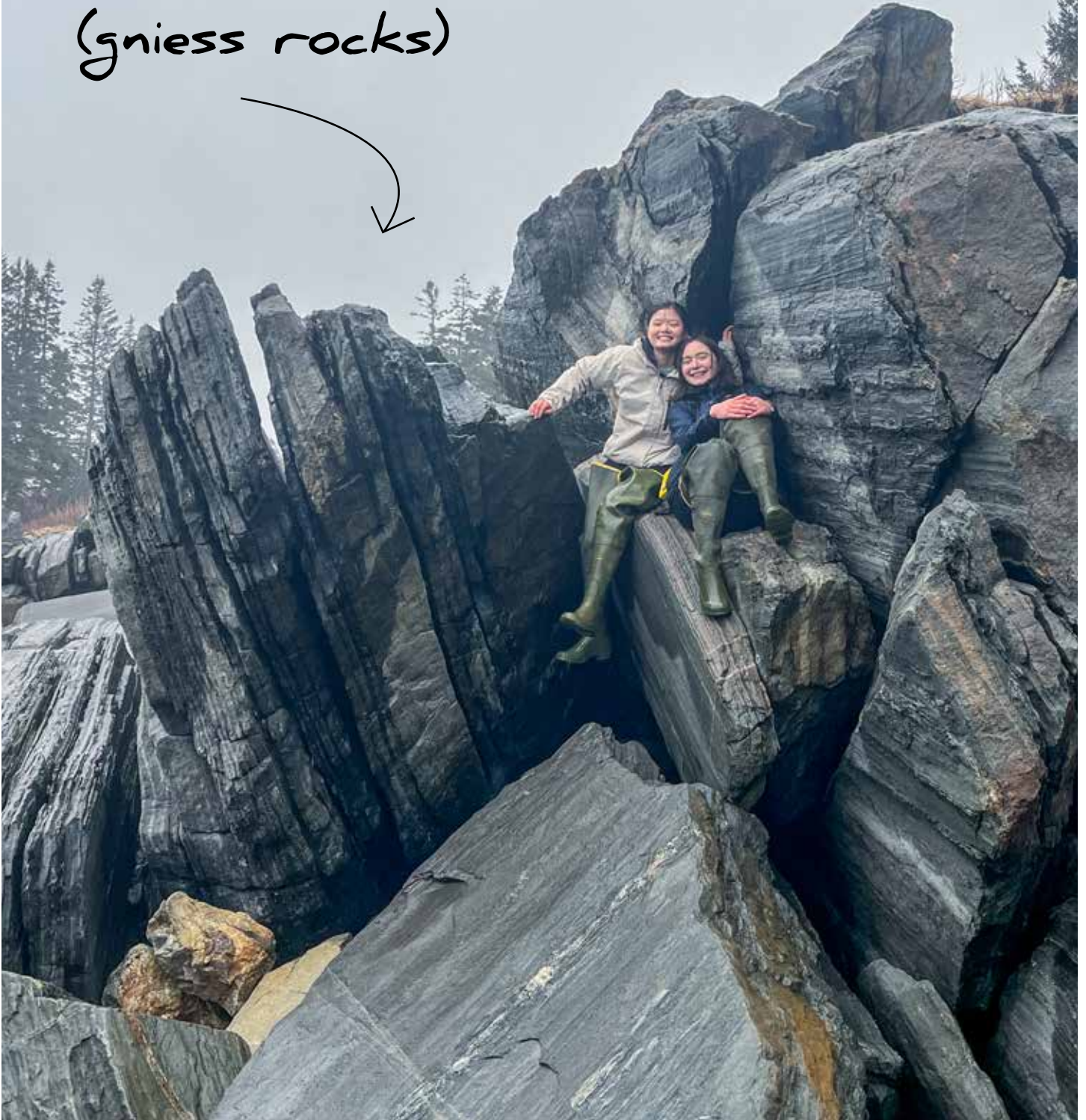


(gniness rocks)



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Our Mission

“Chewonki inspires transformative growth, teaches appreciation and stewardship of the natural world, and challenges people to build thriving, sustainable communities throughout their lives.”



From the Board Chair & President

There are moments at Chewonki—watching fog lift off Hockomock Bay, tracing the lichen along a granite ledge, hearing osprey calls across the salt marsh—that remind us how alive the land is. Always shifting. Always in motion. And yet, below the shifting leaves and seasonal tides lies something enduring: bedrock. Literal and figurative. The rocky coast of Maine—including the long spines of gneiss and granite that make up the distinctive “hand” of Chewonki Neck—were formed in the precambrian and early paleozoic. “Older than bones” some people like to say, as some of these rocks predate the mammals, the dinosaurs, and even the first vertebrates.

