



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
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SUMMER
2022 IS
COMING

The Birchbark

May 2022

CAMP SLOANE YMCA | www.campsloane.org | (860) 435-2557

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

What an exciting time to be at Sloane! As we (somewhat) emerge from the pandemic, things at camp are starting to get back to normal. We are planning on going back to our original schedule of activities in the coming summer. Gone are the pod groups and groups not being able to interact with one another. Back are the coed activities, inter camp and all camp activities. Sleep Away campers will be engaging in the skill classes in the mornings and will be doing free swim and village activities in the afternoon.

Those morning skill classes have a new twist this year. In the past, campers chose their activities on the first Monday and second Sunday of a two week session. Afterwards, our village and Program Area Directors would engage in a tedious process, sometimes stretching long into the night, of placing 250+ kids into a schedule of skills classes for the week. For years, that was the only way to assure everyone got their first choice and two others from their top ten. This year, we have devised a way to use our camp management software to do this for us. It won't work without you though. If you are attending sleep away camp this year and have not gone online to choose your skills classes, please do so as soon as possible. Just [log into your account here](#).

You will also notice that camp is getting a facelift of sorts this year. Last Fall, we repainted the exterior of the dining hall. Inside the dining hall you will notice new doors and a new seating arrangement. We have all new tables and chairs – with backs! Like the table of Arthurian legend, our tables are round and, with no head to the table, signify that all around it are equals. Well, that and it makes for better conversation and connection when sitting and talking at meals. Around camp several of the buildings have had their roofs replaced including the Valley Camp Director's cabin (Mr. Orova's cabin), the Day Camp cabin, the Hiking Hootch, The Library, the Store and the Fagal Cabin (first cabin on the left at the top of the hill past the office). In the program areas you will find 14 new Kayaks, 3 new Aqua-Finn sailboats, 12 new mountain bikes and a new ski boat.

Lastly, enrollment is through the roof and we have waiting lists in many programs – both the Day and Sleep Away camps. Gone are the days of waiting until spring break to register. Though we still have some spots, the pickings are slim. Our day camp was expanded this year and yet was still full in nearly every age group by February. Sleep away camp already has waiting lists in many age groups. If you haven't signed up for camp, call for availability. I would encourage those on the waiting list to remain there as we will be giving the waiting list campers a priority registration period prior to opening up camp for registration next fall.

We are all looking forward to a great summer this year. We are excited to have so many campers back and new campers to share the joy of Sloane this year!

See You 'Round the Campfire,



Bear Bryant

Executive Director/CEO
Camp Sloane YMCA



THANK YOU #SLOANEFAMILY

VOLUNTEER WEEKEND

We had almost 100 people attend Volunteer Weekend to help us get camp ready for the summer. Over the course of the two days, we got all the tents, bunks and cubbies set up; organized the store; did work in the barn; raked lots of woodchips and did lots of cleaning in the cabins around camp.

Our volunteers even got to be the first to enjoy our new tables and chairs in the dining hall!

We are so grateful to every person who showed up and helped us... we couldn't have done it without you!

The countdown to summer is officially ON!



SPRING ASK - 7 weeks to go!

Will you help send a young person to camp?

Help is welcomed in many different amounts. Some kids need just a little more support to help them attend camp. Others need much more.

No matter the amount, we guarantee you will enable another child to experience the summer that will change their life.



22

\$7,000

With your help we can send 22 more kids to camp, we just need to raise \$7,000 – we are close!

[**DONATE HERE**](#)

DO YOU HAVE?

We are always on the lookout for great donations that can help our camp programs or facilities.

This year, we are working on revamping our library and are seeking new (or gently used) books, appropriate for grades 3-11.

We are also upgrading the furniture in all of our cabins and are looking for crate style ('This End Up' brand) dressers, couches, chairs and tables.

Please reach out to ru@campstoane.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Bike-A-Thon - May 1-31, 2022

Join virtually or follow our mile markers in Millerton, NY.

Open House - May 15, 12-4PM

Meet the staff & take a tour of camp - no registration required.

Family Camp - September 2-5

Join us for Labor Day weekend, & enjoy camp life with your family!

Bob Ferguson Celebration of Life - September 3, 3-6PM

Share your memories of the late Sloane legend Bob Ferguson.

ENROLLMENT UPDATES FOR 2022

In Day Camp, we have waitlists in Explorers and Buccaneers across the entire summer, and just a few spaces in Bandits & Mountaineers! Join the waitlist and you will get priority registration for 2023.

In Overnight Camp, programs are filling fast. Some villages are FULL in certain sessions, Waterski lessons are completely sold out, and there are just a few spaces remaining in Horseback Riding lessons.

To register simply head to our [website](#) or email info@campstoane.org for more details

ALUMNI NEWS



Dick Crawley Circa 1960's at Camp Sloane



Fred Fagal, John Hedbavny, & Dick Crawley at camp in 2017

Register as a Sloane Alumni

Join our Alumni database to be kept up to date with all future camp news and information – register [HERE](#).

We also have an [Alumni Facebook group](#) where you can connect with fellow Sloanies!

BIRCH TREES PLANTED IN CHAPEL IN MEMORY OF LONG TIME STAFF MEMBER, DICK CRAWLEY

Richard "Dick" Crawley, Jr. served as the Boys' Camp Nature Director from 1960 – 1969. He was well loved and sported the camp nicknames "Gronk" and "The Jolly Green Giant." This was in part due to his large stature and his preference for wearing green jeans, giving him the appearance of Johnny Hart's green dinosaur character, Gronk, from his comic strip, B.C.

Dick's family and his former camp staff colleague, and former Camp Sloane CEO, John Hedbavny, provided the funds for these trees to be purchased. It is our hope to bring back the long gone birches to the "Chapel in the Birches." It is fitting that a long time Nature Director be so memorialized in such an appropriate method as planting trees. Thank you to the Crawley family and John Hedbavny.



Current CEO, Bear Bryant, and past CEO, John Hedbavny, helping to plant two new Birch trees in the chapel

IN MEMORIAM

James "Jamie" Holden, former camper, staff member and board member, passed away on April 27th, 2022.

CAMP SLOANE YMCA

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