



UNPLUGGED. INSPIRED. PRESENT.

Trippler – Spring 2026
CAMP MANITO-WISH YMCA

Experience
MANITO-WISH[®]
CAMP MANITO-WISH YMCA

DIRECTOR'S TRAIL

Judy Tegtmeier, Chief Executive Officer
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Spring Greetings from the shores of Boulder Lake!

We have had an amazing winter, and the trails were busy with people enjoying a more typical Northwoods winter. There was nearly three feet of snow on the ground at the beginning of April, but hints of warmer weather remind us that spring is here.

There is great energy building for summer as we onboard new program directors and hire and train seasonal staff, continue maintenance of buildings and equipment, review programming, and look forward to our new sailing fleet of RS Zest boats. Our operations team is working well and bringing together all parts of our programming to deliver an excellent, transformative experience to our campers.

We are recruiting campers and families for summer fun on Boulder Lake. [Check out our website and join us!](#) We are excited for summer!

I continue to be amazed with and most grateful for the outstanding level of support we receive from our alumni and volunteer community in support of the work we do to deliver a Manito-wish experience to those who wish to participate. Thank you to all who give of their energy, time and resources to help provide an important life-changing camping experience. We appreciate you!

As I connect with alumni from near and far; it is clear that no matter how much time they spent at Manito-wish or their age when they were at camp, their experience was memorable, transformative and they can recall vivid details from time spent at camp. The values they learned and lifelong friendships they made are cherished to this day. We have and continue developing confident and enlightened leaders who will improve the world in which they live.

Please come for a visit. I look forward to greeting alumni as well as welcoming folks new to camp and giving you a tour around our amazing property!

Peace on the Waterways,

Judy Tegtmeier

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 22-25	MEMORIAL DAY WORK WEEKEND	JULY 8	CAMPER FAMILY MEET UP LIONS PAVILION @ BJ COMMUNITY CENTER 3-5PM	AUGUST 3	CLOSING DAY Girls ELE
JUNE 20	OPENING DAY Boys Camp & ELE Outpost	JULY 9	CLOSING DAY Boys Camp & Outpost	AUGUST 8	CAMPER FAMILY MEET UP LIONS PAVILION @ BJ COMMUNITY CENTER 3-5PM
JUNE 27	OPENING DAY Outpost	JULY 13-18	FAMILY CAMP 6-Day	AUGUST 9	CLOSING DAY Girls Camp & Outpost
JULY 3	CLOSING DAY Boys ELE	JULY 21	OPENING DAY Girls Camp & ELE Outpost	AUGUST 12-15	FAMILY CAMP 4-Day
				AUGUST 14	CLOSING DAY Boys & Girls Expo

OPERATIONS OVERVIEW



Karen Christopherson
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
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Sean Diamond
CAMP DIRECTOR
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Luke Wade
WILDERNESS RISK DIRECTOR
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Kelly Huber
OUTPOST PROGRAM DIRECTOR
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Jake Frances-Fischer
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR
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Emma Kranz
SUMMER PROGRAM DIRECTOR
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Your Operations team is in its second year of working collaboratively and intentionally to support the Manito-wish experience for our campers and staff. It has truly felt meaningful to work alongside such a thoughtful and committed group. Together we share a clear vision for hiring the seasonal staff who will help bring the Manito-wish experience to life this spring, summer and fall. It has been an honor to serve with Luke, Sean and Tim.

Seasonal Staff Retreat Returns

Throughout our long history, we have welcomed invested and talented seasonal staff during the winter months to come together, share ideas and imagine how camp can continue to grow in impact and magic for both campers and staff. After a brief pause, we were grateful to gather with a group of our 2025 seasonal staff for winter fun, thoughtful conversation and meaningful reflection on last year's seasons. This time helped us look back with care and look ahead with intention as we created a shared vision for moving forward.

