



105 YEARS
LEADING. INSPIRING. TRANSFORMING.

Tripper – Fall 2023
CAMP MANITO-WISH YMCA

Experience
MANITO-WISH
CAMP MANITO-WISH YMCA

DIRECTOR'S TRAIL



For over a century, the Manito-wish experience has been providing individuals with a sense of wonder, resiliency, and lifelong friendships. This summer, spring, and fall, the program was successfully delivered, creating new connections and rekindling memories. The core values of the program that have stood the test of time include a wilderness experience that creates a sense of wonder, new challenges that forge resiliency, and friendships that last a lifetime. As we reflect on the impact of Manito-wish on thousands of participants, we look forward with hope and optimism for what the next 105 years will bring.

We are also grateful to have Jeff Pereles step in as interim CEO during the search for a new leader of Camp. His steady leadership will continue to shepherd the organization during this transition period. It has been an honor and privilege to be a part of such a special place, and I'm grateful for all who have contributed to its success over the years. The Manito-wish experience will continue to positively impact the lives of many for years to come.

Patrick Soldan
Chief Executive Officer 2019-2023



Camp has been around for 105 years, and seven leaders have contributed to its success. These leaders have been sound and intentional, evolving the organization while maintaining its Mission, Vision, and Commitment. One of these legendary leaders is Pat, who has been instrumental in guiding the organization through the COVID pandemic with his calm demeanor and steady hand. Pat's leadership has set the organization on a course to continue being innovative for the next 105 years. We are grateful for Pat's contribution and wish him well in his future endeavors.

I'm humbled and grateful to assistance in the transition from one leader to another. It is a dream come true for someone who has been involved with Camp for 48 years. It is incredible to think that a 12-year-old Idlewild camper in 1975 could ever have imagined that their Manito-wish experience would lead them to this point.

It is time to Break Out the Oars and enjoy this Tripper, as we look back on another successful year of teaching and growing in wisdom, stature, personal relationships, and in favor with God and with one another.

Jeff Pereles
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Development Director



On behalf of the Camp Manito-wish Board of Directors, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire Manito-wish community – our dedicated participants, supportive parents, passionate staff, and loyal alumni. Your unwavering positive energy, commitment, and steadfast support are the lifeblood of our beloved camp.

I am deeply humbled and profoundly honored to serve an institution that has touched countless lives, including my own. My journey with Camp Manito-wish has taken me from being a camper to an outpost participant, then a staff member, and now a proud camper parent. It was a joy to reconnect with many of you at our 105th anniversary celebration this summer.

Camp Manito-wish is more than a "place"; it is a sanctuary where values are nurtured, character is honed, and enduring bonds are forged. Its exceptionalism lies not only in the breathtaking natural surroundings but, more importantly, in the incredible individuals who form this community, each one of you.

In this spirit, I wish to underscore the paramount importance of our Board's dedicated efforts to select a new CEO. We are committed to finding a leader who shares our vision and values, one who will uphold and advance the profound sense of belonging that defines this extraordinary place. We anticipate welcoming our new CEO by early 2024 and extend our heartfelt thanks to Jeff for his interim leadership.

Let us collectively nurture and sustain this remarkable community, preserving the timeless spirit of Manito-wish for generations to come.

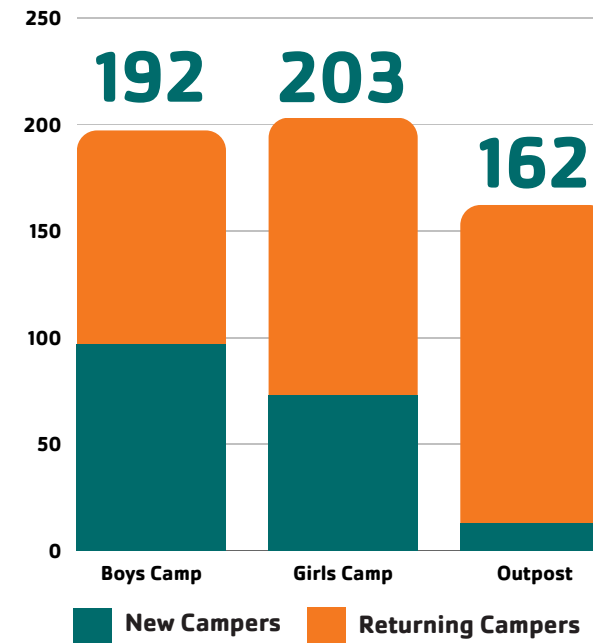
Peace on the waterways,

Betsy Ziegler
President, Board of Directors

SUMMER IMPACT



SUMMER 2023 IMPACT REPORT



"My camper returned home calmer, more resilient, communicative, self-reliable and independent."



THIRTY ONE
PARTICIPANTS
TRANSPORTED BY AIR



FOUR HUNDRED & FIVE
PARTICIPANTS
TRANSPORTED BY BUS

"Camp has impacted my life in a way that nothing else ever has. I'm better because of this place and the people in it."

OPERATIONS OVERVIEW



Ben Hoffman, Operations Director
ben.hoffman@manito-wish.org

Camp Manito-wish had an unforgettable summer filled with many notable highlights! The dedication and hard work of every team and individual in the organization helped make this possible. Everyone paddled together in pursuit of the mission, vision, and commitment of the Camp.

A big thank you goes out to all of the campers who attended this year, as well as the families for trusting Camp Manito-wish with their children's growth and development. I was inspired by Closing Ceremonies speeches for Boys and Girls Summer Camp and Family Camp sessions, listening to highlights from Schuler Scholar Leadership Program debriefs, and hearing the learnings of Outpost Wilderness program participants via their presentations. The seasonal staff also deserves a round of applause for their dedication to changing lives of participants and supporting each trail trip, meal, and portage. The Trips team also deserves credit for serving over 20,000 meals on trail!

