



YMCA Camp of Maine 2022 Pine Cone Friendship Builds Community

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Photo Credit: Tracey Doiron Photography

This summer at YCamp, we had a lot to celebrate: Campers and counselors coming from different states and countries; fully dramatized weekend programs; new and exciting evening programs; the return of woodcraft as an activity choice; renovations to the Visitor's TIPS and the Bungalow. While there have been some great new additions and changes, some things do not change: friendships, smiles, and laughter stay constant and strong.

We are happy to see returning camper numbers increase. Returning staff numbers are also strong. The growth of these numbers show us that our goals to create impact, and opportunities for people to grow and feel a sense of belonging at YCamp, are being realized.

Plans for 2023 are well underway. Registration has opened earlier than ever for returning and new campers. LIT 3 has filled in record time! 2023 Summer is aiming to be the best one yet. Continued facility improvements and updates are in the works. We want to make sure we remain a rustic Maine summer camp, while providing a safe, nurturing, and comfortable environment.

We continue watching the public health climate with our partners (ACA, Redwoods Group, Federal and State CDC, and YMCA Partners) to determine our best practices for the future. Updates will be posted on our website as decisions are made.

Enjoy this edition of the Pine Cone! Stay tuned for more to come...

See you soon;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Gleason', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Jeff Gleason
CEO/Director

LEADERS OF IMPACT

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Luke Joines, Program Director

Lonney Steeves, Winthrop Program Director

Becca Rando, Communications & Development Director



WHAT HAPPENED AT



» We welcomed international staff and campers back to YCamp and returned to operating at 100% capacity.

» We continued eating outdoors with 24 new picnic tables built through community support during our spring fundraiser.

» Explorer's Camp officially launched, welcoming 34 Explorer's campers over 2 sessions.

» Visitor TIPs and Green TIPs were renovated. Visitor TIPs increased capacity to include six gender-neutral bathrooms, and Green TIPs was turned into The Bungalow, housing for our support staff.

» We introduced Companion, a new app that allowed us to share photos throughout the summer and exchange mobile letters between campers and families.

» The staff performed "Grease" for the Session 4 campers in our first ever staff musical.

» 2 new sailboats, the Laser and the Hunter, were donated and utilized in the sailing program.

» The staff created 3 awesome weekend programs: Back to the Future, Far Far Away, and Greek Mythology weekends!

» We gained an awesome new partner - YMCA of Spain - and welcomed a group of campers from Spain this summer.

YCAMP IN 2022?



Baton twirling, water aerobics, and running club were added to our Rec Time offerings, thanks to our talented and enthusiastic staff!



We introduced the Get-to-Know YCamp Series, monthly Zoom calls to help families prepare to send their campers to YCamp, ask questions, and learn more about what we have to offer.



We hosted our 2nd Annual Fall Harvest Breakfast and enjoyed a morning of beautiful Fall weather, fun games and crafts, and delicious breakfast.



Campers harvested vegetables and herbs from the garden and created their own delicious snacks in the kitchen with Chef Mike!



Our flock of chickens grew this year, and campers enjoyed getting to know them while feeding them and collecting their eggs.



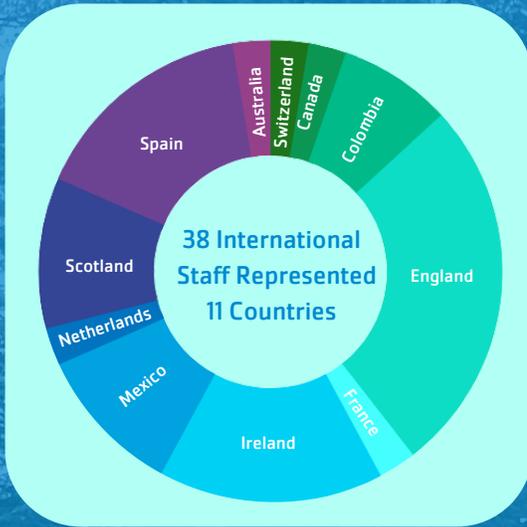
We hosted 3 groups from YMCA Camp Becket-Chimney Corners! They completed service projects and participated in programming before continuing on their New England voyage.



We worked with the Cobbossee Lake Association to clean the shorelines around our islands to promote loon nesting habitats and do our part to beautify the lake!