We explored a wide range of topics. Much of our energy centered on strengthening our seasonal staff culture, deepening relationships and finding creative ways to expand our evening tradition of Section Games so they are even more engaging and joyful.

Camp Well

Sean and I had the privilege of attending the [Alliance for Camp Health](#) and the [American Camp Association Camp Well Level Two](#) training this winter. The experience affirmed the value of the work we do each day to intentionally build community and support the growth of young people. The stories we see in real time were reinforced by research and data that highlight the power of connection and belonging.

The training also broadened our perspective beyond the camping world. We were introduced to accessible tools and research on well-being from Dr. Richard Davidson, vulnerability and leadership from Dr. Brene Brown, developmental relationships from the Search Institute, and emotional intelligence, mental health, and resiliency from the American Psychological Association. Each piece helped us better understand what young people need in order to feel grounded and supported.

Camp Well challenged us to keep refining our program design so that every person who steps into our community feels safe, supported and meaningfully connected while showing up as their best self and contributing in ways that feel authentic and important to them.

American Camp Association Renewal

Part of our annual review at Manito-wish YMCA involves evaluating and aligning our practices with the standards set by accrediting organizations such as the American Camp Association and Praesidium, our child abuse prevention and youth protection accreditation. These reviews help ensure that our programs remain grounded in the highest expectations for safety, quality, and care. Additionally, we participate in onsite visits every few years that allow reviewers to take a closer look at how we operate. These visits require thoughtful preparation, detailed documentation, and a clear understanding of our systems and practices.

During the summer of 2025, we completed our onsite accreditation with Praesidium. This summer, we will welcome peer review visitors from the American Camp Association. The American Camp Association is the only nationwide accrediting organization for camps, and its standards in health, safety and risk management form the foundation of our programming and operational practices. Knowing that our work is aligned with these standards helps ensure that every camper and staff member has a safe and meaningful experience at Manito-wish.

Our operations team has been deeply engaged in preparing for this year's American Camp Association visit. This includes reviewing our health care procedures, personnel policies, communication with families, wilderness tripping policies and procedures, staff trainings and many additional areas of our work. We are looking forward to sharing the strengths of our program and highlighting the thoughtful systems that support our community each day.

SUMMER CAMP Sean Diamond, Camp Director

We are excited to have Emma Kranz join us as the Summer Program Director for 2026. Emma has a long history at Camp, beginning as a camper and her staff journey started in 2018 as a Tripping Co-Leader. She then went on to be a counselor, boathouse instructor, camp support, mental health director, waterfront director, and now the Summer Program Director. We are excited to have Emma in this role, mentoring our staff and supporting our campers.

Seasonal Staff Hiring Status

The hiring season is well underway and has been strong. This fall our team spent intentional time reviewing our evaluation system to be sure we are supporting the growth of our seasonal staff not only in skill, but also in character. Sean and Luke met with all returning staff and centered their conversations around character, growth and each person's goals for the season ahead.

We also put focused energy into strengthening our recruitment efforts. We updated our interview questions to better reflect the character qualities we value, and we expanded our outreach by visiting more universities in surrounding states. These efforts have paid off. We are excited to share that we are currently 75% hired for the summer.

International hiring has also been going well. We have already welcomed 34 international staff, with a goal of hiring closer to 40 by the start of summer. This summer our team will include staff from Mexico, China, Great Britain, Ireland, Scotland, Turkey, Hungary, Jordan, Colombia and Egypt. We are grateful for the diversity, perspective and lived experience they bring to our community.

If you or someone you know is looking for meaningful work this summer, we are still hiring drivers for our trip transportation. We are also looking for Spring and Fall Leadership Facilitators.

FAMILY CAMP

Ellen Osthus and Julie Hahm will once again take the lead with our Family Camp program. One of the most heartwarming moments was seeing former campers, now parents, playing Wells Fargo with their own children. It is a memory that will stay with us for a long time.

