

# 2023 Senior High Dean's Letter

**Arrival Time:** 2-4 PM, Sunday July 16, **Pick-up Time:** 9:30 AM on Saturday, July 22

Hello and thank you for your interest in Senior High week at Pilgrim Lodge! We are your excited returning deans, Andrew and Marraine, and we hope this letter finds you well. After an incredible last summer reopening after COVID, our goal this summer is to build on that success. Who can forget dancing in the rain after human foosball, or those floral centerpieces for the fancy dinner? Come join us in being part of the continuing legacy of Senior High!

## Who are we?



Andrew Hunter teaches high school history at the Chewonki Foundation in Wiscasset, Maine. He is into adventuring in the outdoors, identifying species, and offering spicy hot takes. He is a longtime Pilgrim Lodge camper and (still) thinks “Waltzing with Bears” is the greatest song in the PL songbook. Look for him on the porch with an ice cream cone or shooting hoops in a spare moment.

Andrew and Marraine are both members of



Marraine Kettell is the minister at Old South Church in Farmington, Maine. She is on the Pilgrim Lodge Leadership Team.

## Who are Senior High campers?

Marraine spends her free time knitting, exploring, reading, and spending time with her family. She is a long time camper at Pilgrim Lodge and has served as a counselor, dean, and fill in staff. Marraine credits Pilgrim Lodge with fostering her call to ministry which includes being as creative and silly as possible. Feel free to join her for a chat.

They are upperclassmen who carry on treasured traditions. They are younger-now-older siblings, relatives, or friends who grew up with stories of Senior High and are eager to make their own memories. They are first time campers who bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to the community. They are musicians, artists, athletes and nature-lovers. They are, in short, everyone you can imagine! Above all, they are passionate and thoughtful about the issues of the world, and they are fierce friends who know how to show up for one another. Whether you've been to Pilgrim Lodge a hundred times or this is your first time joining us, we are so ready to welcome you with a seat at the table and a place in the choir.

### **What can you expect at Senior High?**

At Senior High you will find a group of inspiring teens and caring adults who share the same radical idea: that a robust community built on thick relationships can be built in a week, and that through the power of community transformative growth is possible. To that end, authenticity is key, which means developing a space in which everyone feels a sense of belonging and can show up fully as themselves. Not only does this honor each person's diverse individuality, but enables greater collective strength.

If community is the goal, what are the means? Well, the wisdom of PL teaches us that nothing builds relationships and connections like ice cream cones and silly songs about yodeling Austrians! This summer we will engage with one another through fun games and activities, sleepy midday bunk times, and dress up dinners. We will cultivate relationships with the natural world through swimming, boating, and time in the woods. And we hope to activate the mind and heart with quiet reflection, meaningful conversation, and spiritual fellowship.

Part of building such a grounded community means being present in the moment, and all campers will go without cell phones for the week of camp. But don't worry, you can still send regular mail and can receive letters and emails as well throughout the week. We hope this week is a chance to do something different and embrace face-to-face, intimate, and intentional relationships. Reject the FOMO and bring other ways to connect with your fellow campers and counselors! Knitting circle on the Lodge porch? Schooling some fools with your favorite board game? Leading an interest group with a sport of your choice?

Your packing should reflect these various activities. We encourage you to bring things that are important to some aspect of yourself, maybe an instrument, favorite pastime, or craft. In addition, you should, of course, plan on bringing clothes that can get dirty, swimming

gear, and the clothes you feel most comfortable in, whatever that means for you. Don't forget clothes for our "fancy dinner" later in the week and any goofy outfits! And if this is your first time coming to camp, please check out the [packing list](#) on the Pilgrim Lodge website, which contains some other essential and nice-to-have items at camp.

As we did last year, we will be sharing Pilgrim Lodge with the Middler Spirit (middle school age) camp. This was a lot of fun, including some good-natured competition with a spirited game of capture the flag on the island. Who knows what this year will bring? We will continue to try and strike the balance of being good neighbors, working together, but also

retaining the unique identity of our own community. So while we will, for instance, eat meals at the same time, for the most part the camps will operate separately. However, we are in the incredible position to be role models for the next generation of Senior High, and inspire them to dream big (and get jealous) of our awesome community.

That last point brings us to an important opportunity for this summer. As with every week of camp at Pilgrim Lodge, on the last evening we will have a talent show / coffeehouse / open-mic night! Everyone should feel invited to use this opportunity to share a poem, song, skit etc. However, we wanted to extend a special invitation to our post grads (folks who just graduated high school). Before the pandemic, it was tradition for these campers to deliver a "senior speech" reflecting on their summer(s) at camp, and offer any advice they would give to underclassmen. This was a true capstone experience to a camp career of any length, and a tradition we are hoping to revive this summer.

We can't wait to learn and grow with you as we share the best week of the summer!!

Best wishes,  
Andrew and Marrison