Whispering Pines

YMCA HAYO-WENT-HA CAMPS
Two Camps. One Purpose.

OCTOBER 2026 - Part 2

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Ready, Set, CAMP! Registration opens this Sunday.

Sunday, October 18th at 2:00 PM – Let the Summer 2027 Adventures Begin!

Set your alarms, mark your calendars, and spread the word! Registration for Summer 2027 at YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps opens THIS SUNDAY, October 18, at 2:00 PM!

Are your campers ready for another unforgettable summer? Do you have friends, neighbors, or family members who have been thinking about joining the Hayo-Went-Ha Camps family? Now is the time to get everyone excited and ready to register!

And what better day to kick things off than National New Friends Day! At Hayo-Went-Ha Camps, we know that new friends quickly become cabinmates, paddling partners, adventure buddies, and often friends for life. It's the perfect day to open the door to another summer of incredible friendships and new experiences.

Our theme for 2027 is REACHING FURTHER, and we can't wait to see what our campers accomplish! Whether it's paddling a little farther, taking on a new wilderness challenge, building confidence, or making that first new friend, every summer at Camp is an opportunity to discover something amazing about yourself.

Our Camp team is ready to help! Have questions about programs, sessions, or registration? Need a hand navigating the process? We're here to help and will be keeping a close eye on enrollment as registration gets underway.

So grab your calendar, connect with your Camp friends, and get ready to log on at 2:00 PM this Sunday! Summer 2027 starts here. New friends, new adventures, and endless possibilities. Let's REACH FURTHER together!

Remember, some programs have limited availability due to permits and other restrictions, so we encourage families to register early to secure their preferred programs and sessions.





4-Week Program Dates

Session 1: Sunday, June 20 – Friday, July 16, 2027
Session 2: Sunday, July 18 – Friday, August 13, 2027

2-Week Program Dates

Session 1A: Sunday, June 20 – Friday, July 2, 2027
Session 1B: Sunday, July 4 – Friday, July 16, 2027
Session 2A: Sunday, July 18 – Friday, July 30, 2027
Session 2B: Sunday, August 1st – Friday, August 13, 2027





Sparks Day Camp 2027 Dates

Week 1: June 14–18
Week 2: June 21–25
Week 3: June 28–July 2
Week 4: July 5–9
Week 5: July 12–16
Week 6: July 19–23
Week 7: July 26–30
Week 8: August 2–6
Week 9: August 9–13
Week 10: August 16–20

Family Camp: Sunday, August 15 – Saturday, August 21, 2027

New Camp Director Announced!

Bronwen “Dink” Dingeman Named New Director of YMCA Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha.

A familiar face, a lifelong connection to Camp, and an exciting new chapter for the future of Hayo-Went-Ha Camps!

We are thrilled to announce that Bronwen “Dink” Dingeman has been named the new Camp Director of YMCA Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha!

For those who know Dink, this announcement is especially exciting. Her journey at Camp began as a nine-year-old Trailblazer, and over the years, she has grown from an enthusiastic camper into a dedicated counselor, and now Camp Director.

After six wonderful summers as a camper, Dink joined the staff and quickly became a valued and respected member of the Arbutus community. She has held numerous leadership positions, including Counselor, Division Leader, Leadership Corps Director, Program Director, and most recently, Assistant Camp Director.

Each role has given Dink a deeper understanding of what makes AHWH so special and the important responsibility of creating a safe, supportive, and adventurous environment where girls can grow, challenge themselves, and build lifelong friendships.

As Assistant Camp Director, Dink has been closely involved in staff development, daily camp operations, wilderness programming, risk management, and leadership training. Her experience also extends beyond the summer season, coordinating outdoor education programs, school groups, retreats, and wilderness adventures.

Dink is a graduate of Wayne State University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Honors English with minors in Anthropology and Creative Writing. She also holds certifications as a Wilderness First

Responder, lifeguard, and in Youth Mental Health First Aid.

Her passion for youth development, strong communication skills, creativity, and genuine love for the outdoors make her wonderfully suited for this next chapter.

Please join us in congratulating Dink on this exciting and well-deserved next step! Her email is dink@hayowentha.org



In her own words, *"I am beyond excited to step into the role as Camp Director at YMCA Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha. I want to thank our incredible Hayo-Went-Ha Camps community for their support and guidance through this transition, and I look forward to getting to work building many more magical summers on our Piney Wood Hills!"*

One of the most exciting parts of this announcement is the leadership team now guiding our two camps.

Dink will join Jack LaGoy, Director of YMCA Camp Torch Hayo-Went-Ha as our two Camp Directors. In a wonderful connection to Camp history, both Dink and Jack began their Hayo-Went-Ha Camps journeys as nine-year-old Trailblazers!

