

YMCA Camp of Maine

2024 Pine Cone

Friendship Builds Community





A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“The only constant in life is change.” -Heraclitus

YCamp of ME experiences change every summer. Whether it is the counselors in the cabins, the staff in the kitchen, the campers in each swim lesson, or how much rain falls, no two years are ever the same.

Rest assured knowing that amidst the change, there is plenty that stays the same. The smell of the large pines baking in the hot sun. The feeling of the warm lake water on a dreary day, and that same water feeling cool and refreshing in a hot afternoon sun. The smiles and laughter of new and old friends. The feeling one gets when the moon is glimpsed across the lake. The smell of dinner coming from the Dining Hall toward the end of a hot, exhausting, fun, and adventurous day.

The last year has challenged me, our Board of Directors, and our community. In December, 2023, we lost many trees, and several buildings were impacted by a major storm. As a result of that storm, for the first time in many decades, we built new buildings at Camp - not because we wanted to, but because we had to.

More building is planned to occur at YCamp in 2025. We are creating new partnerships and strengthening connections, with an eye on continually improving YCamp. We are choosing to see challenges as opportunity for growth. Through these projects, our focus remains clearly set on providing a rustic, overnight camp experience, and a safe, fun and loving atmosphere. YCampers can expect to roast marshmallows, shoot arrows, paddle boats, and sing songs around the campfire, while making lifelong friendships and memories on the shores of Cobbosseecontee.

We were sad to say goodbye to Luke and Alana Joines after 10 and 14 years respectively. They both added many smiles to the waterfront, sports fields, and cabin life over their time at YCamp. We wish them the best in their new adventures. Our new Assistant Director will be announced soon and I am very excited about the new chapter for all of us.

Thank you- to everyone who continues to keep the flame burning- for being part of the YCamp Community. Remember to keep the spirit alive and stop by when you have a chance!

Sincerely,

Jeff Gleason
CEO/Director

LEADERS OF IMPACT

Board Of Directors

Donald C. Taylor, President - Portland, ME
Tommy Newhall, Vice Chair - Winthrop, ME
Patrick Keniston, Secretary - Cape Elizabeth, ME
Joe Rando, Treasurer - Nashville, TN
Bradley Sawyer - Augusta, ME

James Corgan - Winthrop, ME
Liz Hemdal - Augusta, ME
Will Rolfe - Winthrop, ME
Jaime O'Connor - Auburn, ME
Martin Allen - Winthrop, ME

Year Round Staff

Jeff Gleason, CEO/Executive Director
Jodi O'Keefe, Office Manager
Kim Gleason, HR Coordinator
Luke Joines, Program Director
Lonney Steeves, Winthrop Program Director
Morgan Dorsey, Communications & Development Director



YCamp 2024: Highlights



» The addition of a Yurt to accommodate more campers in North Village!

» Inaugural Annual Sunday 3k with no fewer than 100 campers and staff participating every session!

» LIT Camping trip to Bigelow Preserve!



» The Completion of a new Archery Pavilion!

» Weekend Program themes included: Superhero Bootcamp, Summer Camp of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and S'Winter!

» Partnership with Oakhurst Dairy to provide camp scholarships to Maine youth from area schools.



» Celebration of 50 Years of Co-ed Camping, with an open house and BBQ!

» Strengthened connections with our Alumni community, thanks to the dedicated efforts of volunteers updating our database.



A Season of Resilience and Growth

STORM RECOVERY

2024 began with significant storm damage, that would require a tremendous clean up effort, and inevitably change the landscape of YCamp. A total of forty-seven, 120-foot, 120-year-old pines fell, causing extensive damage to the North Village lodges and Library. The Pump House and Lakeside Lodge were completely destroyed.

Thanks to the dedicated leadership of the YCamp team and Board of Directors, and the extraordinary support from area businesses, YCamp was able to welcome campers, as planned, in June, 2024. To make this possible, extensive debris was cleared, the North Village lodges and Library were repaired, and the Pump House was rebuilt.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: Honoring our heritage & celebrating partnerships for a stronger community

In 2023, we partnered with the University of Maine at Augusta's Architecture program, and Professor Patrick Hansford, to reimagine Lakeside Lodge, which was lost to the storms. UMA students visited camp and participated in a dynamic design Charette competition. The students' creativity and vision inspired the final design, that we worked with Professor Hansford to complete. Groundbreaking is scheduled for December, 2024, with a ribbon-cutting celebration planned for spring of 2025—stay tuned!



