

Fall 2016 – Vol. 1, Issue 2 The Official Publication of the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association



Thank you, Mr. Robert King for your dedication to Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan!



The Robert G. King Maintenance Area

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Letter from the Editor

K. Nícole Ludmer

Dear Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni,

I would like to congratulate all those who had a hand in making the 2016 Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Summer Camp season such a success! From all of the volunteers who donated their time and resources during the Wilderness Engineering Society weekends, to those Scouts and volunteers that participated in the Memorial Day Workers Weekend, and of course, to the amazing 2016 Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Staff led by the incredible Mr. Brian Rasmussen—it is because of each of you that Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan maintains its exceptional reputation.

In this edition of Smoke Signals, Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Reservation Director, Mr. Brian Rasmussen gives an account of how things went during the summer for the entire camp. An update from the East Camp Director, Mr. Sam Gartzman, and West Camp Director, Mr. Kevin Wood is also included regarding each of their respective camps. Mr. Barrett Wood, the High Adventure Director and Reservation Program Director credits the newly constructed Climbing Wall, new fat-tire bike program, and the many High Adventure treks that set out on a successful summer for making Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan known for its High Adventure programs.

Mr. John Hopkins and the Wilderness Engineering Society accomplished many great projects to close out Camp for this season, working hard despite the rainy weather. Some projects for 2017 have been listed in Mr. Hopkins' update in this edition of Smoke Signals. Our Smoke Signals Editor and Skipper Emeritus, Mr. Robert G. King, was recognized during this last W.E.S. Weekend for his dedication and lifelong contribution to Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. The maintenance area has been named after him in his honour. Thank you, Mr. King for all your hard work and devotion to Camp and shaping it into what it is today!

Have you ever looked back on your years at Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan and realized that the impact Camp had on you as a Scout, Leader, or Staff member has directly shaped you into the person you are today? David Smith, a former Scout and Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Staff member, has provided his story in our "Blast From the Past!" section and writes about how his time at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan impacted his own career and passion for art. Be sure to check out his article (and his art gallery!)!

Please check out our "Activity Calendar" for important dates, as well as the Scout Jam flyer and the All Hallows After Party flyer! We hope to see you there!

Finally, a big thank you to Mr. Kevin Baldwin who contributed all the pictures featured in this issue. Many of these pictures give an aerial view of Camp with his drone and camera capturing a side of Camp not often seen!

If you are interested in contributing stories, photos, or have other ideas you would like to see added to Smoke Signals, please feel free to check out our "Guidelines for Publication" section! This Newsletter is for Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni, and thus, we want to hear from YOU!

> Yours in Scouting, K. Nicole Ludmer

Letter from Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Reservation Director

Brían Rasmussen

"Wow!" is the only way to describe the 2016 season at Camp Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. 2,653 Scouts and 650 leaders enjoyed a week or more of scouting this summer. More than 160 had a High Adventure experience from sea kayaking in the Apostle Islands to sailing on Lake Superior to backpacking in the Porcupine Mountains.

Additions in camp included the popular new fat-tire mountain bike program, and the new climbing wall adjacent to the zip line. Both of these programs were busy all the time. Also busy were the new gaga ball pits in both East and West, and the Staff added new and innovative program opportunities to each of the traditional program areas.

The East and West kitchens received a face lift and updates including convection ovens and tilt kettles to make them much more efficient and convenient for our new food service this summer. The fruit and yogurt bar at breakfast, and the salad bar at lunch and dinner were a big hit with both campers and Staff.

These facility improvements were great, but, as always, it is the Staff that makes the magic of Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan come alive for our Scouts. Special thanks go to Reservation Program Director and High Adventure Director, Barrett Wood, the East Camp Director, Sam Gartzman, and the West Camp Director Kevin Wood. Their leadership brought it all together to make 2016 a memorable season. Can't wait for 2017!



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Letter from East Camp Director

Sam Gartzman

Summer 2016 at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan is in the books and it was a summer to remember. This summer we accommodated the most scouts Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan has seen in a summer in recent past. The campsites were brimming with campers looking to take advantage of the programs that Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan has to offer. This summer went very well. The staff put on amazing programs for the scouts and you could tell, walking around from area to area, that each scout was getting a quality camp experience. I am very proud and honored to work with an amazing staff this summer who delivered unparalleled experiences for troop after troop.