Atop that ancient foundation, the Chewonki landscape of today is a living place, reshaped each year by the movement of water, the pattern of hooves, the footsteps of campers and students. When you return to visit, the trails you once walked have softened with moss or been altered by storm and stewardship. Cabins have been built or updated. Trees planted, trees lost. The place changes—as all healthy places must.

As a friend, student, staff member, camper, or volunteer at Chewonki, you helped shape this place just as it helped shape you. You were formed by conversations along the trail, the sound of rain on canvas, and the firelit faces of friends. And you were grounded by what endures—the values of stewardship, curiosity, and community that form the bedrock of a Chewonki education.

Part of our commitment to Chewonki is to make room for evolution—new programs, expanded partnerships, deeper commitments to inclusion and access—while holding fast to the foundation laid by those who came before. That includes you.

In the pages of this report, you’ll see a beautiful snapshot of Chewonki’s progress over the past year, with highlights and achievements from our students, campers, and staff. And while these annual accomplishments are important, the ancient ground below us is a good reminder that stewardship requires we take a longer, deeper view of time and values.

We invite you to stay connected, to visit, to share your stories, and to lend your wisdom as alumni who know the bones of this place better than anyone.

Thank you for being part of the grand evolving story of Chewonki.

André Heard, Board Chair
Nancy Kennedy, President



André Heard
Board Chair



Nancy Kennedy
President



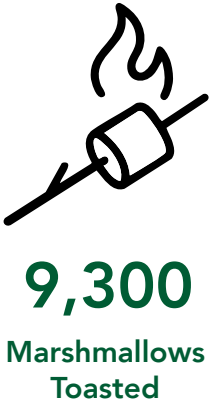
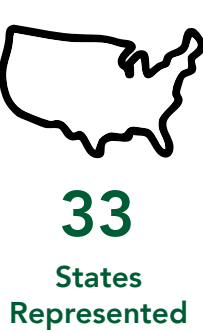
Last year marked the 109th summer of Camp Chewonki and it was one for the record books. With more than five hundred participants in our summer programs, Chewonki Neck was a-bustle with a constant stream of arrivals and departures. Notable happenings include awarding 10-year paddles to Sascha Shapiro, Julia Mammen, and even President Nancy Kennedy!



We were also delighted to participate in the “Maine Outdoor Learning Initiative” funded by the Maine Department of Education, bringing 50 local students to Chewonki for two-week backcountry trips.

Fast Facts:

Financial Aid Awards: 93
Total Aid Awarded: \$385,660



Katie Goodman,
Director, Camp Chewonki



Katie Malek,
Associate Director, Camp
Chewonki for Girls



Griffen Davey, Associate
Director, Camp Chewonki
for Boys



Jen Adams, Director of
Outdoor Programs



Elly Thomas, Outdoor
Programs Manager



MAINE COAST SEMESTER

at CHEWONKI

Our students in 2024 (Semester 71 and Semester 72) marked the first full year of post-pandemic “back to normal” school programming with all restrictions removed.

Semester 72 also experienced a rare treat during their term: the first total solar eclipse in Maine since 1962. The students and faculty traveled to Peaks-Kenny State Park in Dover-Foxcroft for an unimpeded 100%-occluded view of the eclipse.



Fast Facts:

Fall Students: 33
Spring Students: 32
Schools Represented: 58
States Represented: 21
Financial Aid Awards: 33
Total Aid Awarded: \$1,116,718
Faculty: 15
Required Courses: 6

Semester 71-72 Sending Schools:

Amherst Regional High School
Berkeley High School
Blue Hill Harbor School
Boston Latin School
Buckingham Browne & Nichols School
Camden Hills Regional High School
Carolina Day School
Cary Academy
Casco Bay High School
Columbia High School
Concord Academy
Edward R. Murrow High School
Ethical Culture Fieldston School
Francis W. Parker School
Friends Seminary
George Stevens Academy
Germantown Friends School
Hopkins School
John Bapst Memorial High School
John Jay High School
Lewisburg Area High School
Match Charter Public High School
Middlebury Union High School
Milton Academy
Montpelier High School
Mount Desert Island High School
Newark Academy
Notre Dame Academy (CA)
Orono High School
Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School
Renaissance Learner Academy
Richard J. Reynolds High School
Rowland Hall School
Santa Fe Preparatory School
Searsport District Middle High School
Seattle Waldorf School
Sidwell Friends School
St. Margaret's Episcopal School
St. Paul Academy & Summit School
Sunlake High School
The Brearley School
The Chapin School
The Dalton School
The Lovett School
The Stone Independent School
The Westminster Schools
Tilden Preparatory School
Tiverton High School
University Prep
Urban Academy Laboratory High School
Vashon Island High School
Waterville Senior High School
Waynflete School
Western Albemarle High School
Winchester High School
Windham High School
YES Prep Public Schools