The dining services team, led by Sam Luchek, Camp Director and Chef Kevin Borden of Summer Camp Cooks, also deserves recognition for their collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills that resulted in serving over 50,000 wonderful meals throughout the busy season. The Health Services Team played a crucial role in supporting the overall safety of campers and staff. The Program Team led by Sam Luchek and Bryn Lottig, MLC Director deserve kudos for designing programs with intentional outcomes and implementing unforgettable experiences and to the year-round staff that tirelessly planned every program, property, and administrative need.

The Property team, led by Tim Sheehan and John McMenamin, made a difference every day, being on-call 365 days a year for urgencies and overall commitment to Camp. Finally, the Manito-wish Community of alumni, donors, and volunteers played a significant role in changing lives this year and every year.

The impact of these efforts is directly connected to the experience of each person who has a Manito-wish experience. It's truly inspiring to see everyone come together to create such a memorable summer. Thank you to the entire team for their hard work and dedication!

Health Services Team – 2024 Job Opportunities

The 2023 Health Services team had a successful summer under the guidance of nurses and health center coordinators. It's especially impressive that alum Arden Grim was able to lead the way and unify the logistics while welcoming both returning and new nurses to the team. The team was fortunate to have medical professional alumni return to Manito-wish for varying periods of time, which was a valuable experience for all involved.

We're already recruiting nurses for next summer. Having a strong health services team is essential for any summer program, and Camp is committed to providing the best care possible for our participants. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in working with our Health Services team, reach out to me. It's a great opportunity to be part of a dedicated and passionate group of professionals. Ben.Hoffman@manito-wish.org.

CAMP UPDATE



Sam Luchek, Camp Director
sam.luchek@manito-wish.org



Carter Lindley, Summer Camp Director
carter.lindley@manito-wish.org



Saul Carrillo, Wilderness Program Director
saul.carrillo@manito-wish.org

It's heartwarming to see the success of the summer programs and the contributions made by staff, both new and returning. It's always a joy to see a team come together to create amazing experiences for everyone participating in our Summer Camp and Outpost Programs. Camper registration for next summer is already underway.

It's also great to see the growth in the international aspect of our program, with 28 international staff members contributing to Camp's cross-cultural awareness. We have strong partnerships with organizations such as Americamp, Camp America, CCUSA, IENA, and United Studies that help to bring a diverse range of cultures and perspectives to the Camp community.

We want to thank our partner organizations for working with us to provide opportunities for campers who may not have otherwise had the chance to participate. It's fantastic to have partnerships with organizations such as SOS Children's Villages of Illinois, Chicago Jesuit Academy, and the Lac du Flambeau Tribe.

Outpost:

Saul Carrillo, the leader of the Outpost program, had a successful first summer thanks to his determination and ingenuity. Outpost Director, Kayleigh DeBruyne, and the entire Outpost Admin Team worked hard to support our trip leaders and participants both on and off trail. This was a milestone summer for Outpost, with 165 participants served across 34 trips. There was renewed interest in canoeing trips, which was exciting to see, along with backpacking and kayaking trips holding steady levels of interest.

Our Outpost trips are a unique and transient experience that creates tight-knit bonds among participants in a short amount of time. One participant expressed that the experience made Manito-wish feel like home, and the community here was one of the reasons they love Camp. As we pack away gear for the final time this season, we are already looking ahead and planning our trail routes for 2024. We are excited to announce an increase in the number of Introductory level trips next year to support our updated three level Outpost model. We look forward to welcoming back our Outpost campers into the Camp family in 2024!

Summer Camp:

Carter Lindley, director of Summer Camp, led the team to create an unforgettable Manito-wish experience for all the campers. The Summer Camp Administrative Team and Sectionals worked hard to cultivate a community that emphasized growth and adventure for all. Their dedication and hard work ensured that everyone had a great time and created lasting memories.

Looking forward to the future, Summer Camp has exciting plans for 2024. One of the newest program additions is the Emerging Leader Experience, which is designed for 10th-12th graders. This program will provide additional opportunities for leadership and character development, helping campers hone their skills and prepare for the challenges ahead.

At Summer Camp, we believe that every camper should have the chance to learn, grow, and have fun in a safe and supportive environment. With programs like the Emerging Leader Experience, we are committed to providing opportunities for everyone to thrive. We look forward to welcoming new campers and continuing to build a community focused on growth, adventure, and fun.

Our end of season evaluations from our

395 campers tell stories of growth and glee:

95% tried something new at Camp

86% are more confident in their abilities than before Camp

98% had fun at Camp & expressed interest in returning next summer

Family Camp:

Family Camp is a wonderful way to spend the summer, and this year was no exception for the 256 new and returning Manito-wishers who participated in the program. With a wide range of activities, campfires, and even a Camp Show, participants of all ages were able to share memories and create new ones.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the Family Camp Directors, Ian Brown and Tracy Converse, who put countless hours of hard work behind the scenes to make the program a success. Their dedication and commitment to ensuring that everyone had a great time at Camp did not go unnoticed, and we will miss their leadership next summer.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the many seasoned staff members who contributed to the success of the program. Without their support, Family Camp would not have been possible. Finally, we want to thank all of the families who joined us at Camp this year. We hope to see you again next year for another unforgettable summer!

CAMP UPDATE – LEADERSHIP



Bryn Lottig, MLC Director
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Greetings, Camp Manito-wish YMCA community!

