

May 30, 2026



Dear Icaghowan Community Members,

Greetings from the shores of Wapogasset! It has been a chilly and busy winter here on the island. We have greeted many groups of children, families, and grown-ups for experiences here at camp. And now, with the snow finally melted and warmer days upon us, we are eagerly awaiting another incredible summer at YMCA Camp Icaghowan.

Right now, cabins are freshened and ready to welcome excited campers. Canoes are ready for the lake and our many river trips. The island is flourishing and ready to be explored. And staff are preparing to begin staff training to learn how to keep the magic alive this summer.

With preparations in full swing, our campers and team are buzzing with excitement and anticipation. Some will be joining us for the first time, while for others, this will be another summer on their Icaghowan journey. For all campers and staff, we look forward to stewarding this incredible place of outdoor adventure, belonging, and fun for all.

Ongoing generosity from donors like you is essential to how we make this magic happen year after year, allowing us to 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. It also helps support robust and evolving staff training and resources, as well as enhance our program supplies, thus ensuring we can continue creating exceptional experiences.

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:



**Celebrating 118 Summers:** 2026 marks the 118th summer of Camp Icaghowan, a testament to our community's enduring impact and evolving tradition of excellence in outdoor youth development.

**WLC Village Revamp:** This summer, WLC village will be reconstructed with a new adjoining deck and two new platform tents. The first WLC group will help with this rebuild as their service project. This program continues to be a cornerstone one here at camp, and Ted, our Property Manager, supports the service projects intentionally each season.

**Scholarship Support & Accessibility:** The demand for financial assistance continues to grow, as does the impact of these critical dollars. Rising programmatic and overhead costs to keep camp running affect registration fees, so these scholarship funds are essential to keeping our programs accessible to every family, regardless of financial circumstances.



**New Program Addition:** We are excited to introduce Intro to River Canoeing, a new program for young teens that serves as an entry point to our river tripping and other teen programs. Campers come for one week, three days of which are spent experiencing a three-day introductory river trip on the St. Croix River.

**Programmatic Enrichment:** Expanded program opportunities have allowed for more diverse and engaging camp activities, reinforcing our commitment to creating meaningful, inclusive, and accessible experiences for every camper. This includes the renaming of Teen Adventure Camp to Teen Adventure and Leadership Camp. We're making some adjustments to the curriculum to incorporate applicable leadership and teamwork components.

**Staff Excellence & Impact:** Our summer staff team has continued to grow and shine! I am so proud of their dedication and commitment, consistently showing up for campers every single day throughout each rewarding season. They continue to strengthen their ability to collaborate, problem-solve, and empower our campers.

**Mission Moment:** "On the first day of activities, a camper sat frozen on the edge of the dock, afraid to jump in. It was the first time at camp for her, and she was nervous to get in the water. Her cabin mates cheered her on, but still, she was stuck. Counselors came alongside her and reassured her. Then, a few of the other campers got out of the water and sat next to her. They collectively took some deep breaths and held hands as they slid in together. By the end of the activity, she was climbing up and jumping off the dock, so proud of herself, having conquered her fear. She made new friends, and the cabin was bonded the rest of the week, able to center the culture of encouragement they created."  
– Sophie



We are truly grateful for your partnership that has helped make the above, and so much more, possible. Looking ahead to summer and beyond, we look forward to keeping you in the loop on all that Camp Icaghowan has going on year-round for kids, families, adults, and groups.

Once again, thank you for showing up for all those we serve through your passion and generosity. Here's to another terrific, adventure- and memory-filled summer on the island!

With deep gratitude,

Georgia Ellingson  
Executive Director, YMCA Camp Icaghowan

