

# Whispering Pines



**HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS**  
Arbutus Lake for Girls • Torch Lake for Boys  
State YMCA of Michigan



NOVEMBER 2024

## In This Issue:

- **Musings and Meanderings**
- **Exciting Start to Registration for Summer at Hayo-Went-Ha Camps**
- **Torch Talk: Camp Hayo-Went-Ha Hiring Assistant Director**
- **Arbutus Angle: Grant Writing Win-Win**
- **Update on Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha Director Search**
- **Haya Want A Cup of Coffee, Boston**
- **Go Blue, Go Green, Go Hayo-Went-Ha Camps!**
- **Calendar of Events**
- **Future Newsletter Sections**

## Musings and Meanderings...

*By John (JC) Carlson, CEO*

**Ensuring a Brighter Future: Supporting the Keepers of the Flame  
Annual Giving Campaign**



In my first year as CEO, I've had the privilege of witnessing the incredible strength of our community and the lasting impact of our culture, built on the selfless values of "Each for All, All for Each." For over a century, Hayo-Went-Ha Camps have served as a sanctuary for personal growth, lifelong friendships, and a deep connection to nature. There's no better time to kick off the ***Keepers of the Flame Annual Giving Campaign*** than on **November 13—World Kindness Day**, a day that celebrates the very values our camp embodies.

**KEEPERS OF THE  
FLAME**  
YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps

This campaign is essential to preserving the legacy we've built, and I invite you to join us in supporting this important initiative. Together, we can ensure that Hayo-Went-Ha Camps continue to thrive for generations to come.

Our Annual Giving Campaign draws inspiration from Keepers of the Flame, a values-based growth program created by former CEO Pat Rode in the early 1990s. Designed to spark self-reflection, foster personal growth, and deepen campers' connection to the Y's core values, Keepers of the Flame continues to engage third-year campers and beyond, helping them discover and embrace the principles that will guide them throughout their lives. This transformative experience has shaped generations of campers and staff alike. Through this campaign, we honor that legacy, ensuring the flame of growth continues to inspire, enrich, and guide the pathways of growth for our campers.

### **The Impact of Your Support:**

Your contribution to the **Keepers of the Flame Annual Giving Campaign** makes a lasting difference in the future of Hayo-Went-Ha Camps. Through your generosity, we are able to:

### **Enhance Camp Programs:**

- **Provide state-of-the-art equipment**, fostering opportunities for growth, connection, and lifelong memories.
- **Support extended wilderness expeditions**, leadership development, and new programs.

### **Fund Infrastructure Improvements:**

- In 2025, we'll **transform our trip shacks into Wilderness Trip Centers** with modern gear, improved storage, a map center, advanced technology, and welcoming workshop spaces to elevate the camper experience.
- We're also **building two new bathhouses**—one at each camp—featuring modern showers and restrooms for added comfort. These upgrades, set for completion in 2025, will enhance the experience for both campers and staff.

### **Support Long-Term Vision & Sustainability:**

- **Fund strategic initiatives** to ensure Hayo-Went-Ha Camps remain relevant and impactful for generations.
- **Support sustainable practices** that protect the natural beauty of our camp and **build reserves for unforeseen challenges**.

### **How You Can Help:**

**Make a donation today** to support these essential projects and the continued success of Hayo-Went-Ha Camps. [Click here](#) to support a team as we reach camp alumni near and far.

Join us in ensuring that both of our amazing Camps thrive—where growth, connection, and adventure will flourish for years to come. Together, we are shaping the future of our camp community.

---

## **Exciting Start to Registration for Summer at Hayo-Went-Ha Camps**

*By Amanda Macaluso, Director of Alumni and Community Development*



We're off to a strong start for the 2025 summer season at Hayo-Went-Ha Camps! Registration opened on October 20, and with over 450 campers already signed up, we're seeing a 7% increase in registrations compared to this time last year. This early momentum reflects the continued enthusiasm from returning families and new ones eager to join our community. We're excited to welcome both familiar faces and new campers for another unforgettable summer.