As we bid goodbye to summer and say hello to the colorful season of fall, it's a great time to reflect on the incredible experiences that the Leadership Program at Manito-wish has provided this past summer. The Schuler Scholar Program, which ran for five separate 10-day sessions, brought together 219 Scholars from 12 different schools and diverse backgrounds.

Through backcountry canoe trips and challenging ropes course elements, each Scholar had the chance to explore their limits and develop their leadership skills. Additionally, the Leadership Program worked with emerging leaders from area camps, served several partners including Prairie School, and a new partner, PRL Keystone. Participants enjoyed various activities such as paddling and playing Wells Fargo. Prairie School was the Leadership Program Director, Claire Blakely's last program with our organization and we are grateful for the positive impact they made on our community.

Although Prairie School marks the end of the summer season, we are excited to engage with a diverse range of returning and new partner programs in the autumn season. Our facilitators are geared up to provide immersive outdoor experiences that promote self-reflection and leadership development for participants of all ages.

As we look forward to the upcoming spring program schedule, our dedicated team is planning recruitment efforts for future staff to ensure that the next season is filled with exceptional individuals who are ready to deliver exceptional experiences to our 2024 program partners.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Camp Manito-wish is a place where everyone can belong, and true to our Mission, Vision and Commitment Statements, an inclusive environment. We believe that diversity, equity, and inclusion are essential to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all campers and staff, as well as providing the best Manito-wish experience we can.

That is why we are committed to making Camp Manito-wish a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive place. With the support of the Board DEI Committee, we have been working on a number of initiatives to achieve this goal, including:

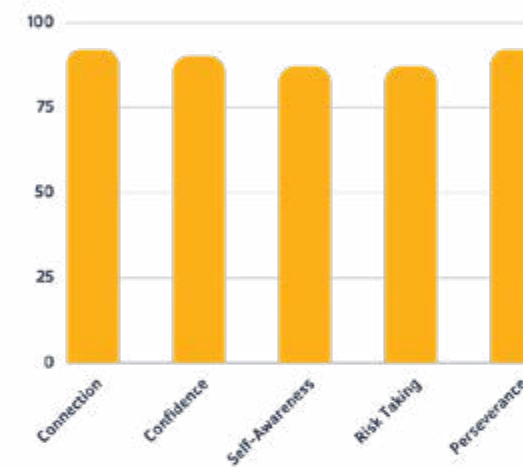
- Updating our policies and procedures to ensure they are gender-neutral and reflect the diversity of our community. The parent information packet includes more transparent language around gender inclusion and pronoun usage.

- Partnering with community organizations to connect with families that are more diverse and to create more opportunities for all campers to participate in Camp Manito-wish.

- In collaboration with the Board and its work on Spirituality at Camp, we have better defined how Camp Manito-wish views "Growing in favor of God" at Camp and what to expect in places like chapel, graces, and square ceremonies.

- While we know there is still more work to be done, we celebrate the work that the DEI Staff Committee and the Board DEI Committee has done and will continue to do to make Manito-wish a more inclusive place.

If you are interested in learning more about our diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, please visit our website or contact the Chair of the DEI Staff Committee, Jeff Pereles, at jeff.pereles@manito-wish.org.



DEVELOPING DYNAMIC LEADERS

SURVEY RESULTS FOR INCREASED SKILLS

Upon completion of a Schuler Scholar session, participants were given the opportunity to share feedback on their growth and experiences. The graph to the left shows the average percentage of participants who self-reported an increase in SEL based skills across all five sessions.

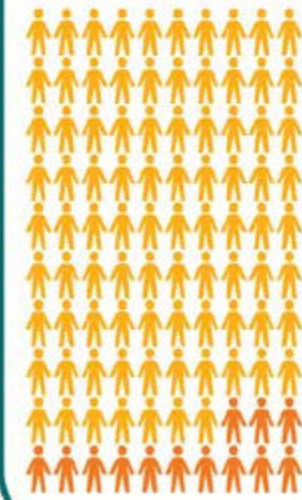
EXPANDING COMFORT ZONES THROUGH SUPPORTED EXPERIENCES

"I think camp really helped me be more comfortable with both asking for help from others and with going out of my comfort zone, the staff and the activities were really nice, motivational, and empowering when in need."

BUILDING RESILIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

"I will always know that I am stronger than I think I am because I was able to face all the challenges I had at camp that I never thought I would have to face."

87% OF PARTICIPANTS REPORTED A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR LIFE



51
programming days

15
nights on trail

209
participants

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

MARKETING AND RECRUITMENT



Sara Farrow, Director of Marketing and Recruitment

sara.farrow@manito-wish.org

Hello, Manito-wishers!

As the sun sets on another remarkable summer, it's time to reflect on the incredible journeys, friendships, and challenges that defined this year's Manito-wish experience. From rugged landscapes to starlit nights, our campers and staff immersed themselves in the untamed beauty of the great outdoors, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Nurturing Nature and Personal Growth

Beyond the numbers, Camp Manito-wish YMCA is about cultivating a deep connection with the natural world and with oneself. Through challenging hikes, serene paddles, and reflective campfire discussions, our participants discovered their strengths, built self-reliance, and cultivated an enduring appreciation for the environment.

The success of this year's camp has fueled our passion to continually improve and innovate, and I am excited to share that we have introduced an alternative programming track to Outpost for individuals in 9th-12th grade who are looking to stay engaged with a Manito-wish experience while bolstering their resume for the future (read more on the next page)!

The new Emerging Leader Experience provides an awesome opportunity for individuals to stay engaged with Camp from a Near South Camper to becoming eligible for a staff position. Elimination of this gap for individuals who don't participate in the Outpost program will be a crucial part of retention and in turn, staff recruitment efforts.

