



May 20, 2025

Dear Kids to Camp Community Member,

Summer is just around the corner, and if you've spent time around YMCA camps, you know what that means—something truly special is about to unfold. Across our camps, kids and teens of all ages and backgrounds will dive into new adventures, build lifelong friendships, and discover strengths they didn't know they had. It's a season full of growth, exploration, and deep belonging.

Whether it's a first-time camper experiencing the magic of a campfire under the stars, the joy and calm that come with paddling across a quiet lake, or simply the comfort of finding "their people," these every day and extraordinary moments shape who they are—building confidence and character that lasts far beyond the end of summer.

Thanks to generous Kids to Camp donors like you, more young people will have the chance to be part of these life-changing experiences, many of whom wouldn't be able to come to camp otherwise. I'm so grateful for your support.

Of course, camp is about so much more than outdoor fun. In a world that can feel loud, isolating, and overwhelming, camp offers something rare: a chance to unplug, connect, and be fully present. It's a place where every young person is welcomed, supported, encouraged, and celebrated for exactly who they are.

That impact is powerful. And your support helps make it happen. Thank you!

I also want to keep you in the loop with what's happening in our Y camp community. I'm excited to share a few recent highlights and give you a peek at what's ahead:

- **A Phenomenal Summer Impacting Thousands:** This past summer, we successfully served over 28,000 kids and families in the outdoors, reinforcing the life-changing benefits of nature-based experiences. Research consistently shows that time in nature improves mental health, resilience, and social-emotional learning, making our programs even more critical in today's world.
- **Year-Round Outdoor Adventures for All:** Our seasonal offerings continue to expand, welcoming schools, partner groups, and retreat participants throughout the fall, winter, and spring. From dog sledding and ecology classes to snowshoeing, skiing, yoga, and sound baths, we're fostering outdoor learning and adventure in every season. We invite you to join us and discover the fun we offer year-round!
- **Welcoming Outstanding New Leadership:** This year, we welcomed exceptional executive leadership at Menogyn, Widjiwagan, Croix, and Northern Lights. With the incredible support of our Community Council leadership and dedicated community members and alumni, these new leaders are shaping the future of our camps with passion and expertise.
- **Strategic Growth Through Advisory Leadership:** Our Adventure Strategic Advisory Board continues to be a driving force in our progress. Through deep dives into our business plan, future visioning, risk assessment, and climate impact strategies, we are positioning our programs for long-term success and sustainability.

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- **Welcoming Campers to Enhanced Experiences:** We're thrilled to welcome kids and adults back to our beautiful camps, now with exciting upgrades! From a new sauna at Widji and a new boathouse at Menogyn to new camper cabins at du Nord and an updated Gnome Home at Ihduhapi, our camps are better than ever—creating even more opportunities for connection, adventure, and growth.
- **New Programs & Leadership for an Even Better Summer:** We're rolling out a new overnight schedule based on seasonal staff feedback to improve the camper and staff experience. Plus, we're excited to welcome new Program Director leadership at St. Croix, Northern Lights, du Nord, Icaghowan, Menogyn, and Widjiwagan, bringing fresh energy and vision to our camps and the legacy of Y Adventure.
- **Strengthening Staff Training:** We are continuously evaluating and evolving our programs to ensure the highest quality experiences for our participants. Our business plans guide us to focus on excellence, which sometimes means refining and improving our offerings. Additionally, we recognize that the strength of our programs depends on the leadership and preparedness of our staff. By investing in both programmatic growth and staff development, we are strengthening our impact and ensuring that each camp experience is meaningful, safe, and transformative. This year, we have taken steps to further optimize staff training with:
 - Expanded leadership development opportunities to empower seasonal staff with the skills to grow into future roles.
 - Trauma-informed training to better support campers' emotional and social well-being.
 - Culture of Belonging workshops to foster a welcoming and supportive camp environment for all.
 - Enhanced safety and risk management training to ensure the highest standards of care and preparedness in all activities.

It is no understatement to say that your generosity helps fuel everything we do, far beyond what I've just listed!

Ongoing support from our generous Kids to Camp donors ensures that financial circumstances never stand in the way of youth being able to attend camp, making it a place of learning and transformation where the power of outdoor experiences can be shared with all. These contributions also play a critical role in program improvement and expansion, infrastructure updates, and staff investment.

Beyond the more tangible updates, connecting with alumni, campers, families, and our community has been the most meaningful and energizing part of this past year. These often organic interactions—whether through a shared camp memory, a heartfelt story, or a moment of gratitude—fill my cup.

The insight, love, and care our community brings to these conversations is incredible. Hearing firsthand how camp has shaped lives, strengthened friendships, and created lasting traditions reaffirms the deep impact of our work.

On behalf the Y Adventure team, thank you again for standing by our side as a loyal friend and supporter committed to this meaningful work.



We hope you'll stay connected as summer 2025 kicks off—it's shaping up to be another unforgettable season full of great memories and unique experiences.

With deep appreciation,

Michel Tigan
Senior Vice President of Adventure & Camp Operations