Family Camp is a wonderful place to welcome new families and offer a meaningful first look at what Manito-wish is all about. For many parents, the experience helps ease the nerves that naturally come with sending a child to camp for three weeks. If you have not had the chance to attend Family Camp yet, we encourage you to consider it, whether you hope to inspire your child to attend in future years or simply want to experience the joy of camp again yourself.

This year, we are especially grateful to welcome an increased number of seasoned staff members. Their experience has strengthened how we run our programs and helped us ensure that each Family Camp experience is as supportive and beneficial as possible for every participant.

OUTPOST Luke Wade, Wilderness Risk Director

With summer 2026 getting closer every day, things are moving forward at a brisk pace in the world of Outpost. Registration is looking healthy, with 91 participants registered across 17 trips as of mid-March! The breakdown of 2026 Outpost trips is as follows: 2 Isle Royale Backpacking (1 Boy's, 1 Girl's), 2 Pioneer Canoeing (1 Boy's, 1 Girl's), 4 Nipigon Sea Kayaking (1 Boy's, 3 Girl's), 5 Advanced Westerns (2 Boy's, 3 Girl's), 2 Advanced Canucks (1 Boy's, 1 Girl's), and 2 Expo Alaskans (1 Boy's, 1 Girl's). A significant point of interest for this year is the fact that Boy's Canoeing trips are back! After having no trips of this type last year, we have both a Boy's Pioneer and Advanced Canuck running for 2026, which I am thrilled about. We will also have our first Boy's Idaho Western in quite a while, as the last two Westerns to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness were both Girl's trips. Finally, our Expo Alaskans have 7 participants each which is very exciting and speaks volumes about the trips our 2025 Advanced leaders facilitated that have so many participants returning to Manito-wish. With a total of 9 people on each Expo, both trips will fly into Gates of the Arctic National Park for their time on trail!

As my second summer at Manito-wish approaches, I can feel my anticipation build with each small sign of the changing seasons from water droplets falling off icicles outside my office window, and green pine needles gleaming in the bright sunshine, to early notes of birdsongs filtering through the trees with each walk along the pathways of Camp. Last summer was a wonderful introduction to this community, and the fantastic people who make the Manito-wish experience happen. This summer I'm looking forward to another great season, with a bit more knowledge of the workings of Camp under my belt. I'm also delighted to have Kelly Huber returning for a second summer as the Outpost Director, where she is already thinking about projects like improving trail meals and ways to set up leader pairs for smoother pre-trip experiences.

While I have multiple goals for both this summer and beyond, one thing I'm particularly looking forward to is continuing to improve Outpost staff training. An observation I had last summer was that a lot of discipline-specific learning took place only on training trips, and that while most in-camp sessions were broadly applicable, there was room for more specific learning at Camp as well. As we design this summer's Outpost training schedule, Kelly and I will be looking for opportunities to have leaders attend sessions that are more relevant to their trip. There will still be full staff sessions too so we can ensure all leaders have the knowledge and skills necessary to continue leading high quality trips for our participants. The sense of community and environment of learning that come from staff training is one of my favorite parts of working in outdoor education, and I'm always seeking ways to improve both the experience and results of training.

LEADERSHIP

On belay, belay is on, climbing, climb on. Group contracts are signed, our staff are eagerly awaiting their spring start dates, and our partner organizations are finalizing paperwork and logistics for their adventures north. We are ready and excited to welcome our Leadership groups on site at the end of April.

Our spring season will continue through the end of May. As our Leadership team transitions into the summer, they will facilitate teambuilding, low ropes and high ropes with our Outpost trip groups, along with a number of our traditional summer camp groups. They will also host several partner groups throughout the summer.

Our busiest Leadership season arrives in the fall and runs from the end of August through the middle of October. Our calendar is already looking strong, and we still have space for a few additional groups. We invite you to consider the Manito-wish Leadership Program for your youth, college or professional groups. Our skilled facilitators help participants discover their strengths, build confidence, and grow into more effective and collaborative teams.

