

Prospective Family FAQ

What is Mayhew?

Mayhew is a non profit program focused on challenging and helping at-risk New Hampshire boys to believe in themselves, work well with others, and find their best.



Mayhew offers both a highly structured and supportive summer camp experience and a program of regular visits throughout the school year.

Mayhew started in 1969, serving just 10 boys from Manchester. Today, Mayhew works with nearly 200 boys from throughout New Hampshire annually.

Mayhew is headquartered in Bristol, NH, with its main office located on West Shore Rd and its camp facility located on Mayhew Island at the foot of Newfound Lake.

Why is my son being referred?

Boys are referred to Mayhew for many different reasons. Some are making troubling choices or demonstrating worrisome behaviors at home, in school, or elsewhere and could benefit from some redirection. Others simply lack opportunities to participate in the sorts of activities Mayhew offers. Still other boys are referred because they can benefit from the boost in self-esteem that Mayhew often provides.



Regardless of the reason a boy is referred, participation in the program is completely voluntary. Making the significant commitment to become a part of Mayhew is always up to the boy and his family.

What's the program like?

Boys begin the program when they're 10- or 11- years old by spending 3 ½ weeks out on Mayhew Island in Newfound Lake during the summer months.



On Mayhew Island, the boys are encouraged (and expected) to try everything asked of them, to do their best and to work well with others. It's the *Mayhew way*: to live by the program ideals of *respect, responsibility, community, and challenge*.

During the summer, the boys live, work, and play as members of cabin groups, with most every activity scheduled as a group activity. Each boy will have the opportunity to play softball, soccer, basketball, and floor hockey; to go hiking; to learn to row a boat; to participate in art; to practice swimming; to try climbing; and to do many, many other fun and challenging activities alongside their cabinmates.

Aside the chance to have lots of fun, boys also have a chance to work on their behavior and social skills while a part of an incredibly positive and supportive community. Mayhew counselors are trained to acknowledge the many good behaviors of the boys throughout the day, while still offering constant feedback and direction aimed at mitigating problematic behaviors.

Once the school-year begins, Mayhew transitions to the community phase of the program. One of Mayhew's six full-time community outreach workers visits with each boy monthly, encouraging him to bring Mayhew and the program ideals to his life at home, at school, and beyond. When he struggles, Mayhew tries to be there to lend an ear, do some guiding, and offer support. When he tackles a new challenge, Mayhew tries to be there cheering from the sidelines.

What does Mayhew cost?

Although it costs almost \$7000/year for a boy to participate, thanks to the generosity of many, all boys take part tuition-free in the program. We only ask that each family pay a \$20 yearly participation fee. (Of course, as a charity program, Mayhew is always appreciative of any additional support a family, or anyone else, might provide!)



If my son is referred, will he automatically get the chance to participate?

NO. The referral application is only the first step in the process. Unfortunately, every year many very deserving and very appropriate candidates have to be turned away because of limited openings in the program.



For this reason, at this early stage we encourage you **NOT** to share with your son that he has been referred to the program.

If Mayhew thinks that your son might be a good fit, one of Mayhew's community outreach workers will be in touch before the end of the school year to set a meeting to discuss the program in more detail and to explain the next steps in the process. Please be aware, however, that such a meeting still does not guarantee that a boy will be enrolled.

How can I find out more information?



You may visit our website, www.mayhew.org, or call our office, (603) 744-6131.



The Mayhew Program
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