

May 30, 2026

Dear Menogyn Community Members,

As another season unfolds at Camp Menogyn, I want to begin by sharing my deepest gratitude for our amazing supporters (like you!) who help make all we do here possible. From transformational wilderness experiences and lifelong friendships to our growing community that spans many decades and countless borders — your generosity, enthusiasm, and passion are the fuel behind our mission.

Reflecting on the first half of 2026 and looking ahead to summer, I'm excited to share some meaningful updates with you as we focus on connection, planning, and long-term sustainability.



A Long-Term Vision Taking Shape

- The last year has offered an exciting opportunity to take a step back and dream about the future of Menogyn. Staff, Board members, and volunteers are working together to shape and support the camp's vision for the years ahead.
- This leads us to this year, as we are working on completing a 10-year site plan that will guide Menogyn's physical and programmatic future. Developed through careful assessment, community and staff input, and a commitment to responsible stewardship, this plan provides a roadmap for how we care for our camp while preparing for the needs of future campers, staff, and partners.
- We will also be starting the process of re-envisioning our Strategic Plan this summer. With help from our Community Board members, we look forward to gathering feedback as we prepare for the next chapter of Menogyn's operations.
- Importantly, these plans balance preservation with progress — ensuring that Menogyn remains a place of simplicity, challenge, and wilderness while strengthening the infrastructure and programs needed to support safe, inclusive, and high-quality programs for decades to come.

Alumni Connections and Community Building

- One of our offerings we are most looking forward to this year is the return of Rendezvous Weekend, taking place October 2-4, 2026. This weekend will be an opportunity for former campers and staff alumni to reconnect with camp and each other. We hope this gathering becomes a meaningful tradition once again and that many of you will join us!



- Additionally, we are working towards gathering current information on 100% of our Long Trip and Arctic Trip alumni. This effort is the first stage in a strategic commitment to updating contact information so that we can maintain long-term connections with campers.
- Our Community Board continues to be a critical part of all we do, made up of 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, please reach out to info@campmenogyn.org.



What's In Store for Summer

- We continue to see strong participation and engagement across our programs year-round, with over 1,500 participants joining us within the last year. Registration demand remains high, with summer enrollment just below 700 campers, and right now our staff team is busy preparing for another impactful summer season. Our fall/winter/spring programming continues to grow as well, serving more kids, adults, and families each year.
- Thanks to your support, we are also maintaining our commitment to access, providing over \$140,000 in financial assistance in 2025. Scholarships remain a cornerstone of our work, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent young people and families from experiencing the wilderness, personal growth, and community that define Menogyn.



You know as well as we do that Camp Menogyn has always been more than a camp. It is a place where people discover resilience, confidence, and belonging — carrying with them lessons that last long after a trip ends. In speaking with alumni, families, and campers, I am continually reminded of the deep and lasting impact this community has had on so many lives.

Thank you for walking alongside us as we plan for the future, invest wisely in the present, and continue to inspire people to connect with the wilderness and with one another. Here's to another unforgettable summer.

With gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead,

Forrest Ahrens

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Executive Director, YMCA Camp Menogyn

