



May 20, 2025

Salutations from the St. Croix shores!

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 St. Croix.

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

- **Growing Minds, Growing Spaces:** DayCroix continues to serve as the home of our Little Seeds program, a nature-based preschool offering incredible support for kids and families in the surrounding Hudson community. We're excited to break ground on a new pavilion that will give DayCroix campers and Little Seeds participants a dedicated shelter during their farm rotations.
- **Where Retreats, Weddings & Wool Meet:** Not only do our overnight programs continue to thrive in popularity, but our community group offerings that take place on site in our overnight camp spaces also continue to grow, welcoming everything from traditional school groups and weddings to unique retreats like knitting camps. The variety of experiences our spaces support is a testament to the community's trust and interest, as well as our programming adaptability.
- **Partnership Power – Supporting Camp Improvements:** We have a fantastic ongoing partnership with a company called Philips Medisize where they fund a \$10,000 annual project with the help of volunteers. This year, they will be helping us rebuild our "low initiatives" elements to support fun and engaging teambuilding activities for campers.
- **From Farm to Community – Nourishing with Purpose:** Our farm continues to be a powerful resource for education and food security. With high tunnels enabling vegetable harvests from April through November—even during cold months—we donate fresh, chemical-free produce through partners like River Valley Charities. These donations often happen within a day of harvest, reaching those who need it most. The farm also serves as an access point for hands-on learning and volunteer involvement, deepening the connection between camp and the broader community.

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- **Hands That Give, Hearts That Build:** Volunteer support continues to be a transformative part of all we do, with folks ranging from current families to alumni from the 1970s showing up to help in a variety of ways. Their dedication and generosity reflect the deep roots and continued passion that sustain this special community.
- **Teamwork Rooted in Purpose:** Our team's commitment and collaboration are truly unmatched—they support one another across all areas of focus and ensure every program thrives. Additionally, they have been facilitating meaningful engagement with unregistered visitors from nearby neighborhoods who may not have an initial connection with the Y or Camp St. Croix, welcoming them with curiosity and kindness as they explore our 400+ acres—some of whom are now active members of our community board.
- **Slices, Sprouts, & Smiles:** Don't miss our beloved Pizza Night and Farmers Market events, offering families a delicious and engaging way to experience the farm. These gatherings have become a highlight of the season and a meaningful way to bring people together around food and fun. Find the schedule here: www.tinyurl.com/477et6ye

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 St. Croix 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,

Dan O'Brien

Dan O'Brien
Executive Director

