



# HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS

## WHISPERING PINES

INFORMATION FOR FRIENDS OF HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS

FEBRUARY 2023



### Musings and Meanderings...

*From the Executive Director*

One of the early mentors in my camping career told me **"Every challenge presents an opportunity."** I've thought of these words many times over the years... when the camp septic system backs up, when the waterfront director quits in mid-July and when norovirus makes its insidious way through camp – just to name a few.

We are faced with one of these opportunities right now at Camp Hayo-Went-Ha. As you'll read elsewhere in the newsletter, Bill Hinton is moving on from HWH to become the CEO of the South Mountain YMCA Camps in Pennsylvania. I couldn't be happier for Bill. It is a tremendous opportunity and one that he so richly deserves.

Given the timing of Bill's departure, I am reluctant to launch a nationwide search for his successor right away. Instead, I am strongly considering stepping in as interim director for the 2023 summer. I would like to be able to build upon the momentum that we created last summer and I have a clear vision for what is needed to make Camp Hayo-Went-Ha even better and stronger. I know many of our seasonal staff and I'm confident that we will work well together. I'll certainly lean heavily upon Amanda Macaluso and her incredible experience with our camps.

Almost half of my YMCA career has been spent directing all-boys YMCA camps – five years at Camp Abnaki (on Lake Champlain in northern Vermont) and thirteen years at Camp Becket (in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts). There's something appealing and even a little elegant about having the opportunity to step into this role again. **What an opportunity!**

I am confident that my vision for the 2023 summer season will become clearer in the days and weeks ahead. I'll certainly share this information with our community as it develops.

*Each for All – All for Each.*

**Dave**

[Dave DeLuca/CEO – YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps](#)



## Calling all Alumni!

One of the six priorities in our HWH Camps Strategic Plan is “Cultivating Relationships.” To that end, our board of trustees has created an Alumni Network Task Force. It is currently comprised of Chris Holter (chair), Hadley Robinson, Doug Vahey, Katie Sulau and Bob Ulrich.

Camp is working to develop a more robust and organized alumni network across both camps in the coming year. We are hoping to find more ways to connect with each other, like hosting more events regionally and at camp, helping find your former cabinmates and counselors and generally keeping everybody informed about camp news. But we need your input!

We want to make sure we have your camp history, current contact information and your ideas and preferences for what an alumni network would look like. Camp alumni includes former campers, counselors, staff members or anyone who has spent meaningful time on the shores of Arbutus and Torch Lake. Please take a minute to [fill out this form](#) and share with other camp friends!



***And while we're talking about alumni, please send us your news and updates... weddings, births, moves and other milestones! Email these - with photos if you're so inclined - to [Dave DeLuca](#) so that we can include these in future editions of Whispering Pines!***

## Goodbye to Bill Hinton

It is with some sadness that we share that Bill Hinton will be leaving Camp Hayo-Went-Ha. Bill has been invited to become the CEO of the South Mountain YMCA in Pennsylvania – one of the country's 26 independent YMCA camps (HWH Camps is also an independent Y association). It's a wonderful opportunity that he simply could not turn down. Bill will finish his duties at Hayo-Went-Ha on March 24th.

CEO Dave DeLuca is currently figuring out how to best move forward. Recruiting a new permanent camp director at this time of year may prove to be a challenging endeavor. Dave may take on the oversight of Hayo-Went-Ha on an interim basis – with the support of a couple of extra seasonal administrative staff. This will allow us to continue to move forward with some of our key initiatives to improve the camp experience and then bring in a new camp director in the fall, when there tends to be more movement within the profession.

We are grateful to Bill for his work as Camp Hayo-Went-Ha Director and wish him well in his new role.



## Openings in our Flagship Programs!

With the Summer 2023 enrollment process moving along, we have seen quite a few of our programs fill to capacity. Given that early enrollment tends to skew toward returning, older campers, it is not uncommon that our longer, more challenging trip programs fill first.