COMING JUNE 2025: *NEW* LAKESIDE LODGE



YCamp 2024: At a Glance

Campers and Staff Represented:

17 Countries

Australia
Canada
Columbia
Cote d'Ivoire
England
Finland
Germany
Hong Kong
Ireland
Mexico
New Zealand
Northern Ireland
Scotland
South Africa
Spain
Turkey
Wales

22 States

Arizona
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Florida
Georgia
Illinois
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Mississippi
New Hampshire
New Jersey
North Carolina
Washington, D.C.
New York
Rhode Island
South Carolina
Texas
Virginia
Vermont
Washington

462

campers received
financial assistance
to attend YCamp



58%

of eligible 2023
campers returned
to YCamp in 2024

Campers of the Session

Each session, one camper from each village is honored as the "Camper of the Session," chosen by their counselors. These campers exemplify the four core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and caring, while also demonstrating exceptional spirit, leadership, and perseverance. The 2024 recipients of this prestigious honor are:

Session 1: Addie Pelletier & Hazen Patterson
Session 2: Molly Kuntz & Fionn Dunbar
Session 3: Jael Mbadu & Danny Torres Criado
Session 4: Spencer Knorr & Easton Hersey

2024 Campers of the Year

The prestigious title of "Camper of the Year" is awarded to one North Village and one South Village camper, selected by the counselors from the "Camper of the Session" recipients. These two campers are celebrated for embodying the true spirit of YCamp.

Spencer Knorr & Danny Torres Criado

Congratulations to these stand-out campers!
It is campers like you who make the YCamp Community an exceptional space for all of us to learn, grow and lead!

Marty & Linda Allen

A Commitment to Community

PINE CONE DEDICATION

Marty and Linda Allen embody the true spirit of YCamp - a bond formed at YCamp that has grown into a lifetime of dedication to camp, community and service.

Linda came to YCamp first as a camper, and later becoming a counselor. Marty worked at YCamp from 1979 to 1983 as a counselor and was also manager of the Camp Store . It was during their time working together at YCamp, that Linda and Marty met.

Marty has served as a dedicated YCamp board member for over 20 years, beginning in 2003, while Linda has recently reengaged with the YCamp Alumni committee. She played a key role in planning the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Co-ed Camping this year, and has been very supportive in revamping the Alumni database to strengthen connections within the YCamp community.

Together, Marty and Linda have made an indelible mark on YCamp, the Alumni network and the broader community. They truly exemplify the values of YCamp and the enduring power of camp connections.

Thank you, Marty and Linda, for your unwavering dedication to YCamp!

The Annual Pine Cone is published in late fall to commemorate the season, and it serves as the organization's Annual Report. The Pine Cone can be dedicated with nominations sent to any Board Member or CEO by August 31. The Board will then review nominations and approve the dedication.



2024 SUPPORT



The financial support provided by campers, families, alumni, and our community allowed us to pursue new projects, make Camp possible for more campers, and improve the YCamp Experience to better serve the changing needs of our community. **THANK YOU** for helping us serve our mission and provide an unforgettable experience for campers and staff this summer, and in many summers to come! Support from our community helps us stay affordable and continue to serve as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

(Donor List as of 2024 Pine Cone Publication)