»» 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| Alaska | Maine | New York |
| Arizona | Maryland | Ohio |
| California | Massachusetts | Rhode Island |
| Colorado | Michigan | Texas |
| Connecticut | Missouri | Virginia |
| Florida | New Hampshire | Vermont |
| Georgia | New Jersey | Washington |
| Illinois | North Carolina | |
- U.S. Campers and Staff Represented 23 States**

264
campers received financial assistance to attend YCamp



53%
of eligible 2021 campers returned to YCamp in 2022

Camper of the Session

Each session, one camper from each village is recognized as "Camper of the Session" by the counselors. These two campers are exceptional in following the four core values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, and Caring, as well as showing spirit, leadership, and true grit. The following campers were the recipients of the 2022 honor:

Session 1: Kayla Arsenault & Gavin Prout
Session 2: Lyla Crump & Ishaan Ross
Session 3: Lucy Larkin & Will Larkin
Session 4: Sophia Relf & Adam Perron

Camper of the Year

The honor of "Camper of the Year" is awarded to one North Village camper and one South Village camper chosen by the counselors, from the recipients of "Camper of the Session." These two individuals are recognized as embodying the true spirit of YCamp, and for 2022 they are:

Lucy Larkin & Will Larkin

Congratulations to these stand-out campers! It is campers like you who make the YCamp Community an exceptional space for all of us to learn, grow, and lead!

LARRY GARDELLA

A Commitment to Community

PINE CONE DEDICATION

Whether he is developing youth sports programs, creating leadership development opportunities, or volunteering with local community groups, Larry Gardella can be found interacting with change makers in his community. Moving to Maine (from Rochester, NY) in 1974, Larry took the helm at the YCamp of ME and lead until 1986. Larry's largest contributions to the YCamp Community include leading YCamp into a new era as a co-ed program, creating long lasting relationships with nearby camps, and the implementation of skill classes. Larry led a generation of campers and staff to become strong leaders who incorporate the Core Values into their lives - even still.

This year's Pine Cone is dedicated to an individual who was instrumental in building YCamp during a time when growth was necessary. Larry continues to lead by example in his community. Of all the eras of YCamp, alumni come back most often and ask with a smile, "Is Larry Gardella still around?!?" Yes! Larry Gardella is still around, and willing to offer advice, a keen story, and a good laugh.

The Annual Pine Cone is published in late fall to commemorate the season, and it serves as the organization's Annual Report. The Pine Cone can be dedicated with nominations sent to any Board Member or CEO by August 31. The Board will then review nominations and approve the dedication.



2022 SUPPORT



The financial support provided by campers, families, alumni, and our community allowed us to pursue new projects, make Camp possible for more campers, and improve the YCamp Experience to better serve the changing needs of our community. **THANK YOU** for helping us serve our mission and provide an unforgettable experience for campers and staff this summer, and in many summers to come! Support from our community helps us stay affordable and continue to serve as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

(Donor List as of 2022 Pine Cone Publication)

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ANNUAL EVENT SPONSORS



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Capital Area New Mainers
 CYC Lake Association
 Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed
 Portland Boys & Girls Club
 Sejours Home Abroad
 Spurwink
 YMCA of Spain

THANK YOU!



WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2023!

» New equipment will be installed to control erosion around the boat launch.

» AXE THROWING will be introduced as a new activity offering in our Outdoor Living Skills Program Area!

» We are building a new Archery Pavilion for all of our archers.

» The folding chairs in the Auditorium will be replaced with new ones. Get ready for many more awesome performances!

» New countertops will be installed in the North and South Village TIPs.

» Our new trail network will be open and ready for use for hiking and nature exploring in the summer and community use in the Fall, Winter, and Spring!

» We are launching a capital campaign to focus on new capital projects, generate more financial assistance, and grow our endowment to solidify the YCamp legacy. To learn more contact Jeff Gleason or Becca Rando. Stay tuned...



2023 DATES & FEES

TRADITIONAL CAMP: ONE WEEK

Session 1: June 25 – July 1

Tier 1: \$963

Tier 2: \$883

Tier 3: \$803

Tier 4: Financial aid based on need



TRADITIONAL CAMP: TWO WEEKS

Session 2: July 2 – July 15

Session 3: July 16 – July 29

Session 4: July 30 – August 12

Tier 1: \$1907

Tier 2: \$1746

Tier 3: \$1586

Tier 4: Financial aid based on need



EXPLORER'S CAMP

Explorer's Session 1: June 25 – June 28

Explorer's Session 2: July 2 – July 5

Tier 1: \$482

Tier 2: \$428

Tier 3: \$375

Tier 4: Financial aid based on need

LEADER IN TRAINING (LIT)

LIT Session 2: July 2 – July 15

LIT Session 3: July 16 – July 29

LIT Session 4: July 30 – August 12

Tier 1: \$1907

Tier 2: \$1746

Tier 3: \$1586

Tier 4: Financial aid based on need

RETURNING FAMILIES CAN ENROLL THROUGH THE COMPANION APP!

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