

May 30, 2026

Hello from the shores of Half Moon!

Each spring, Camp Warren transforms into the ideal home-away-from-home for hundreds of soon-to-arrive summer campers. The snow and ice are melted (for good, finally!) as the garden, the Hitch Deck, the A-field, and the lake thaw out and come back to life. Swans, geese, and loons return, with the exchange of calls across Half Moon a sure sign that warmer weather is here to stay. Leaves return to the trees, greenery takes over, and we relish in the special pre-summer bloom of lilacs.

While nature performs this annual tradition, the Warren community prepares in other ways. There is much to be done, and we frequently remind ourselves that many hands make light work! Volunteers arrive onsite for Work Weekends and special projects, preparing our grounds and facilities for the months to come. Some help trim trees and trails while others cut wood that will fuel memorable opening campfires. Cabins need spring cleaning, too, and even young campers can be seen grabbing a broom before their session starts. It's amazing to see so many stewards of this place step up each year to pitch in with the preparation — launching boats, planting herbs, setting up equipment, and many other tasks.



Even more of the community helps us prepare by supporting Camp Warren's Annual Fund. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our donors (like you!), we're able to provide scholarships ("camperships") each year ensure financial circumstances are never a barrier for families to send their kid(s) to camp. Right now, our first giddy summer campers are already packing their bags! They're getting excited to paddle and portage the Boundary Waters, pitch an overnight tent on Girl Scout Island, and for some, venture away from home for the very first time — all made possible through your support.

As we count down the days until these first campers arrive and the bustle of summer operations begins, I'm excited to share some updates and highlights with you:

- 2026 has an **extra week of summer**, so before Girls Camp officially starts, we'll welcome young hikers to a few introductory backpacking trips and invite new boy campers to a four-day sampler session to test out overnight camp. We'll also provide an opportunity for 1G campers to go on a pre-session Short Border trip.
- Many additional wilderness trips are planned for this summer, and we're excited to introduce a **new training program** for our trail staff team. On top of their usual Wilderness First Responder and Lifeguard certifications, our guides will also be working to keep our tripping curriculum fresh, up-to-date, and intentional.



- Last summer, we introduced an option for a **Teen Artist emphasis program**. This program encourages a cohort of artists to work on multimedia portfolio pieces, providing new avenues for achievement and creativity for our in-camp teenagers. We're seeing growing interest in this program and look forward to offering it again this summer!



- Ensuring that Warren continues to be inclusive and accessible to all remains a key priority, and in recent years, keeping camp affordable through **increased scholarship support** to meet growing needs is as important as ever. We see the far-reaching impact of these gifts and continue to be immensely grateful for every dollar donated.

- Volunteers are already hard at work planning Camp Warren's **100th Anniversary celebration** taking place next year! We're looking for volunteers from every generation to take part. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram pages to stay in the loop, and contact us directly to find out more about getting involved.

These updates represent more than just projects or programs; they represent the growth of a community and the strengthening of a legacy that you help sustain.

Again, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for your partnership and generosity that has helped us already accomplish so much. With your help, we're positioned for a successful summer ahead.

Thank you for being an integral part of our Warren community!

With gratitude and excitement,

Jeanna Nesbitt
Executive Director, YMCA Camp Warren