Staff Experience a Transformative Journey

This summer, we were thrilled to witness a remarkable trend in our staff retention and recruitment efforts. The numbers tell an inspiring story: by the time the last summer contracts ended, a staggering 112 individuals had already committed to returning for the 2024 season. This is not merely a statistic; it's a testament to the enduring spirit of our Camp and the profound impact it has on every Manito-wish experience.

At Camp Manito-wish YMCA, we have always believed that the quality of our staff directly influences the caliber of the programming we can offer. Our returning staff members, with their wealth of experience and passion for what we do, play a pivotal role in shaping the camp experience for every camper. As we look ahead to the coming summer, we are not only celebrating our dedicated returning staff but also seizing the opportunity to further invest in their growth. A strong, supportive community thrives on continuous learning and development, and we are committed to providing our staff with the tools they need to flourish both personally and professionally through resume workshops, a powerful mentorship program, internship opportunities and more! We want our staff to understand that their Manito-wish experience is more than a summer job—it's a transformative journey that can have a profound impact on their careers and networks. The skills, leadership, and interpersonal connections developed at camp can pave the way for success in various fields and stages of life.



Thank you for making this summer an unforgettable chapter in Camp's history. Your courage, curiosity, and camaraderie are the cornerstones of our wilderness family. Until our paths cross again beneath star-studded skies, keep the spirit of adventure alive!

Calling All High School Trailblazers!

Are you ready to step onto a path of growth, empowerment, and leadership like no other? Camp Manito-wish YMCA is thrilled to introduce the groundbreaking Emerging Leader Experience, a dynamic program specially crafted for 9th-12th graders looking to carve out their own trail toward personal development and impactful leadership.

While our renowned Outpost track has been a staple of Camp programming for many years, we understand that leadership blossoms in diverse ways. The Emerging Leader Experience is here to provide you with an equally enriching alternative – one that combines adventure with invaluable life skills, character development, and real-world impact.

How to Join

Ready to Embrace Your Leadership Journey? Let's Talk!

Visit our [website](#) or give us a call to learn more about how the Emerging Leader Experience can shape your path toward a brighter, empowered future. Don't just follow the trail – lead it with confidence at Camp Manito-wish YMCA!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2023

November 3: Madison Area Alumni Gathering
November 3-4: Annual Board of Directors Meeting

2024

April 12-13: Spring Board of Directors Meeting
May 24-27: Memorial Day Work Weekend
June 15: Outpost Trips Begin
June 22-July 12: Boys Summer Camp Session
June 29-July 12: Boys Emerging Leader Experience
July 15-July 18: 4-Day Family Camp
July 20-August 9: Girls Summer Camp Session
July 27-August 9: Girls Emerging Leader Experience
August 3: Fires of Friendship Gathering – tentative date
August 3-4: Summer Board of Directors Meeting – tentative date
August 9: Outpost Trips End
August 12-17: 6-Day Family Camp





Tim Sheehan, Property Manager

tim.sheehan@manito-wish.org

As we bid farewell to summer and welcome fall, we can't help but feel grateful for the many successes we experienced during the 105th summer of programming along the shores of the Boulder Lake. One of the highlights of the season was our 105th anniversary celebration, which brought together alumni from different generations. The reunion was a heartwarming reminder of the impact the Manito-wish experience has had on so many lives.

Behind the scenes, our fully staffed property team has been working diligently to maintain the property and facilities, ensuring they remain in top shape for present and future generations. They have been performing routine and planned maintenance, completing work orders, and keeping the buildings clean. These tasks may seem small, but they play a crucial role in creating a safe and welcoming environment for everyone who visits and uses the property.

Spurred on by the Health Center upgrades provided by a grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation, we were also able to make the following upgrades to the building:

- Water fountain/bottle filler
- Low flow toilet
- Lavatory sinks/faucets
- Ceiling fan/light in the common room
- Oscillating fans for the bedrooms
- Technology upgrades
- New furniture



Thanks to a generous donor, we were able to install a new Gaga Pit (a type of Dodgeball with boundaries) on the east lawn of the Manito-wish Leadership Center, and replace the aging basketball backboards at the North Ball Diamond. Next summer, we hope to install a Gaga Pit in the summer camp area of the property.

On behalf of Camp Manito-wish YMCA, I would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to the Boulder Junction Community Foundation for supporting the replacement of our large wood highway signs, at our entrances, as part of the Town of Boulder Junction beautification grant initiative. We look forward to replacing the logs on top of the stone pillars along Highway K in the near future.

Over the fall and winter months, our property staff will continue the daily tasking of facility repair, routine planned maintenance and the completion of projects as part of our normal day-to-day operations. Additionally during this time, outside contractors will be working to complete the following projects:

- Hamilton Recreation Lodge restrooms makeover which will bring three all gender single use, ADA assessable restrooms to the property.
- Toilet stall partition replacement in the eight Smith Village cabin restrooms
- One piece sink countertop replacements in both the Far South and Near South Washhouses
- Remodeling of both restrooms in the Manito-wish Leadership Center basement (one-piece countertop/sink; toilet partitions; fresh paint)

The Hamilton Lodge Restroom Improvement Project will enable Camp Manito-wish YMCA to promote increased access, quality, and inclusion by reducing barriers for all program participants and visitors alike. The project is not only about accessibility but also sustainability. The construction of the restrooms will use sustainable wood construction products, energy-efficient LED lighting and water-efficient plumbing fixtures. This is a significant step in promoting accessibility and sustainability at Manito-wish, and it will ensure that everyone can enjoy their time at Camp comfortably.



