



HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS

WHISPERING PINES

INFORMATION FOR FRIENDS OF HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS

MAY 2023



Musings and Meanderings...

From the Executive Director

This will be a relatively short edition of our e-newsletter. There's lots going on at our camps right now. Staff are arriving, deliveries of equipment and food are happening daily, the phone is ringing off the hook – all signs that another HWH Camps summer is about to begin.

There is always such potential at camp at this time of year. It's the excitement and enthusiasm as the staff arrive at camp. It's the warmer, longer days and the incredible sunsets. It's the sounds of singing birds, gentle breezes and water lapping at the shore. It's the spirit of a team that is working together for a worthy – perhaps even noble – cause. It's the start of another HWH Camps summer – the very best time of year!

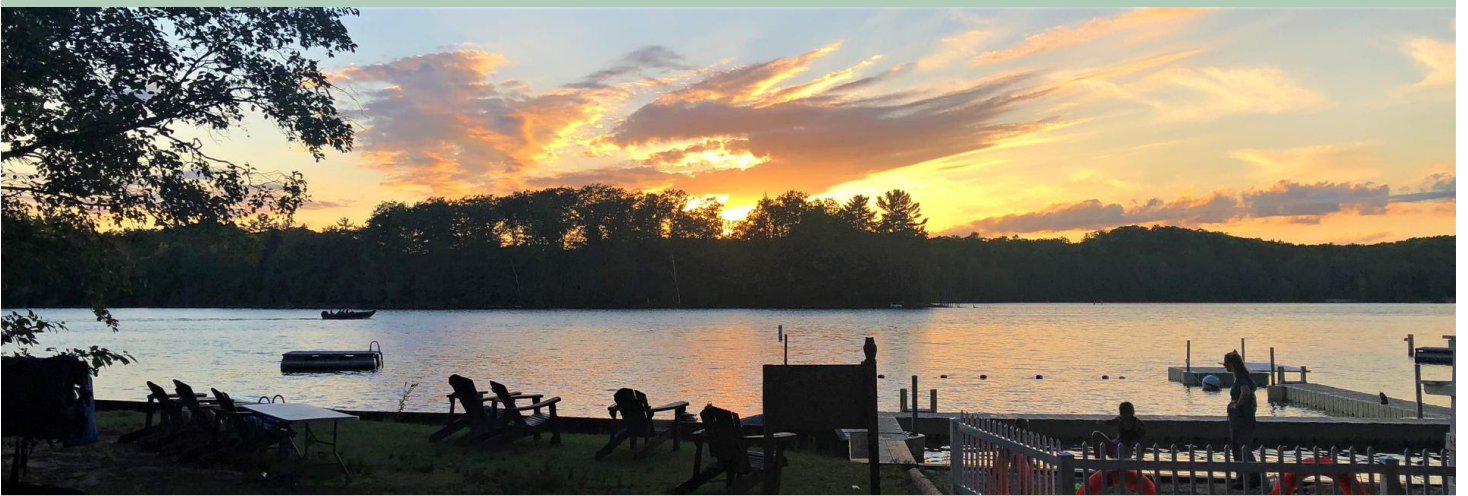
Please read on for more news about our camp preparations and some ways in which you can help. We are so grateful for the support and engagement of our worldwide camp community.

It's going to be a great summer!

Each for All – All for Each.

Dave

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



Strong Enrollment – with a few remaining openings!

Both our camps have experienced healthy enrollment for the 2023 summer. As of this writing, our camps are (combined) **almost 300 camper-weeks ahead** of where we were at this time last year. This is the result of a strong 2022 camp program, an aggressive marketing plan and the word-of-mouth promotional efforts of our community. We so appreciate your willingness to share our camps with others and to spread the word about Hayo-Went-Ha Camps.

Despite the high enrollment, we still have a few spaces remaining in many of our programs. It's two spots in HWH Woodsmen 2A, or a couple spots in AHW Pathfinder 1A, it's – you get the idea! [Here's the spreadsheet](#) of available programs/sessions.

It would be wonderful to fill some of these open spaces. There's nothing sadder than having an empty bed at camp!



Spring Volunteer Work Days - One Down, One to Go!

On Saturday May 6th, almost thirty hearty folks gathered at Camp Hayo-Went-Ha for our Torch Lake Site Volunteer Work Day. Boats were moved, wood chips were spread, cabins were cleaned - and spirits were lifted! It was a wonderful day of fellowship and meaningful work.