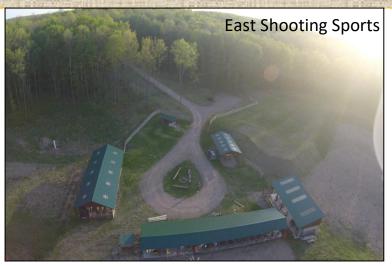
This summer had a number of changes. First and foremost were the changes to our dining hall service by contracting Kandle Dining to handle food operations. This change was a big step in making sure all of our Scouts and Scouters got the best camp experience possible in all aspects of their stay. The transition to Kandle had a lot of challenges, but overall we had some very happy Scouts after meals.

This summer we were thankful to get a brand new climbing wall. This four-sided wall was able to accommodate many more scouts than with the previous wall. Climbing merit badge was one of the first badges to fill up, and the wall was well used for climbing lunches, night climbs, and open time.

This summer Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan added a Mountain Biking program. This program was a huge hit for many. Scouts were able to work on cycling merit badge while also having the opportunity to go on trail rides throughout camp. The fourteen new fat tire bikes traveled along trails in Wabaningo and some new trails that were put in this summer. I only heard positive comments about this program and I wish I had the time to go try it out myself!

We also saw the addition of 4 new staff bungalows (partially thanks to donations from the MAA). I personally stayed in one of these bungalows this summer and they are very nice. This increase in staff housing helped ensure that we would be able to accommodate our increasing numbers of campers by having room for more staff.

Overall summer 2016 was a huge success. However, we wouldn't have been nearly as successful without the generous support of the M.A.A., W.E.S., and other key council committees that help make camp a wonderful place.



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Letter from West Camp Director

Kevín Wood

This summer was important to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. In addition to hosting record numbers of Scouts and Scouters, we also hosted many new troops. This was a challenge that the Staff accepted with excitement because we were able to share our love of Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan with more Scouts.

Under the guidance of Area Directors, the Staff continued to expand existing programs and develop new ones. Pulp & Paper, and Energy Merit Badges returned to Camp this summer along with new badges Landscape Architecture, Public Speaking, Disability Awareness, the blacksmithing option of Metalwork, and Cycling. Extra Program mainstays like the Wilderness Survival Overnight and Tea Night were revamped with new twists, all to make memorable experiences for the Scouts. The success of the summer could be quantified in merit badge statistics, and documented on weekly appraisals, but it was never in question to me as Camp Director knowing the hard work and selfless dedication of the Staff, and when I escaped the Office and the Scoutmasters and was able to talk to the Scouts I was happily unsurprised (and quite humbled) by the performance of the Staff.

In order to facilitate the program this summer, we had a fifty-five members of the West Camp Staff, each doing their very best work toward our common passion. Without the additional Stump and the bunks in the Teams, that could not have happened. I would like to thank the Wilderness Engineering Society and the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association for their invaluable help ; by expanding our Staff housing, we are able to ensure that each Scout has the special Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan experience that has kept us all returning for so many years.





Congratulations to our Lifetime Members! Thank you for your support!



Instructions on how to join or renew can be found online at: http://msraa.org/129/join/. Beginning this year we are also offering Young Alumni & Lifetime memberships.

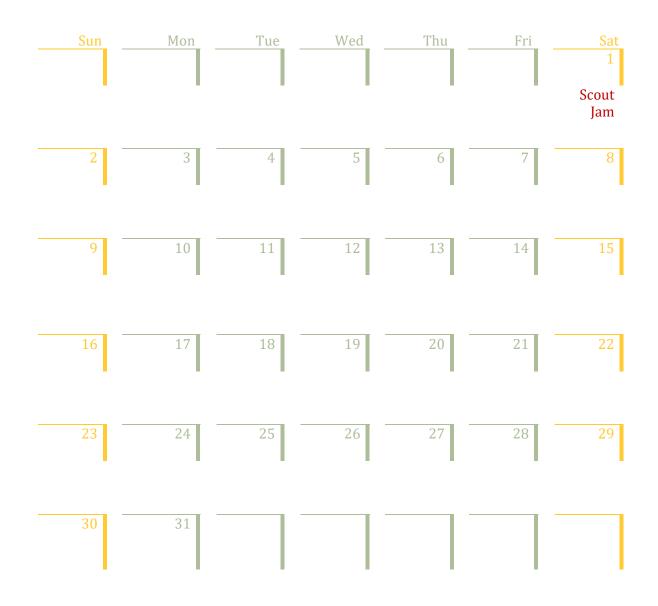
3 Types of Membership:

1. Young Adult: 18-25 years; no dues payment 2. Regular Membership: \$20/year

3. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$201.29

Activity Calendar

October 2016

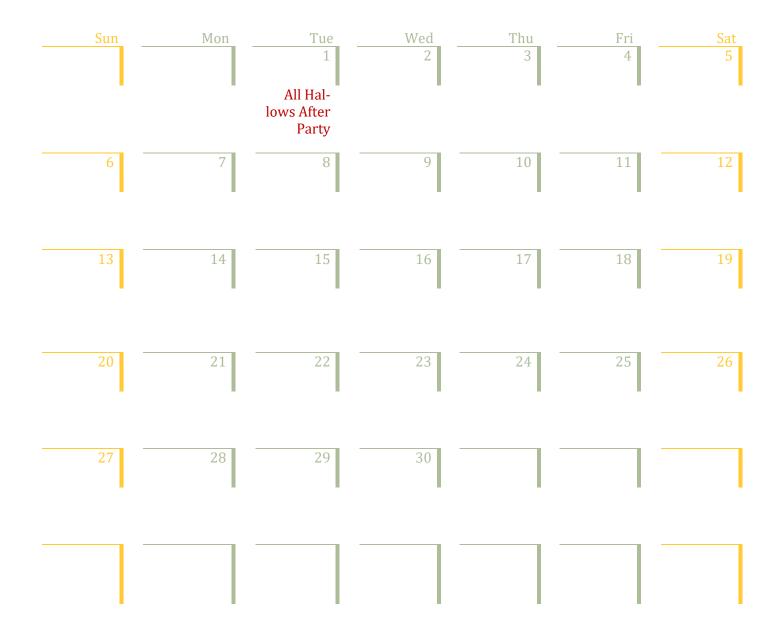




Above: John Lillstrom

Activity Calendar

November 2016



Letter from High Adventure Director

Barrett Wood

2016 was a marguee year for the high adventure program at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan. The new Climbing Wall reinvigorated the program and attracted Scouts and Scoutmasters to the program (both in Merit Badges, open climbs, and in troop climbs). Because the new wall is next to the Zip Line, both programs are able to build off each other, and that space has become a distinguished and popular program area, which will only continue to grow.



Another addition to our in-Camp program was the Cycling Base. This completely new program offered Cycling Merit Badge and trail rides through Camp on old roads, and single-track trails the Staff made. In its first year, the Cycling program received overwhelmingly positive feedback. We expect that



next year Climbing, Zip Line, and Cyclling programs will continue to grow as Scouts share their experiences with their troops.

While in-Camp programs drew a lot of attention, the Trek program also had a record year for treks. Scouts sailed, hiked, and paddled throughout the North Woods, and the program even provided support to a troop trek on the Appalachian Trail.

The High Adventure Programs are more popular and more influential than ever in shaping the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan experience especially for older Scouts. As the programs mature, we are hoping to provide a new, exciting program targeting older Scouts to go along with the well-established advancement programs in East and West Camp.

Wilderness Engineering Society Projects John Hopkins

We had a successful rainy Fall WES weekend. We had over 80 people on Saturday. During the weekend, we completed or set up 2017 projects from our Fall WES project list.

WES team completed the Climbing Wall Shelter- On Sunday morning, WES team moved down tractors & equipment. As Trent mentioned it saved 2 hour-plus time for him.

