



WHISPERING PINES

INFORMATION FOR FRIENDS OF HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS

March 2022 - Happy St. Patrick's Day!



From the CEO

There's always such enthusiasm in the air at this time of year. The days are warmer and longer and hint at the summer season ahead. There's also a heightened sense of focus (*Dare I say "panic?"*) as we consider everything that must be accomplished to be ready for the upcoming camp season.

We're all anticipating a bit more of a return to normalcy this summer. While we will remain vigilant to the persistent concerns of COVID, we're envisioning a more traditional camp schedule, much less masking and a little less pandemic-induced anxiety.

This will be my 36th summer of working at camp and I so look forward to the start of another summer season. There's such a sense of potential and synergy when our summer staff comes together for the first time. I love seeing the enthusiasm, the talent, and the sheer love of camp that these young people bring with them. To watch them become a team through their two weeks of training is a remarkable sight. It helps to make an old guy like me feel young...

We will be doing a significant amount of combined trainings (with staff from both boys camp and girls camp) this summer. Not only will this reinforce our **"One Camp, Two Lakes"** philosophy, but it allows us to share the many talents, skills and perspectives that our staff possess. It will also highlight the strong working relationship and camaraderie that exists between our two camp directors, Amanda and Bill. They are quite the team!

It's going to be an amazing summer at Hayo-Went-Ha Camps!

Dave DeLuca

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New Strategic Plan for Hayo-Went-Ha Camps!

After nine months and countless meetings, discussions and revisions, YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps has developed its new strategic plan and vision for the future. We're grateful for the many hours that our team of volunteers and staff has devoted to this important project. In particular, the work of the strategic planning task force – John Kelley, Katie Sulau, Bob Ulrich, Brad Middlekauff and chair Chris Holter – are to be commended for their dedication and leadership.

A well-crafted strategic plan serves as the roadmap for an organization and the measuring stick against which it evaluates all critical choices and decisions. It will come as no surprise that the most significant components of our plan will focus on improving the quality of our summer camps (both program and operations) and consistently attaining full enrollment. Attention will be paid to financial sustainability, facilities, developing key relationships, and enhancing the image and visibility of our camps.

There will be many opportunities for members of our community to help us accomplish the plan. Please reach out to [CEO Dave DeLuca](#) for more information about our strategic plan.

Join us at a Spring Work Weekend!

Mark your calendar for one (or both!) of our **Spring 2022 Volunteer Work Weekends!** Not only are these events critical to preparing our camps for the upcoming summer season, but they're wonderful opportunities to reconnect with friends, relive your camp memories, and enjoy a wonderful weekend of fellowship and camaraderie!



Save the dates:

- April 29th - May 1st - Camp Hayo-Went-Ha on Torch Lake
- May 13th - May 15th - Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha on Arbutus Lake

For more information – and to register – [please follow this link](#).

We're planning on full weekends with lodging and meals provided, so space is limited. Those wishing to join us for Saturday only – or those staying off-site – are also invited to join us.

Our work weekends can also qualify as volunteer hours for high school students who have community service requirements. Just let us know and we can generate an official letter of acknowledgement.

Projects will include simple carpentry work, lots of landscaping and some clean-up/set-up work.



Thanks to Camp! Our next Social Media Initiative

We heard so many positive comments about our **January Moments** social media posts, so now we're on to our next initiative:

Thanks to Camp Tuesdays!

Every Tuesday in April (and maybe beyond!), we'll share the camp story from one (or more) of our alumni.

What did your Hayo-Went-Ha Camps experience mean to you! Did you meet a close friend – or maybe even a significant other? Did you gain confidence by being challenged on a wilderness trip? Or perhaps you were exposed to an activity that's now a lifelong interest.

Please consider sharing YOUR camp story with us. YMCA Camping is the experience that lasts a lifetime... such powerful and meaningful memories.

Fine print:

Any alumni can contribute – from any year and either camp

Send testimonial and photo to Amacaluso@hayowentha.org.

Help Us Reach our Enrollment Goals!

We're still working to reach our 2022 enrollment goals! Even though each camp is close to 90% of the way there, it's always the last few registrations that are the hardest to find. Our openings are primarily in the first half of the summer – and mostly for 3rd – 6th graders.

Do you know a family that may be interested in one of our awesome camps? Please reach out and share the website address with them. You can also share the last Open House video – this would be a great way to learn more about our camps and "meet" our camp directors. [Here is the link from our website.](#)

Summer Staff Opportunities!

At Hayo-Went-Ha Camps we are very proud of our staff and work hard to recruit the best role models for our campers and our program. We are still looking for some great cabin leaders and program specialists at both camps. So if you know someone who is interested in being a part of an

amazing staff team please direct them to our Camp Directors. To date, both camps have over 75% of our positions filled and we are also anticipating that we will see the return of some international staff this year too.

If you know of great staff candidates, please refer them to the [employment section of our website](#).



Sparks Day Camp – Registration is OPEN!

We’re planning another great summer at HWH Sparks Day Camp! We’ll offer eight weeks of camp – with a maximum enrollment of forty campers per week. Our day campers – a mix of kids (ages 5-10) from local families and from those many northern Michigan vacationers – enjoy a fantastic program with lots of fun activities. Could there be any place better to go to camp than Torch Lake?

Hannah Eastman, who did a wonderful job last summer, will reprise her role as camp director! We’re in the process of hiring the rest of the Sparks team.

To learn more about Sparks Day Camp and to register for a session or two, please visit [our website for Sparks Day Camp](#)

What’s in a Name?

With the exception of **Maize** and **Blue**, our cabins at Camp Hayo-Went-Ha are simply known by their numbers. We’ve got Cabins 1-16 – but no Cabin 14 (?) We’ve got Bush 1, 2 & 3 – and the **Rec Tent**.

At the risk of upsetting our traditionalists that appreciate things being “the way they’ve always been,” we’re considering adding names to each of our camper cabins.



There’s something to be said for the camaraderie and unity that unique cabin names can help to foster. To be sure – we’ll retain the number on each cabin. We’re looking to add names and are in the process of working with some of our summer ad staff to identify appropriate themes and suggestions.

We’ll keep our community posted as this effort continues.

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}

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