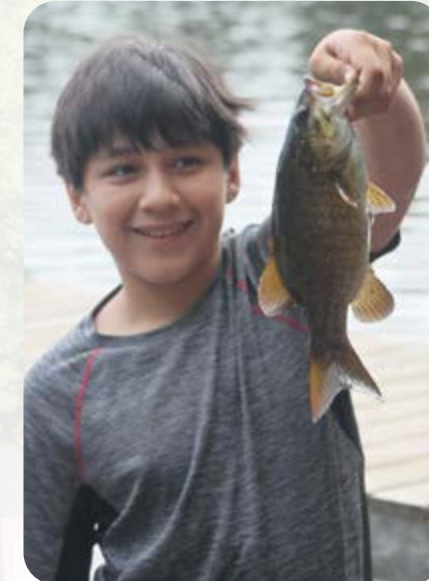
Building inspections are underway accessing fire safety items, electrical systems, chimneys and wood burning appliances, furniture, windows, doors, exterior siding and roofs and interior floor, wall and ceiling condition. These inspections create the workflow that keeps the property team busy throughout the year.

Camp's Boulder Lake property has never looked better thanks to all of the property team members' professionalism and commitment. Thank you John, Jerry, Dave, Emalyn and Frank for your dedication and hard work! It is noticed and appreciated.

A big shout out and Thank You to all who continue to passionately support Camp Manito-wish YMCA – your impactful commitment helps to improve the world in which we all live.

As we move forward, we are excited to continue providing quality programming and maintaining the Boulder Lake property for years to come. We are grateful for the support of our dedicated staff, alumni, and volunteers who have helped make the 105th summer one to remember.

If you have any questions regarding the property, feel to contact me at tim.sheehan@manito-wish.org



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



Jeff Pereles, Development Director

jeff.pereles@manito-wish.org

Beth Rondello, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement

beth.rondello@manito-wish.org



ALUMNI OUTREACH & GATHERINGS

105th Anniversary Celebration

We welcomed 425 Manito-wish alumni and friends on July 22 to celebrate 105 years of impact. Camp has woven a thread through many of our lives that still resonates today. Each person connected to Manito-wish has played a special role in helping us get to this point in our history, and we are grateful for the support that has helped transform thousands of lives over the course of 105 years. Our mission, vision, and commitment to serving youth and families remains steadfast as we celebrate and acknowledge our history and look ahead with excitement to the next 105 years of impact.



Fires of Friendship Circle Gathering

The annual Fires of Friendship Circle celebration was held on July 21 in Nash Lodge. The event was attended by 69 alumni and friends who enjoyed a reception and program. The CEO of Camp, Pat Soldan, and the President of the Board, Betsy Ziegler, gave updates on the current state of Camp. The highlight of the event was hearing from Erik and Hanna Brandt, who shared their multi-generational Manito-wish experiences that have enriched the lives of the people in their community. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones while celebrating Camp's legacy. The event was a great success, and we look forward to next year's celebration. The following new members to the Fires of Friendship Circle were welcomed: **James Cisney, The Kuzma Family, Ed & Karen Lazar, Shanan & Douglas Orndorff, and Jim & Debi Swanson.**

DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Growing Our Endowment

The Camp Manito-wish YMCA Endowment Fund is a fund that was established with the help of generous individual gifts from longtime friends of Camp. Those who have made a planned gift to Camp Manito-wish YMCA, listed it as a primary beneficiary in their estate plans, or made an outright gift of \$10,000 or more to the Endowment Fund are part of the Fires of Friendship Circle. The Circle is comprised of more than 450 people who share the same sense of connection that comes from knowing their influence and values will last beyond their lifetimes. The funds in the endowment fund are invested in perpetuity, with four percent of the average value used for purposes designated by the donor.

The Board of Directors is responsible for managing these funds, including preservation, growth, and use, and they delegate the responsibility for investment of these gifts to the Finance Committee. Donors who give a gift of \$10,000 or more to the Manito-wish Endowment Fund qualify for a named gift. This gift provides a lasting and fitting recognition for the donor or someone special to them.

In 2023, several new named endowment funds were established, including the **Steve Morton Family General Endowment Fund, Orndorff Family General Endowment Fund, Samantha Orndorff Campership Endowment Fund,** and the **Sarah Mead Stone Cordova Memorial Endowment Fund.** These funds will help ensure that Camp Manito-wish can continue to provide impactful experiences for generations to come.

CAPITAL PRIORITY – LOOKING AHEAD

Cabins of Excellence

At Camp Manito-wish, we understand the importance of providing a comfortable and safe environment for our campers. That's why our cabins play a crucial role in our mission to provide a home away from home for our campers. Since 1919, we've been committed to maintaining the highest standards for our cabins and facilities. We call this philosophy "Cabins of Excellence," and it's an ongoing mission to ensure that every cabin and our facilities meets our standards and program needs.

The next phase will include the **Island View, Wildwood, and Timber Lodge/Bunkhouse cabins.** We will continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of our Camp, and our cabins are no exception. We believe that our commitment to "Cabins of Excellence" sets us apart as a premier summer camp destination.

Hamilton Lodge Restroom Improvement Project

Hamilton Lodge is a cherished assembly hall that has served various purposes since its construction in 1956. The venue houses the music program, is utilized for summer programs and traditional Camp Show, and provides a perfect spot for rainy day activities. However, the two non-accessible restrooms within the lodge are being replaced with three All Gender single occupant restrooms that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The project has received a bid of \$136,000 from a trusted contractor who has worked on numerous Camp projects. To further the goal of accessibility, YUSA awarded a \$40,000 matching grant to Camp, and donors have committed to the project. The goal is to complete the construction by the end of 2023.