Thank you for being part of a community that continues to learn, grow, and lead together. We are grateful for every person who steps into these experiences and helps make them meaningful.

Bailey Brandner, Marketing & Recruitment Director
bailey.brandner@manito-wish.org



Looking Ahead to Summer: Building Momentum for 2026

While fall is a time for reflection, spring is when the vision for summer truly comes to life. Across the country, our team has been hard at work connecting with new families, reconnecting with alumni, and sharing the Manito-wish story with the next generation of campers and staff.

Momentum on the Road

This winter and spring, our recruitment efforts have taken us coast to coast. From Texas to California, New York to Florida, and throughout our core Midwest communities, we've had the privilege of meeting incredible families and young adults eager to learn more about Manito-wish.

Even more inspiring has been the support from alumni who have shown up, shared their stories, and helped bring camp to life in these spaces. Whether at a camp fair, a coffee shop gathering, or a university visit, these personal connections are what make our community so special and so strong!

A Growing Camp Community

Thanks to these efforts, we're seeing exciting growth in interest from both prospective campers and staff. Families are seeking meaningful, unplugged experiences for their children in places where they can build confidence, develop leadership skills, and form lasting friendships. Time and time again, Manito-wish stands out as a place where that transformation happens.

As we look toward summer 2026, we're energized by the opportunity to welcome new campers into the fold while continuing to deepen the experience for returning campers who already call this place home. There are still spots available for Summer Camp, ELE, and Family Camp, so please help us spread the word!

The Power of Your Story

If there's one thing we're reminded of every day, it's that the Manito-wish story is best told by you. A conversation. A recommendation. A shared memory.

These are the moments that inspire a family to take a closer look, or a college student to consider spending a summer on staff. Your voice continues to be the most powerful way we grow this community.

With registration and hiring well underway, we invite you to continue sharing camp with the people in your life. Whether it's encouraging a first-time camper, connecting us with a potential staff member, or simply reflecting on your own experience, it all plays a role in shaping the summers ahead.

Counting Down to Summer

With each passing day, we get closer to the return of paddles in the water, laughter echoing across camp, and the countless meaningful moments that define a Manito-wish summer.

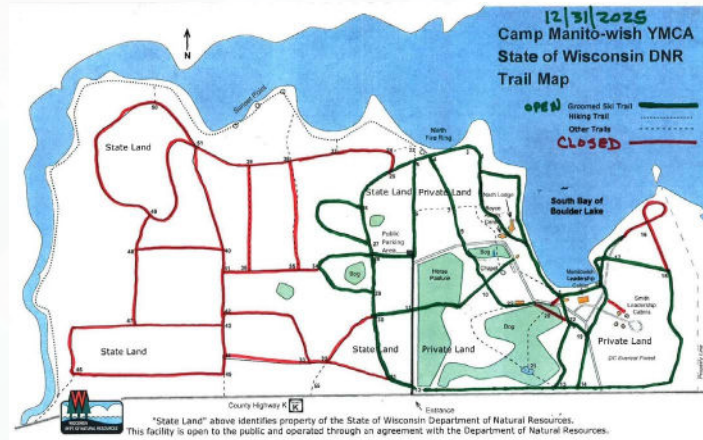
After 100+ years, it's this shared excitement and the people who make it possible that continue to carry our mission forward.