However, there are still a small number of openings available in these incredible programs. Here is exactly where these openings are:

- HWH/Bush Rangers (Killarney Canoeing) - for boys finishing 9th/10th grades - Openings in Sessions 1 & 2
- HWH/Navigators (North Channel Sailing) - for boys finishing 9th/10th grades - Openings in Session 2
- HWH/Alaska - for boys finishing 10th/11th grades - Openings in Session 1 & 2
- AHW/Explorers (Killarney Canoeing) - for girls finishing 9th/10th grades - Openings in Session 1
- AHW/Alaska - for girls finishing 10th/11th grades - Openings in Session 2

There are also opening in **Leaders Corps** at both camps (both sessions) for young men and women who have completed the 11th grade. We have significantly reduced the fee for the LC Program in recognition of the great work our LCs do during their time at camp.

For more information on all these programs, [please visit our website.](#)

## Save the Dates!

There are several opportunities and events coming up in the next few months at our camps. We will share more information in future editions of *Whispering Pines*, but please mark your calendars for the following dates:

- *Saturday May 6th: Camp Hayo-Went-Ha Volunteer Work Day*
- *Saturday May 20th: Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha Volunteer Work Day*
- *Friday, July 21st: Second Annual Alumni & Friends Gathering at Short's Pull Barn in Elk Rapids (3:00pm – 6:00pm)*

We would love to have you join us at one or more of these events!

## Denver Alumni Event a Success!

On Sunday, February 11, more than 25 folks (alumni & current camp families) joined Bill, Amanda and Dave at the Long Table Brewhouse in Denver for an HWH Camps gathering. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with camp friends and share some of that special camp spirit. Several in attendance suggested that we make this an annual event!

Special thanks to alum Joe Homlar for his assistance in setting up the reunion. The following evening, Joe and his wife Elizabeth held a well-attended camp promotional event in their lovely home.

Our camps have a strong following in Colorado and the trip was a fantastic way to connect with many of these folks.

## 2023 Summer Staffing

Our camp directors have been working hard to hire those incredible young people (and some young at heart!) that make up our seasonal staff. They are the most important ingredient to the success of our camps. The majority of positions have been filled, but there are still a few lingering openings.

Here's what we are looking for:

- AHW Health Officer
- AHW Ropes Specialist
- AHW Head Lifeguard
- AHW Photographer
- HWH Sparks Day Camp Staff
- HWH Office/Store Manager
- HWH Boating Specialist (canoe/kayak, paddleboard)
- HWH Cabin Leaders

If YOU'RE interested – or know someone else who might be perfect for our team – please reach out to the camp office!

## 2023 Camp Registration is Strong!

As of today, our camps are more than 85% full for the upcoming summer season. As encouraging as this is, we must still recruit approximately another 100 campers (per camp) to reach our enrollment goals. We've got an ambitious series of in-person events to share our camps with new families. [Here's the full schedule.](#) Our next events are:

- Cincinnati Rally – February 28th (6:30pm) – Hyde Park Community United Church
- Louisville Home Event – March 1st (6:30pm) – Harcourt Family home



Please come out and join us if we are in your area. If you know others that might be interested in learning about our camps, invite them to come along too!

## Summer Volunteer Opportunities!

With the news that's been shared elsewhere in this newsletter – Bill Hinton leaving Camp Hayo-Went-Ha and Dave DeLuca stepping in on an interim basis for the summer – there will be a number of opportunities for volunteers to step up and lend a hand at camp (especially at HWH and in the year-round office).

We will be looking for assistance with pre-camp maintenance and set-up, staff training, opening/closing days and a myriad of other logistical tasks. There may also be ways for folks to lend a hand in getting our envisioned alumni network up and running.

We will provide more details about these opportunities in the next edition of Whispering Pines. Please feel free to reach out to [Dave DeLuca](#) if you are interested in learning more about volunteering at camp.

### Our Contact Information

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