## **Creative Solutions and Community Support**

The support we're receiving from our camp families has been incredible. A parent from Cincinnati recently reached out to help recruit new campers, and we're collaborating with families across the United States to spread the word and ensure every child has the chance to experience the magic of camp. We're grateful for this grassroots engagement and the energy of our camp community. If you are interested in being an ambassador for HWH Camps in your area, please reach out.

## **Pathways to Growth: A Journey of Transformation**

At Hayo-Went-Ha Camps, we take pride in our Pathways to Growth, which guide campers through a progressive journey of personal development and outdoor adventure. Starting with basic outdoor skills, younger campers build confidence and mastery in a supportive environment. As they grow older, the challenges intensify—ranging from one-day trips all the way to extended backcountry expeditions—designed to stretch their limits and inspire growth.

Throughout their journey, campers experience increasingly ambitious wilderness trips, each one designed to push their boundaries. Highlights include iconic destinations like Isle Royale, a remote island wilderness in Lake Superior, and Killarney Provincial Park in Canada, renowned for its rugged beauty and pristine waters. These trips allow campers to explore some of the most stunning landscapes, gain new outdoor skills, and deepen their connection to nature.

The HWH Camps journey culminates in the legendary Alaska Trip, the pinnacle of our wilderness program. This extraordinary experience is the result of years of growth and preparation. Campers who embark on this adventure not only conquer remote landscapes

but also navigate their own personal transformation. At the summit, they gain a deep sense of achievement, having developed resilience, leadership, and a stronger sense of self—lessons that stay with them for life.

## Looking Ahead: Growing Our Community

While we're thrilled with the success of early registration, there's still more work to do. Over the next few weeks, we'll continue sharing the inspiring stories behind our Pathways to Growth and focus on building a vibrant, engaged camp community. If you haven't yet registered, don't wait—secure your camper's spot today.

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

## Torch Talk

*By Adam Delezenne, Torch Lake Director*

### Camp Hayo-Went-Ha on Torch Lake is Hiring an Assistant Director

Change continues to be in the air as we seek to grow our team again. Everywhere I have served on a year-round camp staff, people always ask, "What do you do the rest of the year?" It's no surprise that people don't understand the work of program evaluation and development, research and development of new programming, recruiting, recruiting, (and more) recruiting, and the complexity of working with multiple licensing and accreditation agencies. It is amazing to me how much energy in the fall, winter, and spring it takes to make eight weeks of the summer successful. A big part of our ability to continue pushing summer programming forward year after year is developing the internal capacity to continually look at what it takes to be 10% better than we were last year.

I love this question because everyone has an answer for it—it's easy to narrow down on a couple of small enhancements. If we can improve by 10% every year, after 5 years, that is a lot of meaningful change.

The recent reconfigurations on our staff are bridging us closer to creating the space on our team to ask and pursue that 10% improvement question. Bringing a year-round assistant director on is an important step in that direction.

We are seeking an experienced camp professional to serve alongside our camp director in delivering on the mission of the State YMCA of Michigan and Camp Hayo-Went-Ha on Torch Lake. This position will serve as the primary program leader in the summer and work as part of a team of leaders supporting our fall, winter, and spring program needs. This position will



play a key role in preparing for a successful summer program in camper and staff recruiting and ongoing program development.

[Find more information on our website.](#)

Growth through challenge is not just for campers, I'm excited about the opportunity this position will create for us to continue finding challenge, growth, and the best camp programming out there!

---

## **Arbutus *Angle***

### **Grant Writing Win-Win**

Hi, everyone! My name is Emily Gibson (or Gibbo), and I was a camper at Arbutus from 2006-2012, and a staff member from 2012-2015. I currently work as a consultant with the Michigan Small Business Development Center, and I am completing my Masters degree in Nonprofit Administration at Central Michigan University.

As soon as I returned from the amazing Alumni Celebration in August, I jumped right into my grant writing class. When my professor explained that we would spend the semester working with a real organization to develop a full grant application, I couldn't think of anyone I would rather work with than Hayo-Went-Ha Camps!