PROPERTY UPDATE

Tim Sheehan, Property Manager
tim.sheehan@manito-wish.org

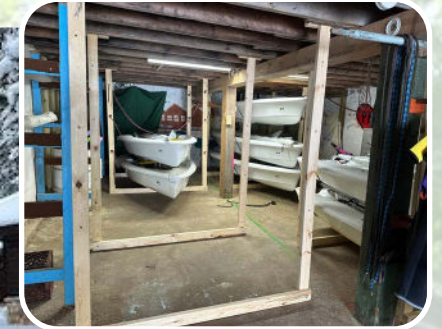


Greetings from Boulder Lake where we have had quite the winter with well over 60 inches of fallen snow and it is only March. During November and December, we experienced two big weather events (rain/ice/snow) which caused MANY trees to succumb to the ice and snow. The property team and two local volunteers (thank you Andy and Levi) spent 4 weeks clearing the camp trails and a small part of the state land ski trails. Lots of time has been spent clearing the roads, walks and entrances to our winter buildings each week for the office staff and our weekly, winter Manito-Wish Groups. A lot of trail work and campsite cleanup remain for spring. We have, however, been fortunate to have many nights where the awesome northern lights have shown brightly over Boulder Lake.



As you may know, work never ends as we continue to care for the property at this amazing place on Boulder Lake called Camp Manito-wish YMCA. Over the winter, the property team has been busy performing daily building heat checks, snow removal, ski trail grooming, building inspections, facility maintenance, weekly cabin turnovers, and cleaning while completing various other projects. Camps' Boulder Lake property looks better each day thanks to the property team members' passion and commitment - thank you Steve, Jerry, Ross, Jacob, Tom, and Dave for your hard work - it is appreciated!

Bay 7 Window Project - thanks to a crew from Nasi Construction, Bay 7 (Camp's cabin by the "Island Swim" island) has had all the original windows replaced with new Lincoln Windows. A long overdue project that will last for decades.



New Sailboat Fleet - after two deliveries and much shuffling, our new fleet of sailboats are resting comfortably on the newly constructed sailboat racks inside the sail shack. Thanks Jacob, for building the new racks - they are awesome! Many thanks to two donors who supported the purchase of our new R.S. Zest sailboat fleet. The 2026 campers and staff will be the first to sail the new fleet.

As we look towards future planning and use of the Boulder Lake property, our original land survey which was completed in 2016, will be updated by Wilderness Surveying of Minocqua as much has changed around the property over the last decade.

Memorial Day Volunteer Weekend - please join us for the 57th annual Memorial Day Volunteer Work Weekend May 22-25, 2026. Bring your family and friends for an exciting weekend and join the staff as we open camp from the long winter season and get it ready for the upcoming program season. Contact us for more information and register here - Memorial Day Work Weekend Registration - Camp Manito-wish YMCA Summer Camp. We all hope you can join us for a fun weekend!

In closing, a big shout out and Thank You to all who continue to passionately support Camp Manito-wish YMCA - your commitment is impactful, appreciated and helps to improve the world in which we all live.

If you have questions about the property, please contact me at tim.sheehan@manito-wish.org

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Jeff Pereles, Development Director
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Megan Holmes,
Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement
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DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The needs in front of Manito-wish are to ensure our financial foundation, embrace every young person who wants to be a Manito-wish participant or seasonal staff member, and deliver programs and facilities of excellence. Here is an update to the course we have set to address these needs.

Alumni Outreach

There is nothing more enjoyable than connecting with Manito-wish alumni and friends. “Virtual Tripper Nights” were held in February and March. Board President Sarah Kendrick, Judy, Jeff, Tim, Karen, Sean, Bailey, and Megan ZOOMed with alumni to discuss the state of Camp, our Programs, Vision, and listened to alumni sharing favorite memories.

This past fall, winter, and spring Camp also visited alumni and held staff & camper recruitment events in Minneapolis, New York, Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, Austin, All Parts Florida, Indianapolis, Glendale Heights, Evanston, Naperville, Loyola University, and St. Louis & Sikeston, MO. Make sure to check out the upcoming events page of the website for events in your neighborhood and at camp from now through August.

