

Camp Agawam

October 2024

Dear members of the Agawam community,

“Chief” Erik Calhoun has just shared a letter announcing that 2025 will be his final summer as Agawam’s director. On behalf of the Agawam Council, we want to express our deep gratitude for his tireless commitment and extensive contributions to this organization we all love.

Chief’s legacy will endure far beyond his tenure. His trademark energy and joy have been the heartbeat of the Agawam experience for 16 years. Leading us into our second century, he has balanced the history and evolution of this remarkable community. He was instrumental in updating our traditions and practices to ensure that our cherished values continue to be instilled in the next generation of Agawam boys. Chief led the implementation of the strategic plan adopted by the Agawam Council, which sharpened our focus on the seven-week program, enriched our Senior Club program, and strengthened financial support for the Main Idea program and camperships. During his tenure, Agawam completed the largest capital campaign in our history, which enhanced the camper and staff experience through major improvements to our physical campus and the strengthening of our financial resources.

The Agawam Council is active, engaged and fully prepared to ensure a smooth and successful transition. The Council is the non-profit board of directors responsible for the stewardship and governance of Agawam, which led the searches that resulted in the hiring of Chief Nelson in 1985 and Chief Calhoun in 2008. We have already begun the process of identifying Chief’s successor, with a goal of identifying a group of finalists by early spring. The search committee will be led by “Skipper” Jon Sprole, who will be stepping into the role of President of the Council in February of 2025 when my three-year term concludes. He will be joined by “Bos’n” Frank Anthony, “Sparks” Chrissy Barnard, “Slugger” S.J. Baxter, and “Commissioner” Noah Faison, representing former staff, parents, Main Idea volunteers, and long-time board members. The committee is actively interviewing firms to run the search.

This will be a thoughtful and thorough process, which will draw upon feedback from our vibrant community of parents, alumni, and friends. We will share periodic updates on the process and welcome your input on the qualities that we should be seeking in Agawam’s next leader.

We encourage you to join us in celebrating Chief’s remarkable tenure and accomplishments. Over the coming year, we will have opportunities to honor his contributions and wish him well as he embarks on his next endeavor.

Thank you for your unwavering support and love for Agawam. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me personally during this time of transition. My email is acobb@campagawam.org.

In Agawam spirit,



“Chief” Erik Calhoun
Director