With Amanda's guidance and collaboration, we determined the ask, and I have been developing a grant narrative focused on securing funds to support the campership program. In today's increasingly online culture, the need is greater than ever to provide youth with the opportunity to connect with nature and with each other, regardless of economic barriers. While this project is helping me complete my degree, my ultimate goal is to provide my proposal for the organization to use for active grant opportunities.

My time at Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha inspired me to go back to school for this degree in the first place, and I am so grateful for the chance to relate this inspiration directly to my studies. I know how great of an impact my years at camp made on my own life, and I hope that this project will help a new generation of campers experience the magic! I can't wait to share my completed work with camp leadership in the coming weeks!



*Emily Gibbo at the 110th celebration this August (left) and with her camp friend, Grace Denney, as campers in Alaska.*

## Update on the Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha Director Search

We are pleased to provide an update on the search for our next Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha Director. As we prepare for the upcoming summer season, we are actively interviewing a strong pool of highly qualified and passionate candidates for this important role. Our goal is to find a leader who not only has experience in camp management, but also embodies our core values of fostering personal growth, adventure, and community for our campers.

We are excited by the caliber of individuals we are meeting, each bringing a unique blend of skills, experience, and a deep passion for youth development. As we move forward, we are carefully considering the qualities that will best align with the mission and traditions of Hayo-Went-Ha Camps—someone who will honor our camp's rich legacy while bringing fresh ideas, energy, and vision to the role.

As we continue through the interview process, we will keep you informed of our progress and announce the new Director as soon as the decision is made. We are excited about what's ahead and look forward to sharing more updates with you in the coming weeks.

**Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha. If you have any questions or would like to share feedback, please feel free to reach out.**

---

## Haya Want A Cup of Coffee, Boston

An exciting pop-up HWH Camps get-together happened in Boston last month. The group was a cross-the-board mix of HWH Camps experiences. We had alumni representing the 60s all the way to current day camp campers. It was a fun morning camp coffee chat. Stay tuned for another "Haya Want a Cup of Coffee" reunion soon.



*Camp Alums (L to R): Charlie Glerum, Ming Huh, Jay Remley, Lindsay Hilderbtant, Joe Macaluso, Sally Marmett, Amanda Macaluso, Will Remley, Zoe Macaluso, Kate Hickenlooper, and in front, day campers Cassius and Maxine. Photo credit: Eugenia Huh.*



*Harvard students and camp alumnae Zoe Macaluso and Maggie Swanson, and visiting Boston that weekend from Vermont, Lainy Nickodemus.*



## Go Blue, Go Green, Go Hayo-Went-Ha Camps

Another great tailgate! Over 55 alumni stopped by the annual HWH Camps Tailgate. A huge thank you goes out to Vicki and Kent DesJardins for allowing us to use their car space. See you all next year in East Lansing!



## Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER

- 13 - World Kindness Day / Launch of the Keepers of the Flame Campaign
- 24 - Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Torch Lake site

### DECEMBER

- 3 - State of the Union / Camp Update
- 4 - HWH Camps Board Meeting
- 14 - Trivia Night in Ann Arbor - Everyone is Welcome!

### JANUARY

- 1 - January Moments Mailed

### FEBRUARY

- 6 - Arlington / DC Area Camper Rally
- 7 - Arlington / DC Area Alumni Gathering

## Future Newsletter Sections

We want to hear from you! Whether you recently got married, welcomed a future camper into the world, or traveled somewhere amazing while proudly sporting your camp gear, we'd love to share your news with our alumni community. Complete this form to share your updates and photos and we'll be thrilled to share your milestones with camp friends across

the U.S. and around the globe!

[Click here](#) for all past editions of the Whispering Pines and some news from alumni. Weddings, Babies, and reunions...

*Please consider forwarding this issue of Whispering Pines to friends, family members and others in your network that might consider making an investment in our camps!*



**HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS**  
Arbutus Lake for Girls • Torch Lake for Boys  
State YMCA of Michigan



**Our Contact Information**

State YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps • 919 Northeast Torch Lake Drive  
Central Lake, MI 49622  
2315445915 • <http://www.hayowentha.org>

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email preferences](#)

