



May 20, 2025

Greetings from the shores of Wapogasset Lake!

It feels like just yesterday that we were shedding our winter layers and eagerly awaiting sunnier, longer, warmer days, and yet somehow, we are just a few days away from officially launching the summer season at Camp Icaghowan.

Right now, cabins are freshened and ready to welcome excited campers. Our collection of watercrafts are primed and ready for countless adventures on the water. The island is flourishing and ready to be explored. Staff will arrive soon to continue preparing for another epic, unforgettable summer.

Needless to say, we are buzzing with energy as we finish preparations for campers to arrive – some returning, some new, some ready to dive right in, and some not knowing what to expect. Most importantly, we want each young person to show up knowing they belong here at camp.

Ongoing support from generous donors like you is the cornerstone of this mission and all that we do. It helps us maintain inclusive programming where kids from all walks of life have the opportunity to disconnect from the digital world, grow and discover through outdoor adventure, and create lasting memories and friendships.

Thank you, first and foremost, for being an essential part of our Icaghowan community! Before the summer bustle sets in, I am excited to share some key highlights and updates with you:

- **Celebrating 117 Summers:** 2025 marks the 117th summer of Camp Icaghowan, a testament to our community's enduring impact and evolving tradition of excellence in outdoor youth development.
- **Pioneer Point Upgrades & Staff Training:** The Pioneer Point platform tent area received a full upgrade, enhancing the camping experience. This summer, staff will continue to expand their skills and training in mental health and social-emotional support, contributing to a safe and successful summer for all campers.
- **Scholarship Support & Accessibility:** We welcomed a record-breaking 121 campers last year through donor-supported scholarships, with the demand for financial assistance continuing to grow. Rising programmatic and overhead costs to keep camp running affect registration fees, so these scholarship funds are essential to ensuring our programs remain accessible to every family, regardless of financial circumstances.
- **Program Growth and Adventure Expansion:** Our Islanders program has expanded their kayaking experience from five to seven days, allowing campers to explore even further on their Apostle Islands sea-kayaking adventure. The age range for this trip has also increased to offer more adventure opportunities for older teens.
- **New Systems and Streamlined Scheduling:** This spring marked a successful shift to a new CRM system and the announcement of a shortened camp schedule for summer (from six days to five days). These changes support operational efficiency without sacrificing the quality of camper experiences, programs, or traditions.

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- **Programmatic Enrichment:** Expanded program opportunities have allowed for more diverse and engaging camp activities, reinforcing our commitment to creating meaningful, inclusive, and accessible experiences for every camper.
- **Staff Excellence and Impact:** Our summer staff team has continued to grow and shine! I am so proud of their dedication and commitment, consistently showing up for campers every single day throughout each rewarding season. They've strengthened their ability to collaborate, problem-solve, and empower our campers.
- **Mission Moment:** We had a camper bring his family to Icaghowan for Family Camp this fall for the first time. It took some time for his parents to adjust to "camp life," and he was so excited to share this place with them. His excitement radiated, and his family eventually became actively engaged in songs and activities. The camper was thrilled about building this connection with his family, exclaiming, "This is MY camp!" They have since signed up for other programs and experiences and continue to engage with us.

**We are truly grateful for your partnership that has helped make the above (plus so much more!) possible.**

As we set our compass toward the future, we look forward to keeping you in the loop on all that Camp Icaghowan has going on year-round for kids, families, adults, and groups.



Once again, thank you for showing up for us and all those we serve through your passion and generosity. Here's to another terrific, adventure- and memory-filled summer ahead!

With deep appreciation,

Georgia Ellingson  
Executive Director