Two Main projects moved to 2017:

1) Maintenance Barn-Leif and Jim wanted to have actual window @ site. Before starting Trent's office- So, we will start in 2017. Tom, Leif, & Jim did a site walkout of all 18 windows in the barn. Tom will be finalizing total material list/project cost for 2017 project

2) Fish Shack-Staff residence-Rain watching on Friday, we decided to hold off on Fish Shack until Sat. morning. It rained out Sat morning. Steel metal packet was dropped off @ site.

We have various projects that will transition into 2017- some planned or partial completed due to rain. Full list will be coming out later.

As everybody knows, we had various Prop Div/Program/Brian/Staff people doing various site walkouts/meetings for staff residences to program areas- This data/analysis will be going to Prop Div/Outdoor Committees for decision making for 2017 & beyond

Good news-Post camp inspection-no major issues- just standard roof replacements for E Latrines.

Note: Greg Fields completed locator requests around camp.

On Current WES projects, I will be pulling together updated work project list info & field data/recommendations

Claudia, Connie & Bob did a great job on cooking support for weekend.

Tough rainy weekend for us. Everybody did a great job on adjusting to the situation. Thanks for your service. See you down the trail -JBH



Blast from the Past!

David Smith

When Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation was first conceived, it began affecting families in both great and subtle ways. The Camp's spirit began to immediately affect all family members, even if that individual was not a camper.

I am thinking of the affect on my mother, the mother of the three Smith brothers. In the summer of 1965 she helped to move the family from Southern Ohio to Deerfield, Illinois. It was a major change for the four children, three Eagle Scouts and our sister. We attended the Presbyterian Church in Deerfield; and the three brothers helped to start Troop 152 as the second Scout troop at that church. The next summer all three young brothers headed off for a two week experience at a summer camp they had never seen before. It proved to be a GREAT two weeks of new experiences and new friends. Our previous summer camp experiences were at the Miami Valley Council camp (Ohio)—I have heard that Ed Hoolihan knows something about this facility.

Then Jim Chandler came into the picture. He was a young man, an educator, from Colorado. As the West Camp Director he had the opportunity to keep only one camper on as a Counselor-In-Training (CIT). The problem was he had met the Smith twins, Dan and David. He called the Council office to get permission to keep both twins on, as Jim could not bring himself to pick one twin over the other. The Council said, "yes." And my brother and I ended up staying at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan for an extra two weeks. The Smith household food budget certainly benefited from this decision!

That was the beginning of many summers at Camp for the three Smith brothers. Of course my mother missed us every summer when we would pack up and leave home. Her sons would disappear into the Northwoods year after year, turning into strong young men. Mom did comment on how relaxing summers were around the house. As CIT's, Dan was assigned to the West Camp Nature Lodge (Eco-Con). David was posted in the West Camp Handicraft Lodge. The following summer Dan was hired as a Nature Lodge Assistant (summer pay was \$50), and David was hired as the Handicraft Lodge Director (summer pay was \$100 for a "Director.")

Mom helped us on our way to Camp with an amount of clothing and new Scout uniforms that quantified as "sufficient." I remember that at some point she took us out to learn how to do our laundry at a Laundromat. Think of the affect on our mother to have less laundry all summer long! A year later, brother Gary joined the Staff as a West Camp Waterfront Assistant.

This brings me to the major point of how Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan has had an influence on our lives. Dan started at the West Camp Nature Lodge. He went on to earn several college degrees in related fields and spent his working career in Australia not only working in, but also directing the National Parks. Later he worked by helping communities preserve native habitats, Aboriginal rights, and assisting communities in developing plans for future growth and development. He retired a year ago, and he is now traveling with his wife in South America, and finding new ways to be a community volunteer while he has new experiences and makes new friends.

Gary started at the West Camp Waterfront. In 1968, Gary was teaching rowing and canoeing. For most of the years since his Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan days he has operated his own business. For several decades, he has operated *Smith Marine* out of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Now he is maintaining and operating boats for his clients. His travels take him to many exotic places. He has piloted a boat through the Panama Canal. Recently, he has spent a lot of time in the Mediterranean with a boat that is based on the island of Malta. Gary is busy with new experiences and making new friends—some of them on the southern coast of France.