Camp Manito-wish has a profound impact on the lives of those who attend, providing a space to develop leadership skills, unplug from technology, and build meaningful connections that last a lifetime. By contributing to the Annual Fund Drive, you are ensuring that this experience remains accessible to all, regardless of their ability to pay.

Annual Fund Drive

The Annual Fund Drive is an essential component of the operating budget, representing 10-12% of the annual budget. As of August 31, 2023, thanks to the kindness and compassion of the Manito-wish community, over \$500,000 was awarded in camperships!! Because of you, Camp is able to provide a unique and valuable opportunity for young people to develop important life skills such as resiliency, confidence, empathy, and the ability to build relationships, regardless of their ability to pay. In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to become overwhelmed by technology and social media, which can lead to feelings of isolation and disconnection. By unplugging and spending time in nature, campers are able to disconnect from these distractions and step outside of their comfort zones in a safe and nurturing setting. By contributing to the Annual Fund Drive, you are ensuring that this experience remains accessible to all.

The generosity and compassion of the Manito-wish community is truly admirable and reflects the values of kindness and care that are central to Camp's mission. If you would like more information on development initiatives, please email Jeff Pereles (jeff.pereles@manito-wish.org), or Beth Rondello (beth.rondello@manito-wish.org).

Donor Advised Funds (DAF)

A donor-advised fund (DAF) is a type of giving program that allows you to easily support your favorite charities. You may also be eligible for certain tax benefits. An increasingly popular charitable vehicle, DAFs are an excellent way to both simplify your charitable giving and facilitate your strategic philanthropic goals. If your donor-advised fund is with Fidelity, Schwab, or BNY Mellon, you may recommend a gift to Camp via DAFDirect using the form on Camp's [website](#).

105th Anniversary Celebration – July 22, 2023

This summer, Camp celebrated its 105th anniversary, and over 400 alumni, family, and friends joined in the festivities. The event was filled with traditional and informational activities that allowed attendees to roam the grounds and facilities. From coaching periods of tennis, archery, riflery, to kayaking, paddle boarding, and swimming, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

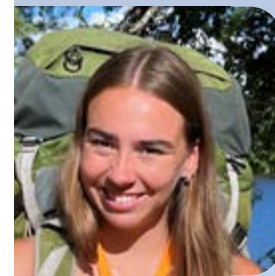
The day's activities also included Camp Tours, sessions with guest speakers and artists, cabin dedication, Picnic lunch, dinner in Nash Lodge, and a Closing Ceremony. The staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the event a special day for everyone were appreciated and recognized for their efforts.

Boulder Lake provided a beautiful, serene backdrop for all the activities. It was a great opportunity for attendees to relive their summer camp memories and create new ones. With the success of this year's celebration, it's safe to say that Manito-wish will continue to be a beloved summer camp for generations to come.



Fires of Friendship Circle Gathering – July 21, 2023

This summer, the annual Fires of Friendship Circle gathering was held in the historic Nash Lodge building.



Anna Marquis

Summer Camp 2016-2019,
Outpost Intermediate Sea Kayaking 2021,
Advanced Western Backpacking 2022

During summer of 2022, I had the privilege of going on a 100 mile, 26 day backpacking trip in Idaho's Sawtooth Bitterroot Range, a subrange of the Rocky Mountains that runs along the border of Idaho and Montana.

Hiking for 10 miles, crossing multiple rivers with an 80-pound backpack weighing me down, and climbing through fallen trees and branches sticking out in every direction. Although that may seem miserable to some, that's what a day in my life looked like for 26 days and believe it or not, I enjoyed every second.

As I have taken time to reflect on my experience, I'd do anything to be able to relive the experience again. Relive every encounter I had with a snake or wolf, relive every day I had to hike through 100 degree weather, and relive every time I had to pull one of my group members out of knee high mud. If not for those little things that came from the experience as a whole, I would not be the same person I am today.

I have been going to Camp Manito-wish YMCA for the past eight summers. I grew up going on five to fourteen day canoeing and kayaking trips but never experienced any wilderness trip longer than that. Ever since I stepped foot there, I always heard a mouthful from the staff members about the famous thirty day backpacking trips that took place in either Idaho, Montana, or Wyoming. As a kid, I always watched the older members at Camp preparing for these long-winded trips but I never thought that it would someday be me.

That summer me, along with many other individuals from all over the country, ventured out on a thirty-hour bus ride that went from northern Wisconsin to Idaho. I spent the next month with only five individuals whom I had never met before. My time in Idaho allowed me to learn countless things about myself, and forced me to learn many valuable life lessons. I am here to tell you ways that this experience has allowed me to apply the many lessons I learned out there to my life at home.

The true value of nature: Although I spent most of my summers in Northwoods and have traveled to many gorgeous destinations with once in a lifetime views, nothing I see will ever compare to the raw beauty of the Idaho mountains. Waking up to the sun beginning to rise over the snowcapped mountains, and the sky painted different shades of pink, was the absolute best way to start my day. One thing I took note of while hiking was the many different types of terrain we came across. Even if we began our day hiking under huge cedar trees surrounded by only forest, hours later we would find ourselves looking out onto miles worth of boulder fields. We climbed up steep rocky passes and just hours later reached the top of them just to see an entire outlook of mountains, lakes, and trees. The sudden change in terrain was something that made each day's hike interesting and allowed me to see how many different

types of unique beauty there is in hiking terrain. Taking in the scenery around me allowed me to connect with others and myself on a deeper level. Being immersed in nature for a long period of time like that brought me to see that I don't always need to have my phone or device by me at all times and there's more to this world than Instagram and Snapchat.

