

# ◆ Why We Are Here ◆

## History Trivia

As a counselor, you are part of camp! Parents and campers expect you to know a little of the history of Camp Foley. It is quite impressive to add a tidbit here and there while visiting with the campers or giving a tour.

1. **When was Foley established?** 1924
2. **Who was the founder?** Fr. John P. Foley
3. **Who was Father Foley?** He was born in 1878, died in 1964. He was Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Faribault, MN for 36 years – until his death. Previously he had many roles at St. Thomas College – even President in 1927. With all of this responsibility, he was able to found a camp!
4. **Why did he start a camp?** Because of his interest in children, Fr. Foley frequently took boys on vacation trips to his cabin on Whitefish Lake during the early '20's and introduced them to the great outdoors. The setting reminded him of his boyhood adventures on Prince Edward Island in Canada. Due to their interest, Fr. Foley wanted more boys to experience the thrills of being at camp. After obtaining the property, the first boys arrived in 1925.
5. **How many buildings were there in 1925?** A campsite of 5 buildings!
6. **Why was the chapel built?** In the early years, Fr. Foley made a promise to the Blessed Virgin that if camp was successful, he would build and dedicate a chapel in her honor to Our Lady of Snows whose feast day, August 5 was when the first Mass was celebrated in 1937.
7. **Tell us about the construction of the chapel:** Built basically by one man, Henry Ruard, without blue prints beginning in 1934. The stone is field rock from the local area. The benches are made of cypress wood from Florida and soaked in the lake.
8. **Who was Bob Schmid?** He was a former camper and counselor who with the help of his parents purchased the camp in 1949 and was the director until his death in 1973. He married his wife Viola Fallon in the chapel in 1951 and had three children – Rob, Marie and Tom.
9. **Who was Vi Schmid?** Wife of Bob who stated, "I married a camp." Worked alongside Bob and was the director after Bob's death in 1973, until her death in 1985.
10. **When did Marie become the director of Foley?** In 1985, she is now the Executive Director.
11. **Who is the other director of Foley?** Alli Faricy
12. **Was camp always called "Camp Foley"?** No, it was first called Camp St. Thomas, then Father Foley's Camp for Boys, and it 1949, Camp Foley.
13. **How many acres are in main camp?** 211 acres, 1000 feet of shoreline.
14. **What other property does Foley own?** Foley has a peninsula and an island on the Whitefish Chain and 120 acres of undeveloped land 7 miles from camp. In 2018, Foley purchased, "The Beach" property, on the east side of camp consisting of 4.61 acres and 243 feet of shoreline.
15. **Which buildings are some of the oldest buildings still standing?**
  - Kildare which used to be the camp chapel.
  - Micmac, a private cabin before becoming a younger boy's camper cabin.
  - Nature (Lehetepe) which was a camper cabin and the staff lounge.
  - Office, part of it which was a camper cabin.
  - Crafts which was possibly a camper cabin
  - Lego Building (originally the ice house) by Father Foley's cabin.
  - Kiowa which was called Durand and housed the cook by that name.

- Menominee which was called Moorman and housed the cook by that name.
  - Rec Center which was a garage
16. **What happened to Father Foley's cabin?** Father Foley's original log cabin was taken apart and moved. The stone fireplace is still standing where Father Foley said Mass in the early twenties for the boys before starting the camp. Pat Dougherty owns the property and campers still use the site for some of its campfires.
  17. **What other buildings are no longer standing?** Camille or Kickapoo (multiple uses) which was located behind the kitchen, Stormwood (caretaker's house) taken down to build the new Maintenance Center/camper's Shop. Old Osawaka (office, crafts building, staff lounge, summer residency of Bob and Vi Schmid – leveled and the new Osawaka was created.
  18. **Do campers still wear a red ribbon around their neck if they are "sinker"?** A sinker was a camper who did not pass the swim test on arrival day and a red ribbon was tied around the camper's neck for safety purposes so that all staff would know which campers could not swim. Foley stopped this practice in the '80s – it seemed cruel and at the same time it became mandatory that everyone wears a lifejacket in a watercraft.
  19. **What happened to the cabins of Locosippi and Waupacuta?** Ojibway used to be two cabins – ½ was Ojibway and the other half was Locosippi. The same was for Seneca with ½ being Waupacuta.
  20. **What happened to boxing and badminton?** Times do change! The boxing ring which was in the location of the climbing tower and tennis courts went down in the late 60's before the two enclosed tennis courts were built in the 70's. Badminton lost its popularity and the campers suggested sand volleyball in its place in the late 80's. Badminton then made a return to Foley in 2004!
  21. **Where did all of the 'C Scows go?** The 'C Scows were sold and sailing took a new turn using 420's and Opti's, to the Mangos and JY's to Bics and Hartleys!
  22. **When did waterskiing first come to Foley and what size hp boat?** 1956, 30 hp
  23. **Was the rifle range always where it is now located?** No! It was along the bank between Mandan and Kadigomeg.
  24. **Why do the cabins have Native American names?** In the earlier years, there was more of an Indian theme in camp with outside council rings, campers being divided by tribes, Indian headdresses worn at campfires and on special Umgawa days, etc. Foley has left the cabin names and have continued to name additional cabins with Native American names.
  25. **When did the first girls come to Foley?** Foley began having girls in the summer program in 1974, but had worked with girls in other programs.
  26. **What other programs does Foley do?** Foley runs an Environmental Program in the spring and fall since 1970, and we host some retreats and weddings.
  27. **When was the new dining hall and kitchen built?** The fall 1999 and winter 2000.
  28. **Is there still soda bread on Sundays?** Yes and No. Not always on Sundays but once a week! Foley campers still enjoy soda bread outside!
  29. **What country did the first International campers come from and in what year?** From Cuba in 1953
  30. **What year was the climbing tower built and how tall is it?** In 1999, 38 feet tall
  31. **When did the campers begin sleeping in the Tree Houses?** In 2007
  32. **When was the Foley Fun Center, with Human Foosball and "The Barn" for Floor Hockey first used?** In 2004
  33. **When did paintball come to Foley?** In 2005
  34. **When was the Maintenance Center/Shop built?** In 2011
  35. **When was the new Osawaka built?** In 2013