Volunteer Opportunity-Memorial Day

As Tim mentioned, we will be celebrating our 57th Memorial Day Work Weekend! We typically welcome over 200 volunteers from babies to participants in their 80s to help us get Camp ready for the summer. Please plan to join us this year and become hooked on our largest alumni event! <https://manito-wish.org/programs/family-programs/family-camp/memorial-day-work-weekend/>

Development Gift Initiatives to Grow Our Endowment

The Camp Manito-wish YMCA Endowment Fund is a fund that was established with the help of generous individual gifts from long-term 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.

Campership Funds, General Funds, Building Funds, Program Funds, Staff Funds, and Pledges Receivable totaled more than \$18 million as of the audited financial statements for fiscal year end October 31, 2025. The funds in the endowment fund are invested in perpetuity, with a board-approved percentage of the average value used annually 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.

Increasing the Staff Incentive Endowment Funds

These funds are critical for Manito-wish to remain competitive, allow us to attract, develop, and retain the highest-quality staff and ensure consistency every year.

For the fiscal year ending October 31, 2025, financial report, please see the Annual Report 2025 on Camp’s website. <https://manito-wish.org/donate/annual-report/>

Capital Campaign

As Tim mentioned in his report, thanks to Manito-wish alumni, we have added 10 new R.S. Zest sailboats, bringing the total to 12. This replaces all the lasers and butterflies. The R.S. Zest is an excellent teaching sailboat. Thank you to our anonymous donors!

At Camp Manito-wish, we understand the importance of providing a comfortable and safe environment for our campers. That is why our cabins play a crucial role in our mission to provide a home away from home for our campers. Since 1919, we have been committed to maintaining the highest standards for our cabins and facilities. We call this philosophy “Cabins of Excellence,” and it is an ongoing mission to ensure that every cabin and our facilities meet our standards and program needs. Our dedicated staff inspect each cabin annually to ensure that it is in excellent condition. We rate the cabins according to how well they accommodate our campers and staff, how comfortable they are, and how they stand up to normal wear and tear caused by enthusiastic use and the four seasons of northwoods exposure. We take pride in knowing that our cabins are not only functional and safe but also provide a welcoming and comfortable environment for our campers.

The next phase includes the eventual rebuilding of **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.

JOIN THE ANNUAL FUND TODAY!

This annual event raises funds to allow for the expansion and enrichment of current programs, staff training, underwrite equipment, and provides for Camp’s greatest budgetary needs, which includes Camperships, our financial assistance program. We rely on your support to reach our goal of \$600,000 to meet the greatest needs of Manito-wish. Through March 31st, Camp has raised 81% of our Goal!

Your support will:

- Remove any financial barrier to attendance!
- Provide high quality programming and staff!
- Care for the maintenance and upkeep of facilities.
- Maintain financial stability during economic fluxes.
- Provides Camp with the flexibility to best put your gift to work.

Last year Camp provided over \$600,000, through our endowment distribution and our Annual Fund Drive, of financial assistance to Summer, Outpost, Family, and Leadership programs! Your support will positively affect over 2,400 participants in 2026 in a lasting way.

Our campers are signing up, our staff are applying to return, and we are preparing the orange canoes! All that is left is to have the continued support of our caring Manito-wish community. Will you join us with a gift for the annual campaign?

Please join us by making your gift online at: <https://camp-manito-wish-ymca-inc.networkforgood.com/projects/10931-annual-campaign> or by sending a gift to Camp Manito-wish YMCA, PO Box 246, Boulder Junction, WI, 54512-0246.

Thank you for your consideration!

If you would like to find out more information on Manito-wish’s alumni and development activities please email Judy Tegtmeyer - judy.tegtmeyer@manito-wish.org , Jeff Pereles - jeff.pereles@manito-wish.org, or Megan Holmes - megan.holmes@manito-wish.org or call us at 715-385-2312.<https://manito-wish.org/donate/ways-to-give/>

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. <https://manito-wish.org/donate/ways-to-give/>

OUR COMMITMENT

Camp Manito-wish YMCA holds human and environmental values high. We strive to create an inclusive environment by upholding human dignity, valuing diversity, and acknowledging unique experiences, and we are committed to protecting the environment and the health and safety of our campers, participants, employees, and overall Manito-wish community.