On Saturday, May 20th – we'll do the same at AHW/Arbutus Lake! Our projects will largely focus on basic landscaping and set-up tasks – leaf-blowing, raking, boat-moving, cabin-opening, etc. Perhaps not the most glamorous of projects, but all are critical in our work to open camp.

We will get started at 9:00am on Saturday and work through to 5:00pm. We'll serve a light breakfast, a hearty lunch and quick dinner to our volunteers. There are also options for folks to arrive on Friday evening and/or stay until Sunday morning, but we won't be offering meal service on either day.

We would love to have you join us – many hands make light work! [Please use this form](#) to sign up for the AHW work day.



Trips Equipment Fundraiser: We're Almost There!

In late April, we launched a philanthropic initiative to generate \$10,000 in donations to support our trip programs. It takes a great deal of expensive, high-tech equipment to appropriately outfit our wilderness trips. This initiative will allow us to add to our inventory of tents, water filters, dry bags and other necessary gear.

As of this writing, we have just eclipsed \$7500 in total gifts! We only have a bit farther to go to reach that peak! Please help us reach our destination with a fully tax-deductible gift. [Please visit here](#) to make an online gift.

Attention: Alumni!

Earlier this year we shared an online survey to be completed by our alumni. We wanted to learn more about you, your camp experiences and how you would like to stay involved with Hayo-Went-Ha Camps. To date we have received more than 150 responses – many with impactful stories and great suggestions for alumni engagement.

If you have not yet completed YOUR survey, [here is the link!](#) Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts with us. We would love to develop an even stronger alumni network that keeps our community informed and engaged.



Piraino Campership Challenge!

As previously reported, the Piraino Family Foundation has provided us, as part of their annual grant, a **\$25,000 challenge match**. We must raise \$25,000 in campership donations to unlock these funds. To date, we have generated just over \$10,000 in matching funds. We've got a ways to go to achieve the full match.

We have met the need of each and every family that has requested campership assistance this year. In doing so, we have exceeded our original budget for financial assistance. Achieving the Piraino match will allow us to generate the dollars needed to fully fund these camperships.

[Please visit here](#) to make a secure, online gift. Alternately, you may send a check (with Piraino Challenge in the memo line) to the camp office.

Thanks so much for helping to give the gift of camp to kids that need it the most!

Join Us in Elk Rapids!

On Friday, July 21st (3:00pm – 6:00pm) we will hold our second annual **Alumni & Friends** event at the Shorts Brewery Pull Barn in Elk Rapids. So many of our alumni and camp families spend some or all of their summer in northern Michigan. This event is a wonderful way to get together and share some Hayo-Went-Ha Camps spirit.

We're aiming for **a minimum of 50 attendees**. Come on out and help us meet this goal!



Summer Staff Opportunities

With staff training just about to begin, we still have a few open positions to fill on our summer teams. Don't worry – we have contingency plans regarding how we will move currently hired staff around to plug these holes. Still, we would much rather add a few more enthusiastic, high-quality individuals to our summer staff.

We're still looking for...

- **Boating Specialist (HWH)**
- **Head Lifeguard (HWH)**
- **Day Camp Counselor (HWH)**
- **Waterfront Director (AHHW)**

Interested individuals can apply [via our website](#) or they may call [Amanda](#) or [Dave](#) for more information.

Site Master Plan Completed!

Last October a group of board members, interested alumni and staff met with consultants from [OCBA](#) to begin the process of developing a new master plan for both of our camp properties. The initial draft was issued in December, and since then the plan has undergone some tweaks and fine-tuning. We now feel as if we have a plan that can guide the development of our facilities and property over the next 5-10 years.

It's ambitious and includes some bold thinking. Of course, just like form follows function, program drives facilities. The plan stays true to our core belief of providing a rustic summer camp experience with an emphasis on small-group living and challenging wilderness trips.

If you would like to learn more about our master plan, please reach out to [CEO Dave DeLuca](#). While he will be busy for the next few months as our interim Hayo-Went-Ha Camp Director, he would love to have even a brief conversation with you about this exciting plan.



Our Contact Information

State YMCA of Michigan
919 East Torch Lake Dr.
Central Lake, MI 49622
231-544-5915

<https://www.hayowentha.org>

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