I retired two years ago after teaching art for 37 years. I have been fortunate to have traveled extensively around the world including teaching art (to people of different abilities) in Australia, Singapore, and India. Currently, I do not travel as far away. On May 11th, my wife and I opened the Door of our new business, the *Smith Studio and Gallery*, in Geneseo, Illinois. http://www.smithstudiogeneseo.com/

Having first worked in handicraft at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan, I find it interesting that I am still teaching art, but in my own place of business. Among the many learning opportunities our business offers the community we can help local Scouts achieve a variety of art related badges! My wife and I are certainly having new experiences and making many new friends!

In the past four years, I have taken an historic 1886 building in downtown Geneseo and renovated it into a new home for my wife and myself. I certainly gained skill in construction through the experience of helping Jim Chandler rebuild his burnt-out house in Deerfield. He lived around the corner from our house and mom frequently enjoyed Jim's company. But past experiences at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan have come back to life as history helps me with my current needs. A few months ago I built two swing "saloon-style" doors for the store. In my friendship with Bob King there were they were in the same saloon-style doors I built for him. This newsletter has previously published a picture of me painting a large Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan emblem (mural) on the upper eve of the maintenance barn. I remember the joy I had that Bob King trusted me with painting on the newly renovated barn. I have painted many murals since, but next summer I start a series of three murals in the town of Geneseo. Though Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan affected my youth so many years ago, it was a learning experience that continues to stay in my thoughts.

What direction has your life gone? Did your early experience as a camp counselor have a long-term effect on your life? Did your experiences become a career? In the case of the Smith brothers, the affect of those early years has been great and subtle. My mother, who passed away this last year, was always grateful for the opportunities and experiences that Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan offered her sons. My dad is somewhat surprised, and pleased that I have seen my way to start my own business; a business where I continue to teach as I first did as a camp counselor at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation.

Smoke Signals Publishing Guidelines: We want to hear from YOU!

Want to contribute a Snippet of your camp memories or experiences? Follow the guidelines listed below, and send it to us for publication!

Smoke Signals Publishing Guidelines:

The Smoke Signals Editorial Board invites all members to submit articles, reviews, Trivia, and/or Blast from the Past stories according to these Guidelines.

-K. Nicole Ludmer, Editor-in-Chief

Submission:

Please send your works for publication with a brief suggested title to <u>K.Nicole.Ludmer@gmail.com</u>; please include "Smoke Signals" in the subject line. All acronyms and abbreviations must be defined. Any photos or other graphics to be used must be sent in a separate file with proper citation.

Review Policy:

The Smoke Signals editorial board will review all submissions regarding format, style, and language.

The Remembrance Area

During the summer of 2004, the Remembrance Area was dedicated at a special Chapel Service at the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation Chapel. Since its conception, the purpose of the Remembrance Area has been to honor individuals who were part of the Northeast Illinois Council and/or Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation.

These honorees may have been a youth member of the program, adult leader, former staff member, OA member, WES member, a professional Scouter and/or local Pearson/Pickerel citizen. Each gave of their talents and time to the council or camp.

The individuals added to the display boards:

James H. Black William J. Crawford Rich Damisch Ernest Gilroy James Green Buff Hoffberg Rodney Iwema Jack A. Koefoot Sandy Lee George Logan Jerry Morgan Richard J. Munson Gene Nero Bob Niemeyer Peter W. Noznick Robert J. Pasquesi David M. Soloway Nate Woodring

The above list of honorees and past additions to the Remembrance Area can also be found on the website.

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Prayer

'Neath these tall green trees we stand, Asking blessings from your hand. Thanks we give to you above
For your help and strength and love; For these waters crystal blue;
For all Scouts strong, brave, and true.
Guide us well from morn to night
With Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan's pure light.
Grant that all we see and do Is a living prayer to you.



SCOUT JAM! October 1, 2016



If you are interested in volunteering at the Scout Jam VIP Booth, please contact Stephanie Brooks at Stephanie.Brooks@Scouting.org



Tuesday - November 1 6:00 - ??? neic.org/Events/AllHallows Wildwood Tavern 6480 W. Touhy, Niles, Illinois

Come as you are. Leave When you will.

Costumes optional.

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Join Ship 129!!