Agnes M. Lindsay Trust
Martin & Linda Allen
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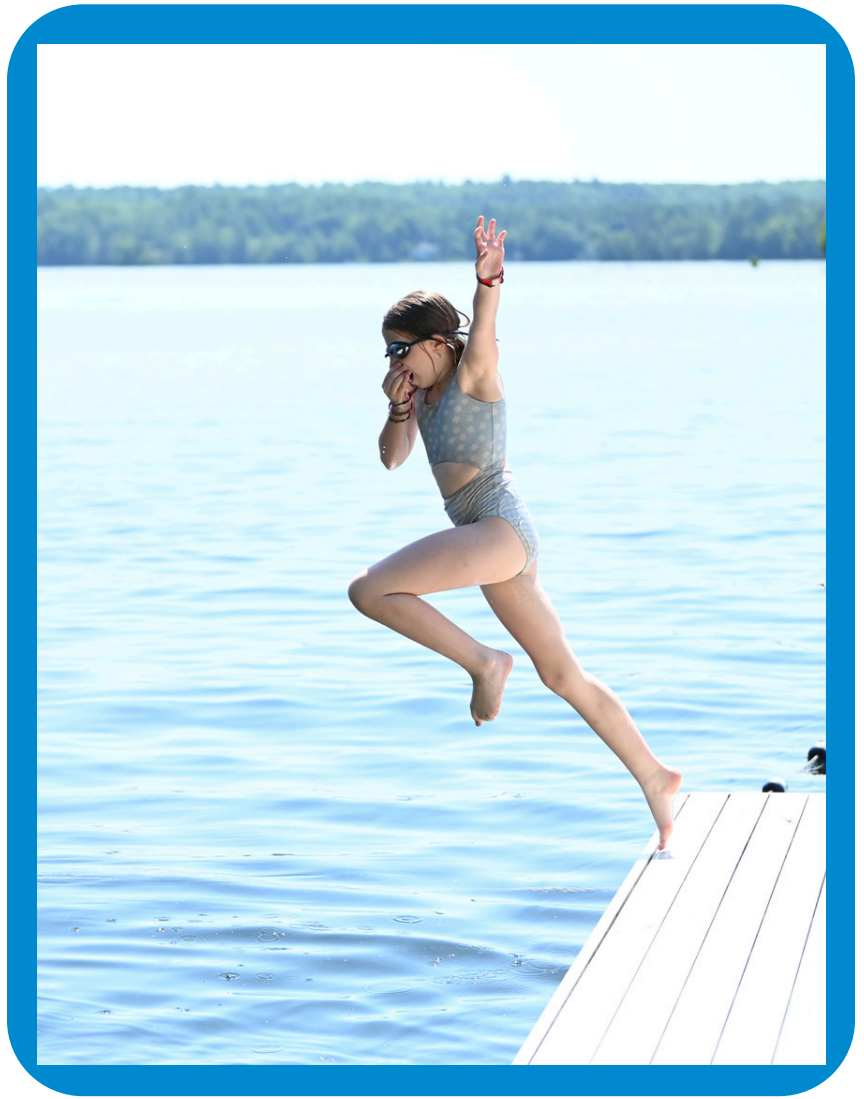
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SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

American Legion Post #34
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DAV Dept. of Maine, John F. Kennedy
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COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Capital Area New Mainers
CYC Lake Association
Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed
Portland Boys & Girls Club
Spurwink
YMCA of Spain

ANNUAL EVENT SPONSORS



THANK YOU!



BILL AND HELEN MUNSEY CAMBERSHIP

Bill and Helen dedicated many, many years to the YMCA Camp of Maine and the greater YMCA movement in Maine. While Bill began as a camper, CIT, counselor, and leader at YCamp, he went on to serve on the Board of Directors of YCamp and other Association Y's for over 50 years. Helen was always by Bill's side at the lake, in his travels, and visiting YCamp during the summer, to check on the state of things. Their quick smiles, care for others, and dedication to helping people led them on a lifelong journey of service above self.

YCamp has been honored to receive an \$86,000 bequest from Bill and Helen's estate. At their direction, these funds have been invested in our endowment to help us secure our future and provide many more scholarships, making the YCamp Experience possible for many years to come. Bill and Helen's annual contributions have always gone toward investing in YCamp's greatest asset - our campers - through the endowment and the Bill and Helen Munsey Scholarship Fund.

On behalf of YCamp's past, current, and future community members, I thank Bill, Helen and their family for helping us continue the legacy of their impact.

Learn more by scanning the QR code below.



Summer 2025: Celebrating 110 Years!

» Look for updates about the unveiling of the NEW Lakeside Lodge! The lodge will provide housing for summer leadership staff and serve as a headquarters for our paddle sports program.

» Celebrate with us! Look for updates about 110th summer festivities and conclusion of our capital campaign!

» Our new trail network will be open and ready for use for hiking and nature exploring in the summer, and community use in the fall, winter, and spring!

2025 DATES & FEES

TRADITIONAL CAMP: ONE WEEK

Session 1: June 22 – June 28

Tier 1: \$1144

Tier 2: \$1011

Tier 3: \$885

Tier 4: Financial aid based on need



TRADITIONAL CAMP: TWO WEEKS

Session 2: June 29 – July 12

Session 3: July 13 – July 26

Session 4: July 27 – August 9

Tier 1: \$2265

Tier 2: \$1999

Tier 3: \$1748

Tier 4: Financial aid based on need

EXPLORER'S CAMP

Explorer's Session 1: June 22 – June 25

Explorer's Session 2: June 25 – June 28

Tier 1: \$572

Tier 2: \$487

Tier 3: \$414

Tier 4: Financial aid based on need

LEADER IN TRAINING (LIT)

LIT Session 2: June 29 – July 12

LIT Session 3: July 13 – July 26

LIT Session 4: July 27 – August 9

Tier 1: \$2265

Tier 2: \$1999

Tier 3: \$1748

Tier 4: Financial aid based on need

RETURNING FAMILIES CAN ENROLL THROUGH THE COMPANION APP!

FIRST-CLASS
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