Forming truly meaningful connections: Being with the same group of people for a month straight forces you to create an incredibly unbreakable bond. Meeting and getting to know the authentic version of some amazing people was a truly invigorating experience. It was important during our time together to create a safe space where everyone felt like they could be themselves. Vulnerability with my trip mates made many situations much easier to get through and made me feel more supported than I ever have. Forming such intentional relationships with the people around me taught me to seek out authenticity in my friendships and relationships at home. When I returned to home, I challenged myself to try and find the good in everyone I meet because each individual has their own way of showing their authenticity to others.

Adaptability: Going on a trip like this, there is bound to be some hardships. For me, at times I had a hard time adapting to what was happening around me because of the fast pace changes that came with the trip. Although, there's no way to prepare for something going totally wrong. On day eight of our trip, one of the girls in my group hyperextended her knee climbing over a huge fallen tree that took up the entire width of the path we were on. Being at least ten miles from any evacuation point, we had to keep hiking. The injury forced us to adjust to a slower hiking pace and to completely re-route our original plan. Days after the injury, we reached our halfway point where our injured soldier was flown out by bush plane. The change of our group dynamic and the many hours of looking at maps trying to reroute our original plan were setbacks for the group at the time. Now that I look back, experiences like those were times for us to learn and grow.

Anytime I find myself in a tough situation or I'm experiencing a setback, I love to remind myself that although it may suck in the moment, there's always an opportunity to grow from it. Even though we faced hardships as a group, our trip was not defined by a few negative moments. In reality, our trip was much more than that. That moment when you reach your destination after a long day's hike, looking up at the stars in the middle of the night, and laughing with people I felt I've known for a lifetime are all moments that made the tough times that much more worth it.

Spending an extended period in the mountains, working to form lifelong friendships, and growing through times of hardship are all things that have helped shape me into who I am. Even if a month-long backpacking trip doesn't appeal to you, there are so many ways that you can step outside your comfort zone. I encourage everyone to find something that you enjoy doing but that challenges you at the same time. This experience has taught me that taking risks is worth it in the end and can lead you to become the best version of yourself.

Bryn Lottig, Manito-wish Leadership Director, shared her personal story from the TEDx Stage, of growing up in a substance abuse home, the science behind how I was able to break the cycle and the passion to develop a platform, Kikori App, to help others do the same. You can find the video [here](#).



A SONG ABOUT MANITO-WISH THAT SPEAKS TO THE HEART

Lindsay (Lutton) Sterling '86-88, Pioneer '89, Western '90, Canuck '91, Expo Western '92, Staff '93 Parent '13-23, shared that as she was leaving a Camp reunion, a couple miles south on Highway M, she pulled over and wrote "Breakin' My Heart (Boulder Lake)," a song that's on [Spotify](#), and coming out this fall on Youtube, Apple music, and other music platforms.

Breakin' My Heart (Boulder Lake)

I see Boulder Lake, shining through the pines
I left it long ago, thought I had something to find
Went to the Golden Gate, to the Eiffel Tower
Found love, wouldn't trade those miles of crossed ground
Still I am wondering why I ever left

[Chorus] You're breakin' my heart, you're breakin' my heart
Love this old place, don't want to part
I get this feeling that I should've known from the start
No matter where I go, this is home

Rivers winding, paddles thunk-ing
Loons calling, thunder's coming
Betting on a patch of blue sky
Swimming to an island, watching those eagles fly
Water's so soft and then the wind
It's all coming back, it's all sinking in

Chorus

A couple minutes more ... I'll dream of you when I go
Why I left home looking for something better, I'll never know
I look out on that water and my big aches are all gone
But it's the end of August, time to move on

Chorus

James (Jim) Cisney
Camper 1965 through 1969
Staff Member 1972 - 1976, and 1980
New Fires of Friendship Circle member 2023

As we become older, and are considering formulating our wills, or living trusts, I would like to encourage all to consider bequeathing, at minimum, a portion of your estate to where a piece of your heart may hold some fond memories.

At age 69, I have had many life experiences, some great, some not so great, but Camp Manito-wish will always be remembered as something extra-ordinary in my life experience. Few places hit the "sweet spot" between structure and freedom, play and learning, and spiritual insight and leadership combined with "grounded" life experience, and learning and fun.

If you feel as I do, please consider a bequest. I can't imagine any of us wanting to see Camp succumb to any future financial shortfalls, but rather, on-going prosperity into the future. And who among us does not want to see as many children, and staff, enjoy the community, spirit, and wonders of camp and the "Great North Woods."



Jim on the left, with fellow Sectional Leader Gary Donnermeyer, circa 1975

Share Your Tales from the Trails!

We invite you to share your stories, photos, and reflections from this summer's escapades on social media using [#CampManitowish2023](#) or through our [website](#). Let's keep the campfire burning, even if only virtually, and celebrate the remarkable community that Camp provides!



BIRTHS



Sara Farrow and Andrew Farrow welcomed **Rowan Farrow** on November 7, 2022. The family resides in Waukesha, WI.



Kate Stirr and Ryan Jones welcomed **Aldo Marten Jones Stirr** on January 24, 2023. Big sister, **Wren Juniper Jones Stirr** and Camp alum family members celebrating the arrival of Aldo include **Gail Stir, Emily (Stirr) Hager, Anna Stirr**, along with many aunts, uncles, and cousins from the **Brown, Goeks** and **Reid** families.