We encourage you to join the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association (MAA) to reconnect with your friends and beloved camp. You can enhance your MAA membership and experience by joining Sea Scout Ship (SSS) #129. This is an active Scout unit in the Northeast Illinois Council (NEIC) and is comprised by current and former staff members.

By joining SSS#129 as an adult leader you can reconnect with Scouting and Northeast Illinois Council. Members of the Ship receive the National BSA Council's monthly magazine: "Scouting" for adult leaders and all NEIC's publications and e-mail newsletters. For an additional fee, you can subscribe to "Boy's Life" magazine.

To be eligible for adult membership:

• You must be over 18 years of age;

Working in cooperation with the broader Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association, the goal of the Ship is to bring together, in a support organization, all those who have experienced that unique adventure of being a member of the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation staff or as a long-time volunteer. **Membership in SSS#129 requires the completion of the "online" Youth Protection Program every two years to maintain your membership. Annual SSS#129 membership renewals will occur every May.**

The official adult application forms can be accessed on the Internet using the following link and printed out on your printer.

Select "Adult Application" and print the forms. You may also request applications by contacting John Lillstrom at:

<u>John.Lillstrom@gmail.com</u> or calling him at (715) 623-6629.

To complete Youth Protection Training you must go to: <u>www.myscouting.org</u> and create your account. Once your account is established you can click on the Youth Protection Training tab to complete the 20minute course.

- Yearly membership for MAA \$20
- MAA LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$201.29
- Yearly membership for SSS#129 \$24
- Yearly subscription to *Boy's Life* \$12

A check for \$56 gets all three yearly memberships. A check for \$237.29 gets you a Lifetime Membership for MAA and a Yearly membership and subscription to SSS#129 and Boy's Life Magazine, respectively. If you are a registered Scouter, there is no charge to add SSS#129 as an additional unit. *Boy's Life* is an optional fee.

Completed applications, Youth Protection certificate (if necessary), along with the appropriate check made payable to: <u>Northeast Illinois Council</u> will then be mailed to:

> Sea Scout Ship #129 c/o John Lillstrom W8986 Claire Rd Deerbrook, WI. 54425

Upon acceptance of your application, you will be commissioned as a *Skipper's Mate* in SSS#129. (This is equivalent to an Assistant Scoutmaster position.) A certificate of

membership in the *Camp Staff Veterans of Sea Scout Ship #129* (if qualified) will be sent to your mailing address. You will receive your Ship registration card from the National Council, BSA. As a full member of the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association you will be alerted to alumni events, activities, and important information regarding your Scouting alma mater.

Please direct any questions regarding registration to: Brian McIlwee Brianm@mcilweemillwork.com or John Lillstrom john.lillstrom@gmail.com



Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumní Association Application

INSTRUCTIONS

Join online at neic.org/alumni OR mail this form with dues payment to:

Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Alumni Association 2745 Skokie Valley Road Highland Park, IL 60035

CONTACT INFORMATION

| Name: | |
|---|--|
| Birth Date (must be >18 to join):// | |
| Address: City: | |
| State: Zip Code: | |
| Phone Number: () E-mail: | |
| May we share your name and e-mail with the Association Membership?(Y)(N) | |
| OTHER INFORMATION Please mark all that apply: Camper Leader Staff Friend First Year at Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Relationship to Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan (e.g. years, E/W/R, Unit, etc.): | |
| Professional Information (job, employer, city, industry, etc.): | |
| | |

Are you interested in participating in the Mentorship Program? (Y) (N)

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:

| Annual Dues (check box) | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| □ Young Adult (18 to 25 years of age) | Free |
| Standard | \$20.00 |
| 🗖 🛧 Lifetime 🛧 | \$201.29 |
| Additional Contribution | |
| Total Enclosed | |

Dues are on the calendar year and not prorated. Make checks payable to "Northeast Illinois Council BSA," place "MAA Membership" in the memo line. Any additional amount contributed will be used in direct support of the Ma-Ka-Ja-Wan Scout Reservation under the supervision of the Association and the Council Executive Board. MA-KA-JA-WAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

Honoring Yesterday 🛕 Connecting Today 🛕 Supporting Tomorrow

www.Ma-Ka-Ja-Wanalumni.org

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