



March 2026

Dear Pine Islanders,

Raising a pre-teen son today invites a lot of reflection. As parents, we find ourselves thinking not only about screens but about a rapidly changing world shaped by artificial intelligence, constant stimulation, and diminishing opportunities for genuine independence. Amid all of this, we have been thinking—what do boys need as they come of age?

For our family, Pine Island Camp has been a powerful answer to that question.

Our son's second summer was the quintessential camp experience every parent hopes for: a truly happy time, brimming with independence and adventure. His letters home were filled with charming stories, like his climb up Mount Bigelow, or the Maine Woodsman trip, where he and two other campers valiantly (if unsuccessfully!) attempted to keep a fire going inside the fire circle for three days straight.

However, if you only had the picture of that second summer, you would miss the context of his first year, which was a much more intense experience—a shock to his system. That first summer brought a series of wildly colorful and sometimes heart-stopping letters, such as the one that casually informed us, “Oh, and a sailboat boom hit me in the mouth and I lost two teeth.” (A phone call with Alex confirmed that he did lose two loose baby teeth, though thankfully not simultaneously or from the same event!) Nevertheless, the transformative effects of camp were immediate and undeniable, manifesting in ways we never expected. That fall we watched him commit, without complaint, to a rigorous study regimen for a difficult school entrance exam. He didn't believe he had any chance of getting in, but we saw in him a new wellspring of grit and determination, which is precisely what we attribute to his acing the exam in the end. And there was also his own testament to the positivity of the Pine Island experience: he chose to go back for a second summer.

Pine Island's core philosophy is built on the twin values of “independence” and “concern for others,” values that are not just discussed but are manifested in all aspects of the camp experience, from the activity blocks logging personal growth, to the campfire performances, to the timing and rules of the King's Game. When you consider that Pine Island opened in 1902, it is nothing short of remarkable that the camp's core philosophy remains profoundly relevant today. In a world captivated by the rise of artificial intelligence, a premium will be placed on uniquely human strengths and human connectivity. It seems more true every day that the foundational skills of the past—self-reliance, resilience, community—are precisely what we need to navigate and thrive in the world of the future.

Now, Pine Island may be timeless, but the physical infrastructure supporting it is not. True to the can-do spirit fostered in camp, Director Alex and the dedicated staff consistently find creative ways to make the most of the resources at hand. However, ingenuity cannot fix everything; underwater electric cables do not repair themselves, and facilities need to be maintained. The projects of just the last two years—5 new tent

platforms, a new water system, and renovated Perches—illustrate the scale of work required to make the island safe and modernized while preserving its unique character. Likewise, such an exceptional crew needs to be supported so they can continue to attract the best. The new tuition structure lays bare quite starkly what has been true all along: Pine Island needs a community of supporters—alumni, parents, and friends—who recognize that the camp’s preciousness goes beyond what it accomplishes for any single boy, as life-changing as that continues to be. It is an investment in an enduring philosophy, one that prepares boys for life’s challenges and, through them, leaves its imprint on the communities they touch.

Please join us in supporting this extraordinary place and securing its future for generations to come. The 2025 Donor Report, which can be found on the PIC website under *Giving Back*, shows how small gifts add up to make a lasting impact. Thank you for being part of this incredible community and for all you do to support Pine Island.

With gratitude,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature on the left is 'Carrie Trowbridge' and the second signature on the right is 'Fernando Cela Diaz'.

Carrie Trowbridge and Fernando Cela Diaz