Sarah DeChellis and **Lincoln McLain** welcomed **Levon James McLain** on March 16, 2023. The family resides in Boise, ID



Katie Hume Phillips and Jeremy Phillips welcomed **Finnegan C. Phillips** on August 23, 2023. Big sister, **Kora** and Camp alum family members celebrating the arrival of Finnegan include **Don & Julie O'Melia** and **Ryan Hume**. The family resides in Lake Tomahawk, WI.

WEDDINGS



Haley Bianco & Carl Hyler were married on May 27, 2023. Celebrating with Carl & Haley was Manito-wish alum, **Kevin Gibbens**. The couple resides in Sault St. Marie, MI.



Morgan Holcomb Schulte & Brian Iltis were married on May 27, 2023. Celebrating with Brian & Morgan were Manito-wish alumni **Sharon Iltis, Nathan Iltis, Cooper Holcomb Schulte, Lincoln Holcomb Schulte**, members of the **Smith** Family, and many Manito-wish friends. The couple lives in Missoula, MT.



Erica Skibbie & Adam Long were married on July 8, 2023. Celebrating with Adam & Erica were Manito-wish alumni **Sean Hurtubise, Jessie Rooney, Hillary Eggers Shedd, and Danny DeCleene**. The couple resides in Villa Park, IL.



Sara Nicholson & Peter Bradley were married on August 19, 2023. Celebrating with Peter and Sara was Manito-wish alum **Mark Bradley**, and many Manito-wish friends.

IN MEMORY OF

The Camp Manito-wish YMCA community joins in prayerful remembrance of friends and alumni who have passed away.

Charles Buchanan, Camper '42-'46, Canuck '47, Staff '50, '51, Board Member '60-'77

William Rayne*, Camper '44-'47, Canuck '49, Board Member '75-'80, Emeritus Board Member

Thilo H. Best, Camper '45-'47

Thomas I. Rodhouse*, Camper '47-'49, Canuck '52, Staff '52, Board Member '92-'97

Jeanne Rehwinkel, Camper '49, '50

Eugene F. Corcoran Jr., Camper '49-'51, Staff '54-'56

Roger Brown*, Camper '50, '51

Wells Wagner, Camper '55

Janet B. Jeffcott*, Camper '56, '57, Canuck '58, Staff '59, '60, International Trip '05, '07

Henri George Schuler*, Camper '57-'59

Michael Buchanan*, Camper '71, '72, Pioneer '73, Canuck '74, Staff '74-'77

Lilly M. Greenebaum*, International Trip '74, Memorial Day Work Weekend

Martha Roper, Camper '65-'68

Christopher Hillenbrand, '76, '77

Marian Bolz*, Board of Directors '77-'82

Jack Bolz*, Board of Directors '85-'06, Emeritus Board Member

Christopher H. Leverington, Camper '92-'95, Sea Kayaking '96, Canuck '97, Expo Canuck '98, Staff '99, '00

Anne Bolz*, Camper parent, Camper grandparent

Richard Calder, Camper parent, Camper grandparent

Janet Caroll, Camper parent, Camper grandparent

Mona Wiechmann, Camper parent, Camper grandparent

**denotes Fires of Friendship Circle Member*

CAMP MANITO-WISH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Manito-wish Volunteers are the backbone of Camp Manito-wish YMCA, and we are grateful for their unwavering support and dedication. With nearly 400 volunteers, we are able to provide exceptional programs and facilities to our campers, staff and families. These opportunities are available throughout the year, whether you prefer to volunteer onsite or remotely from your home.

If you are interested in getting involved, there are a variety of ways to do so. You can help with maintenance and upkeep of our facilities, serve as a mentor to our staff, or provide outreach to alumni, greet families and alumni and more. Whatever your skills and interests, we have a place for you at Camp Manito-wish YMCA.

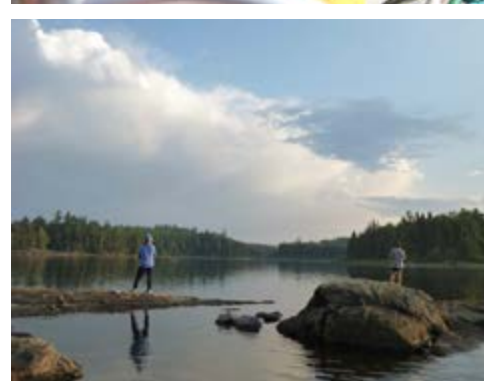
We encourage you to reach out to us to [learn more](#) about how you can make a difference.

Thank you again to our amazing volunteers for their continued support and dedication!

ALUMNI MENTORSHIP

The value of networking and developing relationships is a continual process throughout your life, not just your career. The Manito-wish Alumni Mentorship Program is just one aspect of the value of a Manito-wish experience. The program enables alumni to share their professional and personal experience and expertise with current seasonal staff. The connections made in the program help prepare our seasonal staff for a successful future, navigate uncertainty, and grow their network.

If you are interested learning more about being a mentor or mentee, please complete the interest form on Camp's [website](#).



Camp Manito-wish YMCA

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(715) 385-2312

manito-wish.org
manito-wish.org/donate



Mission:

To enrich the character and leadership development of each person who has a Manito-wish experience by challenging them to grow in wisdom, in stature, in favor with God, and with one another.

Vision:

The Manito-wish experience develops confident, responsible, and enlightened leaders who will improve the world in which they live.

Commitment:

Camp Manito-wish YMCA strives to create an inclusive environment by upholding human dignity, valuing diversity, and acknowledging unique experiences.



With a commitment to environmental stewardship the Tripper is offered in digital format. The digital version of the Tripper, and the links referred to in articles, may be found online on Camp's website at manito-wish.org/news/tripper.