The Board of Directors continues to be diligent in viewing its actions, decisions, and processes through the lens of our commitment. We strive to create a board that represents the members of the communities that we serve.



Stay Connected to Camp: Exciting Opportunities Await!

We offer a variety of ways for you to engage with Camp!



****Want to welcome camper families and explore the Northwoods?**** Join our Opening Day Volunteer Crew!



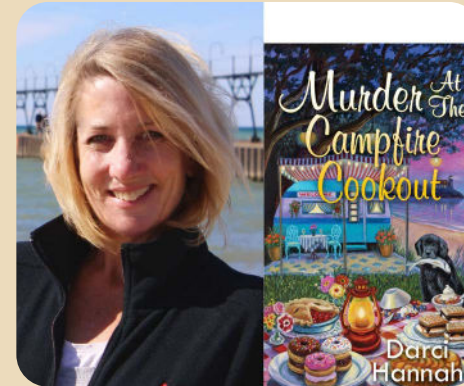
****Prefer to volunteer from home?****

We have buses in different areas that transport campers.
Become one of our Camp Manito-wish greeters at one of the many bus stops!

Contact Megan Holmes (megan.holmes@manito-wish.org) 715-385-2312 ext. 229 for details.

ALUMNI UPDATES

NEWSWORTHY



Every year around her birthday, January 28, she received a card from Camp Manito-wish, which always reminded her of her youth and the camp nestled in the pines. She loved camp so much she became a counselor after high school and returned after her first year at IU. It was still the best job she'd had, second only to being a mom of three sons.

Back then, she was Darcie Hilgers. Attending camp as a child shaped her physically, mentally, and spiritually and sparked her adventurous spirit.

She married John Hannah, whom she met in college, and they've been married 39 years. They live in Michigan and have three grown sons, a grandson, and two dogs. When her boys were young, she quit her graphic arts job to stay at home and began writing a novel during sleepless nights.

It took years to publish, with many rejections, but she remembered canoeing in protected lakes filled with mosquitoes and black flies—difficult but essential lessons in perseverance.

Now, as a published author for 16 years with 12 books out and more to come, she writes cozy mysteries after starting with historical fiction. Her upcoming release on June 30th is a camping-themed murder mystery adventure! See her information [HERE](#).

She was excited to hold her first book signing at Boswell Book Co. in Milwaukee on Thursday, April 16th. She reconnected with many of her old camp friends from Milwaukee.



Hundreds of days traveling in remote wildernesses with Camp Manito-wish shaped alumna Becca Katz's unshakable belief that **human-nature connections are good for people and our planet**. And led to a worry: *what about the billions of people who would never get to visit these wild places?*

Now Becca works with [Good Natured Learning](#) to ensure students and educators can access nature's benefits and connect with the Earth, just by going to school.

Becca recently took Good Natured Learning's work (in Kenya and the US) to the TEDx stage with her talk: The Power of Apple-A-Day Nature Connection in Schools.

Because, as the saying goes, "an apple a day....keeps the doctor away."

In other words,

Small, meaningful doses of something good add up.

That's why Becca's advocating for (at least!) bite-sized nature connections in EVERY SCHOOL on the PLANET. And you should too.

👉 Please listen to Becca Katz's TED talk!
[link to Alum's TED talk](#)

ALUMNI UPDATES

BIRTHS



Kiki Kapral and Brad Young welcomed their daughter, Cecilia Blanch Kapral Young, on July 4th, 2025. Big brother **Woody** and **Aunt Kelsey Kapral** are among the many alumni who celebrated her arrival. The family currently resides in Riverside, IL.



