



HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS

WHISPERING PINES

INFORMATION FOR FRIENDS OF HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS

OCTOBER 2023



Musings and Meanderings...

From the Executive Director

84 days. As of this writing, that's the number of days I have remaining in my role here at HWH camps... and in my YMCA Camping career.

To be sure, I'm not convinced that this will be enough time to accomplish and finalize everything on my to do list: 2024 budget development, year-end fundraising, ongoing work as interim camp director, creating transition materials for both the new CEO and the new camp director... there's more but you get the idea. And this is supposed to be the slow time of year!

Last week, along with Amanda Macaluso, I attended a two-day meeting of the Michigan YMCA Camp Network at Camp Timbers, a branch of the YMCA of Saginaw. These gatherings are always so valuable as we are with folks who "speak our language" and have dealt with many of the same challenges that we do. There are seventeen YMCA overnight camps in Michigan – more than any state other than California.

I came away from the meeting with two key observations. Firstly, the other folks in the room have gotten a lot younger. Of course, there is another way to look at this, but I will avoid that perspective.

Secondly, the work of a camp director has gotten much more complex and demanding since I began my career 35+ years ago. Increased regulation/oversight, camper behavior, gender issues, staffing challenges, parent expectations, increased competition, facility management – these and other considerations make the job so much more difficult. To be sure, my

younger colleagues are up to these challenges.

Oh- and a third observation: Amanda Macaluso is so highly respected by her Michigan peers.

I will miss those gatherings- and so much else about this challenging yet so gratifying and rewarding work that we do.

Ah – but not for another 84 days. *Back to work... and perhaps a walk around our incredible property.*

Each for All – All for Each.

Dave

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



2024 Registration Up and Running!

On Sunday, October 1, we opened up the registration process for the 2024 summer season. Despite a minor technological glitch at the beginning, the day went well and we saw lots of activity – especially with our more highly coveted programs such as Isle Royale, Killarney (otherwise known as Explorer/Bush Ranger) and Alaska.

By Monday morning, we had enrolled 251 campers (both camps combined) for next summer – more than 33% of our 2024 enrollment goal. Some of those more popular programs filled to capacity in mere hours.

As of this writing, we have eclipsed 45% of our enrollment goal. If you know families that are interested in signing up for the 2024 summer, please encourage them to do so soon.

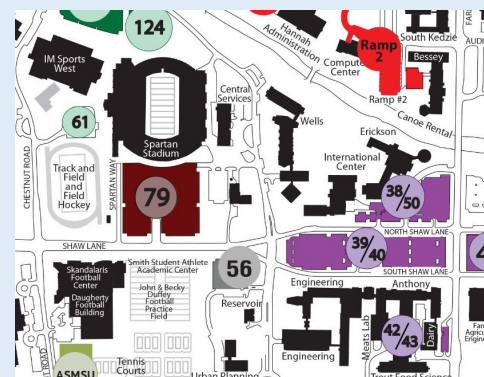
Tailgate Event: HWH Camps in East Lansing!

Hayo-Went-Ha Camps is coming to East Lansing for the Michigan–Michigan State football game on Saturday, October 21st!

With kickoff scheduled for 7:30PM, we plan to start the fun at 4:30PM. We will be hosted by AHW alumna Jane Finn. Look for the camp flags in the 38/50 parking area (on the corner of Shaw Lane and Farm Lane) – right next to the International Center. We are grateful to Jane for her help in making this location available.

There will be a **limited amount** of specially made HWH Camps alumni cookies, so please stop by and say hello.

HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS
MICHIGAN vs MICHIGAN STATE
TAILGATE
WHEN? MICHIGAN STATE SPARTAN STADIUM, EAST LANSING, MI
WHERE? OCTOBER 21ST, 3 HOURS BEFORE KICK-OFF
WHO? YOU! ANYONE FROM THE HWH CAMPS COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS



2023 Campership Allocations Exceeded

As you know, we provide financial assistance – camperships – to families that could otherwise not afford our camp fees. It is important that our camps are accessible to those across all socio-economic levels. The bulk of the funds that make these camperships possible come from our generous donors, with other support coming in the form of earnings from our endowment.

For this past summer, we budgeted \$170,000 in campership assistance – \$85K per camp. However, we soon discovered that the need far exceeded the budgeted funds. As we did not want to see any deserving child go without an HWH Camps summer experience, we took a leap of faith and allocated almost another \$60,000 in assistance. All told, 125 campers received some level of campership support – and our camps were richer because of this.