Sarah Rebeck
Director, Maine Coast
Semester



Julie Barnes
Associate Director,
Maine Coast Semester



2024 marked the 50th Anniversary of our Outdoor Classroom program, known for its intensive, hands-on environmental education programs for visiting students in grades 5-9. Classes participate as a team with their home school teachers and chaperones, spending three nights and four days at one of our encampment sites on Chewonki Neck. Some visit Hocomock Bay for a saltwater canoe excursion, or head into the backcountry for a custom-tailored trip.

Fast Facts:

Total days spent outside: 3,880
Total meals cooked outside: 9,495

I LOVE Chewonki and this entire experience for our kids! I feel so fortunate that our school prioritized this experience and that Chewonki continues to provide such a fantastic program.

A Teacher/Chaperone from Mast Landing Elementary School, Freeport, Maine



Jen Adams
Director of Outdoor Programs



Kaylan Scott
Associate Director of Outdoor Programs




1,055
Outdoor Classroom Participants


26
Organizations from Maine


6
States Represented

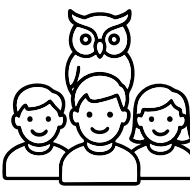

29
Schools & Orgs Served

Participating Schools and Organizations:

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation
Bath Middle School
Brownfield Denmark Elementary
Camden-Rockport Middle School
Cape Elizabeth Middle School
Damariscotta Montessori
Dutchess Day School
Edgecomb Eddy School
Friends Academy
Friends of Baxter State Park
Glen Urquhart School
Harpwell Community School
Inly School
Maranacook Community Middle School
Mast Landing School

Matthew Gaffney Foundation
Midcoast Youth Center
Nashoba Brooks School
Summer Search (New York)
The Bay School
The Berkeley Carroll School
The Pennfield School
The Rivers School
The Well School
Waynflete School
West Bath School
Wiscasset Elementary School
Wiscasset Middle High School
Woolwich Central School







17,897
Program Attendees


231
Schools & Libraries Served

In 2024 our amazing team of Science Educators and Animal Ambassadors fanned out across the state of Maine bringing live, non-releasable wildlife and a large variety of preserved natural history exhibits to schools, libraries, and public events to support and grow public interest in nature and science.

Fast Facts:

Miles Traveled: 36,084
Natural History Presentations: 646
Top Three Most Popular Presentations:

-  1. The Owls of Maine
-  2. Tide Pools
-  3. Animal Adaptations



Kerianne Gwinnett
Director, Traveling Natural History Program



Grants & Partnerships

We are very grateful to the state funding agencies and private philanthropic organizations that share our passion for nature based education. In 2024, we received \$271,432 in grants to support a variety of initiatives at Chewonki:



Amount received: \$10,000. This Elmina B Sewall Rapid Response Grant allowed us to replace a failed heating system in the Salt Marsh Farm Gatehouse.



Amount received \$209,897. Chewonki was one of sixty-six non-profit organizations in Maine that received funding through the “Maine Outdoor Learning Initiative,” allowing us to provide two-week leadership expeditions to 50 Maine students.



Amount received: \$41,500. This state-funded grant allowed us to complete a water-remediation update to the Wallace, our primary dining and laundry facility.



Amount received: \$5,034. This grant funded by the Harold Alfond Foundation and managed by Maine Community Collge provided workforce development and training for Chewonki staff.