From young campers discovering the magic of Hayo-Went-Ha Camps to leading the very camps that helped shape them, their journeys are a beautiful reflection of the lasting impact of the Camp experience.

Together, Dink and Jack bring enthusiasm, fresh ideas, strong relationships, and a shared commitment to the traditions and values that have made Hayo-Went-Ha Camps so special for generations.

We are especially excited about the collaboration between these two leaders as they work together to strengthen our programs, support our staff, and create unforgettable experiences for future campers. Together, they will help bring our mantra, "Two Camps. One Purpose." to life.



We cannot wait to see all that Dink and Jack accomplish together as they help lead YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps into the future.

Thank you, Tristan Dougans

A massive thank you to Tristan Dougans, who has just wrapped up his 18-month contract with Hayo-Went-Ha Camps!

Tristan has been a vital member of the team and has played a huge role in running and developing camp throughout his time with us. He helped get our shoulder season programs back off the ground, welcoming plenty of excited 5th graders back to camp and ensuring they had a fun, safe, and memorable experience.

Tristan also played a massive role in developing the Torch Trip Center and helping us take another step toward the premier trip experience we strive to provide. As Trip Coordinator at Torch, his vision, dedication, and attention to detail helped both campers and staff feel more prepared, confident, and supported as they headed out on their adventures.

We are so so grateful for everything Tristan has brought to the team over the past 18 months and all the seasons prior. Thank you, Tristan, for all your hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment to Hayo-Went-Ha Camps. We hope our paths cross again soon, we will see you later



Tristan's reflection on his 18-month contract - "After doing seasonal work here at HWH for 4 years, I had the privilege of joining the full-time staff for 18 months in April of last year. Before then, I had only come for a maximum stint of around 4 months, so I was extremely nervous but also unbelievably excited for this new challenge and Adventure, and that it was! Over the period, I have been able to learn and see so much more about camp than ever before, and it really opened my eyes to how much goes on in the off season to make sure Summer is a hit. Other than preparing for summer, it was amazing to be a part of all the other stuff we do, from our community engagement to various conferences and job fairs all over the country. I was very lucky to work with some amazing people, and I'll treasure the memories I have made with them forever. It was not an easy 18 months but I am glad for it, camp has always done the best job challenging me in the most creative ways. Thank you, Hayo-Went-Ha Camps, I'm happy I get to call you my second home. "

Remembering a Camp Legend: Grace OTTE

First, I want to say how incredibly sorry I am for misspelling Grace Otte's name. Grace was indeed a legend to so many in the Hayo-Went-Ha Camps family, and I count myself among those fortunate enough to have known her.

I remember Grace attending camp events and sharing wonderful stories of her years at Torch Hayo-Went-Ha. I often found myself listening in awe, knowing I was in the company of someone who had

made an incredible impact on generations of campers and staff. Her stories were filled with humor, wisdom, and a deep love for camp. She certainly left a lasting impression on me.

Grace's connection to camp extended far beyond her time as a camp nurse. She was a dedicated volunteer, fundraiser, and advocate for helping more children experience the magic of Hayo-Went-Ha Camps. She worked alongside the legendary Cap Drury, helping raise funds for camperships and ensuring that future generations would have the same opportunities she treasured.

One of the most wonderful parts of Grace's legacy is that her family's camp story continues. Her great-grandchildren, Caleb and Grace, have recently begun their own Hayo-Went-Ha Camps adventures and are already loving the challenges, friendships, and traditions that make our camps so special. How wonderful to see another generation creating memories in a place that meant so much to Grace.

Grace Otte was much more than a part of our camp's history. She helped shape it. Her kindness, dedication, and love for Hayo-Went-Ha Camps will continue to be felt for generations to come.

For those who may not have known Grace Otte, she was the beloved nurse at our Torch Lake camp for over 30 years. During those decades, she cared for countless campers and staff, treating everything from minor scrapes and bruises to the many challenges of camp life. Grace was famous for reminding everyone that taking good care of your feet was one of the most important ways to stay healthy at camp!

She was caring and compassionate, but also firm, practical, and wonderfully straightforward with her diagnoses and treatments. You always knew where you stood with Grace, and you knew you were in good hands. Her no-nonsense approach, combined with her genuine concern for everyone who walked through the Health Center doors, made her a trusted and unforgettable part of the Hayo-Went-Ha Camps experience.

For generations of campers and staff, Grace was so much more than the camp nurse. She was a reassuring presence, a familiar face, and someone who truly cared about the well-being of our entire camp family.

Thank you, Grace, for the stories, the memories, and the incredible legacy you left behind. I once again apologize for my spelling error.

Cho choo rah, rah!

From Amanda Macaluso










AMAZING GRACE
HWH NURSE
1968 - 1991

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