



May 20, 2025

Dear Menogyn Friend and Partner,

As the seasons change at Camp Menogyn, I find myself reflecting on an incredible past year made possible by the generosity and commitment of our equally incredible community of donors like you. Your support fuels our mission, and I am eager to share some exciting updates with you as we head into what is sure to be another awesome summer at camp!

WELCOMING NEW LEADERSHIP

It has been a year of transition within Menogyn leadership, as we've added some new folks to our team over the last several months. Since last summer, we have welcomed a new **Executive Director** (that's me!), a new **Summer Program Director, Kelly Lewis**, and a **new Fall, Winter, Spring Program Director, Louisa Mullin**. Their passion and expertise have already had a profound impact on our community, enhancing the camper experience and strengthening our programs.

LOOKING AHEAD: WHAT'S IN STORE FOR SUMMER

This summer promises to be one of growth, learning, and adventure, and we are so excited for the season ahead! Here are a few updates about how preparation is going:

- **Record-Breaking Registration:** We started summer registration off with an unprecedented 450 campers signed up within the first 24 hours! As of late spring, only a few openings remain.
- **Community Engagement:** Alumni continue to be a critical part of Menogyn's success, and we have seen resounding support from this amazing community during this year of transition. We are so grateful!
- **Expanding Trip Opportunities:** We have over 250 campers travelling outside of the state of Minnesota for trips this year. Although we love connecting our campers to northern Minnesota, it is amazing to see the places far and wide our campers are exploring.

SARAH CRUMP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP LAUNCHES

We are excited to share that the **Sarah Crump Memorial Scholarship** has launched this year and will be available for women and youth from vulnerable groups who are pursuing future experiences at Menogyn. As a former camper and guide, Sarah was an **inspiration to many** in the Menogyn community, and to honor her memory, her family and friends have created this scholarship fund to allow other young people to enjoy the same experiences that made such a profound impact on her life. We hold **tremendous gratitude** for her family and all who gave to support this deeply special cause.

PROGRAMMATIC GROWTH THAT MATTERS

Thanks in large part to your support and that of other donors, we continue to expand key programs and initiatives that connect more people to the Menogyn experience, such as our:

- **Fall, Winter, Spring (FWS) Programs:** With a full calendar and high demand for our seasonal family camps, group retreats, and school group trips, our FWS programs are stronger than ever. This year marked a major milestone as our FWS programs served almost 800 people, surpassing our summer participant total of roughly 700. These offerings continue to welcome participants of all ages and experience levels to camp as they explore nature and strengthen our community year-round.
- **BOLD & GOLD Internships:** Our internship program continues to draw a high number of applicants, with 40+ candidates applying for just six spots. This initiative fosters professional development for young people who hope to explore a career in outdoor youth work and aims to create more equitable access to the professional outdoor industry.

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YOUR IMPACT: EXPANDING ACCESS & GROWING COMMUNITY

Your generosity has helped transform and improve Menogyn in many significant ways, including:

- **Boathouse Initiative:** Thanks to donor support, we have undertaken an ambitious addition to and renovation of the Boathouse to meet evolving camper needs. This project will create a more welcoming and inclusive space for campers while addressing important functional upgrades to improve risk management and the camp experience. Our staff have been working closely with Crown Construction to ensure completion in 4-6 weeks, just in time for summer!
- **Annual Fund:** These critical funds help us maintain our programs and expand access for all campers. Contributions to the Annual Fund help us maintain high-quality equipment, keep our facility up to date, and provide over \$120,000 in scholarships annually. As needs grow, we are endlessly thankful for this ongoing support!
- **Building Community and Expanding the Community Council:** Menogyn's Community Council (formerly Board of Directors) is a dedicated group of individuals with a passion for Menogyn's mission and programming. They are committed to being a supportive and inviting group that helps advise, advocate, and support Menogyn's strategic direction and mission delivery. We are looking to add members! If you or anyone in your network might be interested in joining the Council, please reach out to info@campmenogyn.org for more information.

MISSION MOMENTS: BRINGING MENOGYN TO LIFE

As you know, Menogyn isn't just about canoeing and backpacking — it's about personal growth, resilience, and community. Below are some recent examples of our mission in action that I am proud to share with you:

- **Partner Group Success Stories:** Seeing participants with diverse backgrounds and experience levels step into the wilderness and discover new strengths is a strong reminder of why we do this work. Through partnership with almost 20 different organizations, Menogyn has connected organizations and groups from across the state with our camp and the BWCAW.
- **Scholarships at Work:** Helping campers get to Menogyn despite financial obstacles is foundational to our work in making the outdoors more accessible. We provided over \$120,000 in scholarships last year, creating life-changing experiences for the next generation of environmental stewards and adventurers. Here are some recent quotes from scholarship recipients that convey this impact:
 - "The roadblocks I've overcome through this program are something I am truly grateful for. You've helped me through difficult times, and I always leave with a better outlook on life. And in moments of loneliness, I always seek the memories of laughter from camp; the one place I feel most authentic."
 - "I was amazed by the beauty of the Boundary Waters, its lakes and animals, and its sunrises and sunsets. Despite my initial worry that I wouldn't be able to handle the conditions of a trip like this, time and time again, I proved myself wrong and learned that I was capable of much more than I thought I was. After my first experience on trail, I knew I could never go another summer without it."

Through all of the transitions this past year, our team has remained flexible and continues to make incredible progress toward our mission.

We couldn't have done it without you, truly.

Speaking with Menogyn community members and alumni, I am constantly reminded of the deep and lasting impact this place has on so many lives. Your ongoing support helps ensure these transformational experiences continue.



Thank you for being a part of our community, helping make every adventure, every learning moment, and every lasting memory possible through your generosity. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!

Together, we will continue to inspire, challenge, and connect people to the wilderness.

With deep appreciation and excitement for the adventures ahead,

Forrest Ahrens

Forrest Ahrens, Executive Director