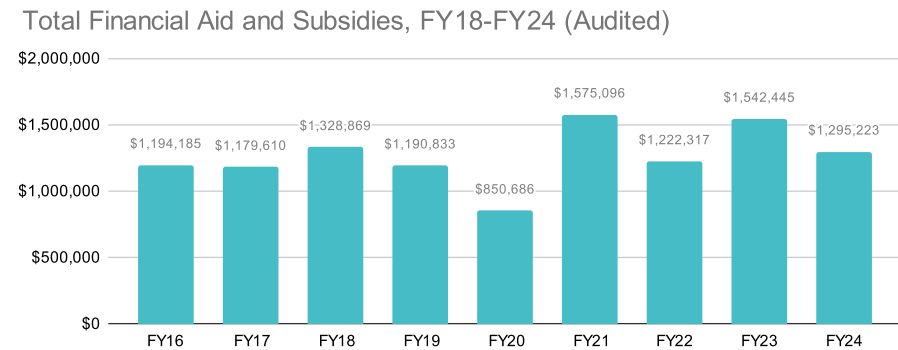
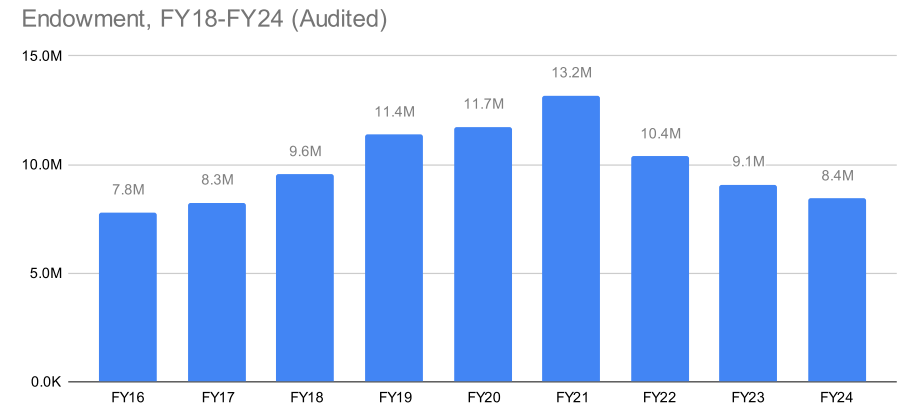
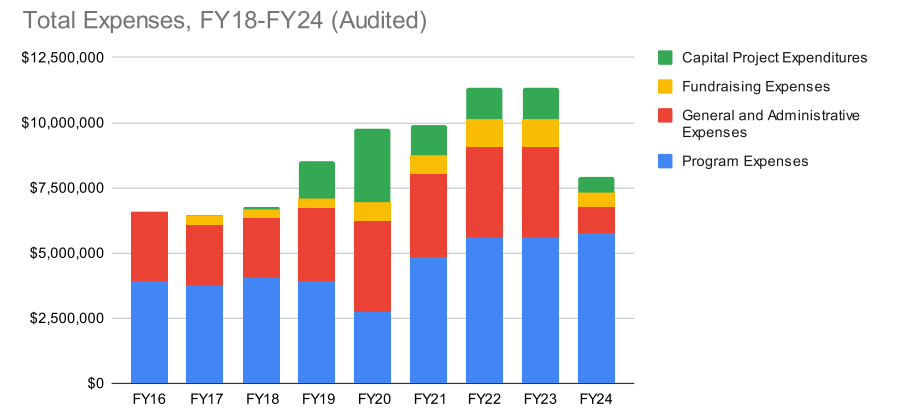
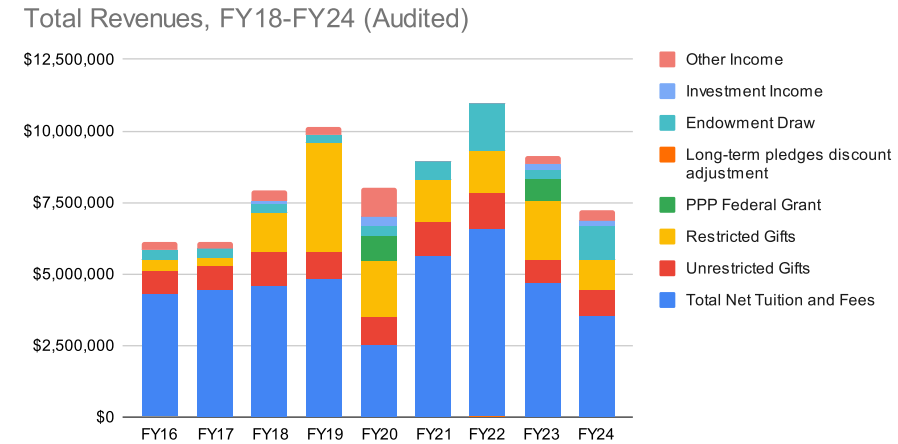
The Aldermere Foundation

Amount received: \$5,000. This grant provided general underwriting support for our Salt Marsh Farm, which provides farm programming to all Chewonki participants.



For the past 11 years, Chewonki has worked in partnership with a state-wide coalition of environmental education centers to advocate for increased access to Outdoor School programing for Maine’s public school and tribal school students. With the support of Maine state Senator Stacey Brenner and 115 co-sponsors, the group successfully brought LD 1817 “An Act to Support Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program.” While funding for that bill ultimately did not pass, the legislation was widely popular and a similar bill was passed in May of 2025.

