

2008 Junior Maine Guide Program

Camp O-AT-KA

Almost every year since 1936, Camp O-AT-KA has participated in the Junior Maine Guide program. JMG is a program sponsored by the State of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Maine Youth Camping Association to promote responsible and safe use of the Maine outdoors through wilderness experience programs.

This summer, the O-AT-KA program will consist of five weeks of training, both at the wilderness outpost at camp, and on optional wilderness trips. During this period, the candidates work on mastering the skills necessary for leading an enjoyable, comfortable and safe wilderness experience. The skills needed to become a JMG are diverse, and in order to gain proficiency in them, candidates can choose to concentrate on the program while at camp by spending a portion of their program time on the JMG program. During the training, each candidate works on becoming proficient in over 20 different skills, ranging from canoeing, cooking, and orienteering to first aid, axemanship, and fire building.



After the training period, the candidates will travel to JMG testing camp, on Swan Island in the Kennebec River. There they will participate in a series of challenges testing their skills. While test camp is hard work, there is also ample opportunity for the campers to socialize with other campers, both male and female from around the world. Typically, a candidate takes two to three summers to pass all of the JMG tests and earn his (or her) certification.

Any camper or assistant counselor between the ages of 14 and 18 is eligible to become a JMG. Because the O-AT-KA training program is designed to help candidates attain some degree of mastery in wilderness skills, and not to teach basic concepts, a potential candidate should have some experience in the outdoors prior to enrolling in the program. Potential candidates should be familiar and comfortable with the outdoors, interested in improving their skills, and willing to work on techniques and skills they have not yet mastered.

For More Information Contact

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