



May 20, 2025

Salutations from the shores of Lake Independence!

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 Ihduhapi.

Right now, cabins are freshened and ready to welcome giddy campers. Our collection of watercrafts are primed and ready for countless adventures on the water. The surrounding nature-filled woodlands are flourishing and ready to be explored. Staff have moved in and are ready 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.

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 Ihduhapi community! Before the summer bustle sets in, I am excited to share some key highlights and updates with you:

- **Celebrating 95 Years:** 2025 marks Camp Ihduhapi's 95th anniversary! We will be hosting a big celebration at the end of the summer and hope to see you there – stay tuned for more information coming soon.
- **High Demand for Overnight Camp & New Programming:** Overnight camp programming continues to be in very high demand, with last summer ending in waitlists for most traditional sessions. Our team is always looking for creative ways to expand access to this incredible experience for more campers. This summer, we are excited to launch a new "Ihduhapi Islanders" overnight session that will focus on wilderness skills, with campers spending most of their week on the island.
- **Leadership & Pride Programming Growth:** Our Leadership Development Program continues to thrive and is vital to our mission, helping develop the next generation of passionate, empathetic, community-focused leaders. Participants learn how to lead and collaborate in diverse groups, and about the importance of protecting our wild spaces. They offer a lot to our camp and are hugely inspiring! We are also excited to see growth and transformation in our Pride session programming as part of our ongoing work ensuring Ihduhapi is a welcoming and inclusive place where every young person feels they belong.
- **Staff Dedication Shining Bright:** Our team's passion and commitment to this work, to our mission, is a major point of pride for me. Each staff member embraces their role with heart, creativity, and a shared sense of purpose. There's no siloed work—just full commitment to creating meaningful experiences in a supportive, beautiful environment. It is an honor to work alongside such an incredible group of people!

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- **Mission Moment – A Place to Belong:** Week after week, closing campfires continue to be a warm (literally and figuratively) space that brings about heartfelt gratitude from campers and staff who have found a place where they feel truly safe, accepted, and seen. This environment allows individuals to show up authentically, deepen their connection to themselves and others, and build lasting friendships rooted in nature. It remains a favorite part of camp for many, and I look forward to seeing more of these heartfelt experiences and stories unfold this summer.
- **Expanded Horse & Year-Round Offerings:** Our horse programming has grown significantly, with year-round riding lessons now offered alongside family ranch weekends, a mother-daughter event, and a “Y She Rides” women’s weekend. To support this expansion, the horse barn was upgraded in the fall. Additional year-round opportunities include the Y She Skis women’s retreat, Maple Syrup Immersion and Festival events, volunteer days, and Yukon Days (youth winter camp). Additionally, we’re serving a growing number of school groups through our Outdoor Learning Program.
- **Essential Annual Fund Support:** The ongoing generosity of our amazing community of donors (like you!) continues to support our Annual Fund, which helps fund scholarships so that cost is never a barrier to accessing our programs and offerings. We continue to count on this support, especially with rising operational costs and increasing demand for financial assistance. This funding also supports essential capital improvements like the Lodge—the heart of camp—which needs further investment to remain a community space for the next 95 years.

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 Ihduhapi 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jana Graczyk".

Jana Graczyk
Executive Director