FY24 Financials



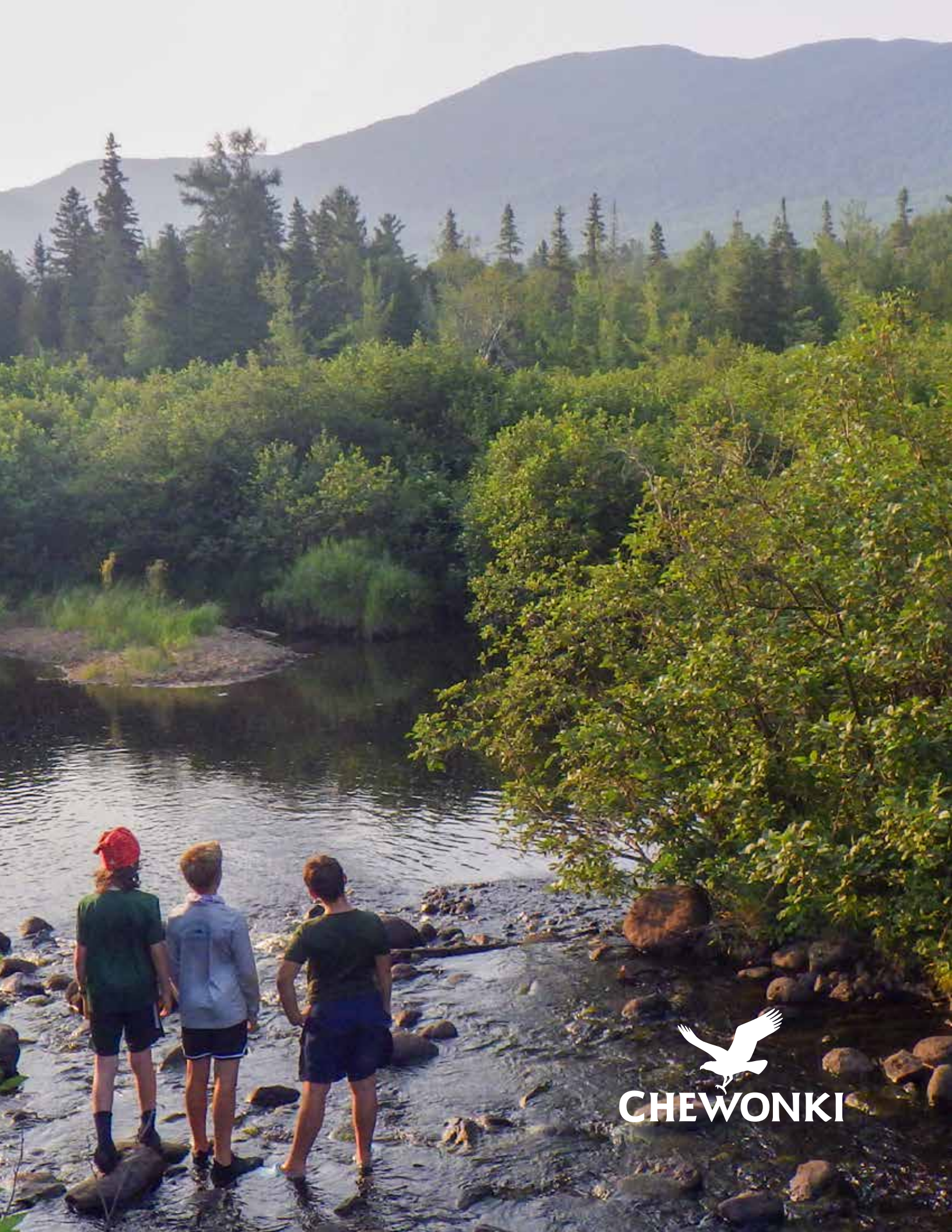
FY24 was a year of forward momentum—and continued recovery. Like many nonprofits, Chewonki is still addressing the long-tail impacts of the pandemic: lost revenue, unexpected operating costs, and debt from temporary program closures.

To bridge this gap and support a smooth transition into long-term sustainability, we drew from our institutional investments and endowment funds—assets specifically established to protect Chewonki’s future.

This intentional use of reserves allowed us to maintain program quality, retain dedicated staff, preserve the experiences families count on, and support a sustainable slate of programs.

FY24 also marks the first full fiscal year since the sunseting of Chewonki Elementary & Middle School and Chewonki Waypoint program, resulting in an overall lower revenue and expense footprint for the foundation.

We made these choices with Chewonki’s mission at heart. Through immersive experiences in nature, we help young people step outside their comfort zones, discover their resilience, and cultivate a deep sense of environmental responsibility.



CHEWONKI