Morgan (Holcomb Schulte) Iltis and **Brian Iltis** welcomed their son **Nolan Brooks Iltis** on November 13th, 2025. Alumni who celebrated his arrival are Uncles **Cooper Holcomb Schulte**, **Lincoln Holcomb Schulte**, and **Nathan Iltis**. Grandparents **Sharon Iltis** and the late **Jon Iltis**. The family currently resides in Missoula, MT.



Ellie Emery and Corey Robinson welcomed their son, **Theodore (Teddy) Emery Robinson** on September 29th, 2025. Alumni who celebrated his arrival are his big brother, **Desmond**, **Aunt Nina Emery**, **Uncle Bob Emery**, and cousins, **Otto Emery** and **David Williams**. Teddy's birth was also undoubtedly celebrated by his Nana **Jenny Emery**, who they lost 15 days before his arrival but who loved him dearly nonetheless, and would have been very proud to see him in his Manito-wish outfit. The family currently resides in Cortez, CO.

WEDDINGS



Liz Franczyk and Matt Hewitt were married on August 11th, 2025 along the Namekagon River in an intimate ceremony. In September, they celebrated in Milwaukee with a lot of friends, family, and alumni, including **Jeff & Lisa Pereles**, **Lucy Reeve**, **Nancy Jacobs**, **Dan Schley**, **Barb Haig**, **Imy Schley**, **Katie and John Reinhart**, and **Nick, Jude, Isis**, and **Barbara Franczyk**. The couple resides in Cable, WI.

Get your announcement listed in the Tripper!

Email megan.holmes@manito-wish.org to submit your update.

ALUMNI UPDATES



Elizabeth Erickson and **Chase Christopherson** were married on August 20th, 2025, on Madeline Island in an intimate ceremony. Alumni in attendance were **Anna, Brandt, Everlee**, and **Karen Christopherson**. The couple resides in Arbor Vitae, WI.



Ali Warner and Michael Smith were married on October 6th, 2025, in Bellvue, Colorado. Alumni in attendance were **Lexi (Brumder) Stover**, **Caila (Fredrick) Kuehn**, **Andy Kuehn**, **Maggie Moore**, **Brooke (Barry) Keschl**, **Laura (Smith) Pope**, **Laura Henneghan**, **Catherine Jensen**, **Kenzie Zaumseil**, **Brynna Wald**, **Adair McMahon**, **Alex Goles**, **Annie Mayer**, **Thomas Griffith**, **Sara Nicholson**, **Peter Bradley**, **Frankie Day**, **Shawn Cope**, **Aubree Eck**, and **Carter Lindley**! They celebrated by serenading the couple with "On the Loose". The couple resides in Edwards, CO.

IN MEMORY OF

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

- Cynthia "Cindy" (Read) Coakley, Camper 1978-1980, Pioneer 1981
 - *Joy (Cronan) Corcoran, Camper 1984 & 1985, Family Camp
 - *Sally (Duckworth) Hansen, Camper 1956, 1957, & 1960, 1964 Staff
 - Janet R. Heller, Camper 1963 & 1964
 - Charlotte (Nankivell) Henry, Camper 1963-1965, International Trip 1966, Staff 1967 & 1968
 - Gordon E. Hering, Camper 1970, Pioneer 1971
 - *Carolyn Jacobs, Volunteer 2006-2026
 - *Frank S. Koffend, Camper 1949
 - Betsy L. (Tillman) Kulick, Camper 1968
 - Don A. Osimitz, Camper 1970
 - *Jeanne Rayne, Family Camp 2008
 - Craig Taylor Robertson, Camper 1966
 - Philip R. Seefeld, Camper 1956
 - *Edward "Ed" Carl, Stoeve Jr., Staff 1943 & 1947
 - Michael L. Telleen, Camper 1961 & 1962
 - Peter Welnick, Family Camp 2023
- *denotes Fires of Friendship Circle Member

Camp Manito-wish YMCA

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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