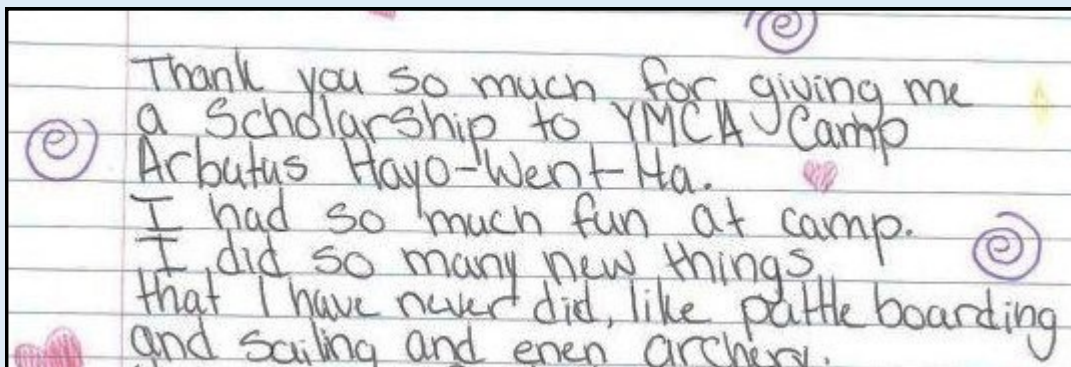
Now – we have to make up this funding deficit through our fourth quarter fundraising. We are confident that our community – who knows better than anyone the value of a camp experience – will rally and help us fully fund these additional camperships.

Here is what some of our recipient families have shared with us:

My sons received a campership this past season and our family will be forevergrateful to the generous donors. The boys would not otherwise be afforded this experience of a lifetime. One son told me when he returned from Killarney that he had a new perspective on life. That was huge for him and us.

Her camp experience was the highlight of her summer. She has not stopped talking about the friends she made and the fun that she had!

Or – how about this one:



We are so very grateful to the members of our community who have made experiences like these possible through their generous support. You can help us cover our campership deficit [with an online donation here](#). Thanks in advance for your support!





Above is a photo of the 2023 Combined HWH Camps Summer Staff. This terrific group had more than 500 summers of camp experience (as both campers and staff members). Our international staff came from 15+ countries.

During our staff training weeks, the teams got together on a couple of occasions. During the second gathering – at Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha – we conducted our annual staff auction to generate funds for our campership program. The staff donated items or services to be bid upon – and there was certainly some classic camp merchandise added to the auction inventory.

The event included both a silent and live auction. When the dust settled, more than \$8,500 was raised – all for camperships and almost all paid via payroll deduction over the summer.

One highlight of the evening was Dave DeLuca receiving a whipped cream pie to the face – an opportunity that cost well over \$100 for the successful bidder!

The event's success was largely due to the efforts of the AHWH planning team – Sophie Lewis, Helen Schmitter, Lily Coughlin, Dink Dingeman and Emma Macaluso. And (of course) to the generosity of the 2023 HWH Camps Staff.

Key Positions Open!

With Dave DeLuca's post summer retirement announcement, the State YMCA of Michigan's Board of Trustees quickly assembled a search committee to recruit our next CEO. Chaired by Chris Holter, the committee includes Patrick Rode, Hadley Robinson, Mimi Mosher Dyer and John Kelley. The board has retained the services of the Moran Company, a highly reputable search firm, to assist with this process. The application deadline has been extended to October 23rd to ensure that there is a substantial volume of candidates. The search committee envisions conducting finalist interviews in mid-November, with the new CEO in place in northern Michigan by early January. Those interested in the position may review [the full profile here](#).

Meanwhile, the search is on-going for the next Camp Hayo-Went-Ha Director. As you may recall, Dave stepped into this role on an interim basis for the summer. Certainly, his pending retirement has complicated the search a bit. The board has asked Dave to communicate with applicants and make initial decisions regarding the viability of candidates. He will then deliver this "short list" to the new CEO for the final interviews and hiring decision. While this will prolong the process, it makes more sense for the new CEO to select the candidate that he/she is most comfortable with.

The application deadline for the camp director position is October 27. [Here is the position listing](#).

For those concerned about Camp Hayo-Went-Ha planning and preparations for the 2024 summer, Dave will continue to oversee these until his January 4, 2024 end date. Additionally, we have secured the services of longtime AHWH staffer Gina Georgiou to assist with various aspects of planning for both camps – trips scheduling/permitting, staffing, etc. Gina knows our camps exceptionally well and will be an incredible asset during this transitional period.

The Season of Generosity: Year-end Giving

Like many non-profit organizations, YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps depends upon the generosity of our donors to help us cover the substantial operating costs of camp and to acquire needed equipment. And, like many other non-profit organizations, a significant portion of these donations are received in the last two months of the year.

Our Philanthropy Committee has set a goal of **\$250,000** in year-end support. It's ambitious, but these funds are desperately needed to ensure that we can meet our 2023 campership allocations (see elsewhere in the newsletter for more information about this), cover operating expenses and finish the year in good fiscal health.

You will certainly hear more about our year-end campaign in the days and weeks ahead. If you would like to help us start whittling down that \$250K goal now, you can [make a secure online gift here](#) or send a check to the camp office (address below).

*It's easy to give to an entity that keeps giving back with good works,
treasured memories and a welcoming presence.*

- **HWH Camps Donor**

Thanks in advance for your support!



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