



May 20, 2025

Salutations from the shores of Half Moon 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 Warren.

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

- **New Program Addition:** Last year, we introduced a new six-day hiking trip, which was a hit with campers and staff alike! We look forward to offering this program again this summer.
- **Seasonal Programming Successes:** Both Family Camp weekends we hosted in 2024—over Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends—were fully booked, reflecting strong community interest in this seasonal, all-ages programming. Additionally, about 100 participants attended our Adult Winter Camp in February—much fun was had by all!
- **High-Demand Activities:** Last summer's newspaper activity was very popular, so our team plans to grow it further this year. Also, due to significant interest and talent among campers, we've scheduled a third 10-day Lake Superior trip—called 100/100—for our skilled sailors. There's excitement building around this year's surprise "Special Day" themes as well.
- **Longer Teen Stays and Wilderness Growth:** An increasing number of teens are attending longer camp stays (three-four weeks) and joining bridge sessions and wilderness trips. They're finding meaningful connections and growth through outdoor experiences and time unplugged. Many are embracing challenges and the chance to build a strong camp community together.
- **Camperships Made Possible by Donors:** Our Annual Fund remains critical in supporting Warren's operations and ensuring that cost is never a barrier to participation. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our amazing donors (like you!), we continue to offer camperships to families in need without affecting our operating budget. This consistent support has allowed our programs to remain accessible and inclusive year after year.

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- **Dedicated Summer Counselor Team:** I continue to be so proud of our amazing team of counselors, each deeply committed to delivering a thoughtful, intentional, and safe experience for every camper. Their passion for youth development shines through as they provide a balance of structure and freedom for exploration, connection, and growth.
- **Teen Engagement and Tech-Free Time:** It has been great to see that our teen campers are increasingly excited to unplug and trade screens for face-to-face connection and outdoor engagement. We are passionate about providing them with a rare and meaningful break from digital distractions and outside pressures, ensuring our camp environment supports self-development and relationship-building.
- **Full Speed Ahead for Summer 2025:** With increased demand for specialized trips and enriched programming, we are heading into this summer season with confidence and strong momentum. The community's enthusiasm and our team's careful planning signal another impactful season ahead!
- **Mission Moment:** Recently, we had several community members join us in hands-on work to keep our forest healthy and reduce the risk of forest fires. This group is made up of volunteers who have experienced the impact of camp as former participants and come back year after year to keep camp ready for today's campers. Forest thinning is difficult work, and Eveleth's cold spring weather makes their dedication even more amazing!

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 Warren 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 "Jeanna Nesbitt".

Jeanna Nesbitt
Executive Director

