Whispering Pines

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

OCTOBER 2026

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Countdown to the 2027 Summer

The Countdown to Summer 2027 Starts Sunday, October 18 @ 2pm (EST)

By John (JC) Carlson, CEO

National New Friends Day feels like the perfect day to open registration for Summer **2027 at YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps!** On Sunday, October 18, as people across the country celebrate making new connections and expanding their circle of friends, we'll open the doors to another summer of friendship, adventure, and belonging.

At Camp, new friends quickly become cabin mates, trip partners, teammates, and often lifelong friends. In 2027, our theme is **Reaching Further**, a reflection of our commitment to creating experiences that help young people stretch beyond what they thought they could do, discover new strengths, build confidence, and form meaningful connections. From the first day of camp to new adventures and challenges throughout the summer, we're excited to see where those pathways take our campers.

Whether you're returning to reconnect with your Camp friends or joining us for the very first time, your **2027 Camp adventure starts Sunday, October 18!**
Some programs are limited by permits and other restrictions, so be sure to register early to avoid missing out.





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



Virtual Camp Rally
October 11th

Join this Rally!

Virtual Camp Rally
October 13th

Join this Rally!

Join the Fun! We're looking for Keepers of the Flame Team Leads!

Fall is arriving at Camp, which means our annual Keepers of the Flame year-end campaign is right around the corner.

We have a great group of alumni and friends already stepping up, but we're still looking for 10 more Team Leads to join the fun!

Before you think, "I'm not a fundraiser," don't worry. Being a Team Lead is really about reconnecting with your Camp people. Reach out to former cabin mates, counselors, camper families, or friends, share a favorite Camp memory, and invite them to support the place you all love. A few texts, emails, or social media messages can make a big difference, and you can even team up with a Camp friend and lead together.

For 2027, our Keepers of the Flame fundraising initiative will support camp operations, **help fund two new Nejee Cabins at Camp Arbutus Hayo-Went-Ha,** and bring our community together to **help save the Old Dining Hall at our Torch Lake site.** We're also adding some fun with our first Experiences & Art Auction, featuring Camp and Northern Michigan artwork, stays, golf, boating, and other special experiences.

Interested in being one of our final 10 Team Leads? Email me for more information. It's easy, it's fun, and it's a great excuse to reconnect with your Camp friends while supporting a place that has meant so much to generations of campers.

Join the fun and help us keep the Flame burning!

Celebrating Erin: Nearly a Decade of Dedication to Hayo-Went-Ha Camps

Throughout her time with HWH Camps, Erin has brought tremendous dedication, creativity, and commitment to our organization.

She has been the person behind the numbers, helping us understand our Camp community, strengthen our work, and continue moving Hayo-Went-Ha forward. Her brilliant ideas, hard work, and willingness to jump in wherever needed have made a lasting impact.

But Erin's connection to Camp goes well beyond her work. Her family's Camp story stretches back to Grace Oddy, who served as the Boys Camp nurse for many years beginning in the 1960s. That connection has now continued into another generation, with Erin's own children loving their first and second summers as campers. Erin truly understands what Camp means to families because Hayo-Went-Ha has become part of her family's story as well.

After nearly a decade of working alongside Erin, we will miss her tremendously, both as a colleague and as an important part of our HWH community.
Thank you, Erin, for all of your hard work, brilliant ideas, and commitment to YMCA Hayo-Went-Ha Camps. We are incredibly grateful for everything you have contributed over the years and wish you all the very best in your next chapter.
You will be missed!





"I am incredibly grateful for my time with Hayo-Went-Ha Camps and for the opportunity to be part of such a special community. One of the greatest gifts has been watching my own children become campers and fall in love with the programs, people, and places that have meant so much to our family. While I'm excited for my next chapter, it is bittersweet to leave at a time when so many exciting things are happening at Camp. I will miss the people and community tremendously, but I know Hayo-Went-Ha Camps will always be part of our family's story."

– Erin



50 Miles in 5 days

$20,757 Raised to Support Camperships

We are thrilled to share that our **50 Miles in 5 Days team raised an incredible $20,757 for camperships!** Every mile paddled, every portage completed, and every donation made helped provide opportunities for campers who otherwise might not have the chance to experience Camp.

A huge **THANK YOU** to **Emma Macaluso, Josh Moody, Mimi Dyer, Doug Vahey, Mary Tobin, Annelise Benshop, Jack LaGoy, Lily Coughlin, and Charlie Tobin** for taking on this challenge and bringing such enthusiasm and commitment to supporting our campers. Fifty miles through Killarney is no small undertaking, and we are incredibly grateful that you chose to make every one of those miles matter.

Today is the final day to support this year's 50 Miles in 5 Days campaign. If you've been following their adventure or cheering them on from afar, there is still time to make a gift and help us finish strong. Click here if you would like to support this initiative.

And we're already thinking about next summer! If you are interested in participating next year in the 50 miles in 5 days and raising money to help send kids to Camp please reach out.

To our paddlers, donors, families, and everyone who cheered them on along the way: **thank you for going the extra mile for our campers!**

Click below for the fun little lipdub filmed on location!

Watch Now!



Hayo-Fall Fire Events

Hayo-Fall Fire is all about Bringing Camp Friends Together!

Join us Sunday, November 1st at 3 locations across the country starting at 2pm. (local time)

Remember sitting around the campfire, singing your favorite Camp songs, sharing stories, and laughing with friends? This fall, we're bringing a little of that Camp magic to communities across the country!

Building on the success of Hayo-Hike, we're excited to introduce Hayo-Fall Fire event, a new way for alumni, former staff, Camp families, and friends to reconnect with one another, no matter how far they live from Camp.

On Sunday, November 1st, at 2:00 p.m. (local time), we're planning small, informal campfire gatherings in several communities, including the Washington, D.C. area, Colorado, and right here in Northern Michigan. Whether you've stayed close to your Camp friends or haven't seen them in years, this is a chance to come together, share a few memories, sing some Camp songs, and enjoy an afternoon around the fire. Maybe even make new camp friends! Of course, there may be a few s'mores involved!

We're starting with a handful of communities this fall, with the hope of growing Hayo-Fall Fire events into an annual tradition that brings our Camp family together across the country.

If you are interested in attending or hosting a Hayo-Fall Fire in your community, please reach out, and we can add your location to the list. Reach out to Amanda at amacaluso@hayowentha.org if you would like to host a Hayo-Fall Fire this Fall.

Each for All, All for Each!







RSVP Today!

Do you need an Alumni shirt?

Are you interested in buying some alumni camp store merch? Check out the Alumni Camp Store.



Order Your Alumni Gear Today!

Check out the new events section on the website.

Your one-stop place to check all the camp events for the year!

Events Calendar

Camp Connections

Do you know a camp friend who isn't receiving the Whispering Pines newsletter? Have them reach out to Amanda at **amacaluso@hayowentha.org** so they don't miss any updates.

Click here for all past editions of the Whispering Pines and some news from alumni. Weddings, Babies, and reunions…

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