## Mission Statement and Quality Camp

### **Mission**

***We partner with parents to drive campers to grow, gain grit, investigate, and build independence.***

We do this through skill development, supportive relationships, meaningful involvement, character growth, and in a natural and safe environment. This is camp!

Our mission drives us, in decisions of programming, policy and expectations of campers and staff members.

### **Skill Development**

*Each camper has opportunities to increase skills and take healthy risks while participating in Foley's diverse and structured program that is challenging and engaging. This happens under the guidance and coaching of Foley counselors and directors in a supportive family environment.*

1. Each camper sets attainable, yet challenging, activity goals at the beginning of the session. They revisit their goals every few days & evaluate, reset, or create new goals.
2. Each camper signs up for 5 different activities every three days and can earn awards of various degrees of difficulty.
3. Each camper has opportunities to develop confidence, and to practice responsibility and respect on a daily basis.
4. Each camper practices life skills and social skills by living in the camp community and through their interactions with their peers and counselors.
5. Each camper is encouraged to take some healthy risks to expand their life experiences.

### **Supportive Relationships**

*Each camper has opportunities to develop meaningful relationships or strengthen existing ones with peers and adults from throughout the United States and several foreign countries. Each camper feels valued by these peers and adults who accept them for their unique talents and personalities.*

1. Each camper lives in a cabin with 2 counselors and 10 other peer age campers. "Welcome" posters, name tags on beds, and icebreakers create a sense of community and belonging.
2. Campers are encouraged and guided by their counselors in developing skills to enhance friendships and relationships.
3. Each camper is respected by the other campers and counselors and feels that they take a personal interest in them and includes them in what they are doing.
4. Each camper feels that their counselors know what is important to them and will give them encouragement and support.
5. Each camper feels that their counselors and cabin mates will listen to them as they share their excitement or when upset or in need of advice.

### **Meaningful Involvement**

*Each camper makes decisions and choices on a daily basis & feels that their ideas & opinions matter. Each camper has opportunities to participate in a variety of leadership roles in their cabin, at their activities, and in the Camper Leadership Program.*

1. Each camper has over 40 choices of diverse activities that they can choose from in their activity sign up and diverse choices at Morning Fun and Free Swim. As a cabin group, they have a choice in doing a cabin activity and all camp programs.
2. Campers as a cabin group choose and participate in cabin or all “pack” activities that stress cooperation, group unity, friendship building, and mutual respect.
3. Each camper belongs to a cabin group or “family” where during their evening cabin time they actively participate in a cabin game, discussion or a cabin council.
4. Each camper has input in program ideas, equipment purchases, and facility updates.
5. Each camper is involved in making & enforcing their cabin rules & cabin clean up plans.

### **Character Growth**

*Each camper & staff member is challenged to exhibit the six-character traits of responsibility, caring, respect, fairness, citizenship & trustworthiness through their actions by being a person of strong moral & spiritual beliefs.*

1. Through daily readings and quotes, each camper is made aware of character strengths and strives to improve their own character throughout the day.
2. Each camper is guided and encouraged to accept & respect other people & property and to make a conscientious effort to get along with their peers both in and out of the cabin.
3. Every week, each camper chooses from either attending Mass or the Non-Denominational services offered for spiritual growth. Each camper is invited to help plan and participate in these services.
4. Each camper is recognized individually or in small groups for exhibiting character traits.

### **A Natural and Safe Environment**

*Each camper spends the majority of their day on the lake or in the woods in hopes that they will depart Foley with a greater appreciation of our natural environment and a concern for their impact upon the environment. Each camper feels emotionally and physically safe in a well-maintained facility rich in tradition since 1924.*

1. Each camper is continuously exposed to a natural setting of wildlife and a crystal-clear lake throughout their daily activities and is encouraged to appreciate nature throughout the day by taking time to observe things in their surroundings.
2. Each camper has the opportunity to learn about the environment in which they live as an activity selection or during Morning Fun Time, Free Swim or at other times.
3. Each camper is taught to minimize their impact upon the environment by using water bottles, walking on the sidewalks and paths, and practicing energy conservation. While living in the camp community, campers become part of Foley’s environmental practices.
4. Each camper is to follow the rules for community living for personal safety, both physical and emotional, as well as group physical and emotional safety as outlined on the Camper Application, in the Parent Guide, and in the Code of Living. Emotional and physical safety are also addressed in the Summer Camp Rules, in cabin living and at the various activities.

*\*Refer to **Outcomes of Cabin Living** and **Outcomes of Activities** for more specific ways that we are mission driven.*