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# IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR ANOTHER SUMMER AT SLOANE



# The Birchbark

May 2024



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Sloane family,

Same spirit, new century! You may not know this but our 100th anniversary is just around the corner. Well, it's four years away but we have already started planning. Our Alumni Committee has turned almost 100% of its attention toward making our 100th an amazing experience. We are talking about lots of great ways to celebrate this momentous occasion. We don't think that a 100th anniversary should be limited to one day or even one weekend. Yes, the celebration will culminate on Labor Day weekend 2028 but we are hoping to have events prior to that weekend so that more of our Sloane family can celebrate with us.

We haven't made any decisions yet but we are talking about a whole host of ideas such as a kick off celebration event in the NYC vicinity in the fall or winter prior to summer 2028, satellite celebrations in other U.S. cities (Washing D.C.? What about the west coast?) and even an overseas get together in the UK (London 2028 anyone?). We are also discussing other great events and activities for the celebration at camp on Labor Day weekend 2028.

What can you do? First, mark your 2028 calendars for Labor Day Weekend, September 1st – 4th. Next, you can lend your voice to the celebration. We are looking for a few more folks to serve on the 100th anniversary steering committee. Contact me [here](#) if you are interested in serving on the committee. Also, if you haven't registered as an Alum with us, please do and do so soon because we are trying to figure out where large pockets of our Sloane family are located so that we may plan for the satellite celebrations. You can do that [here](#).

Also, we will be launching a website specifically for the 100th. It will be a place for you to view old photos, find out about anniversary related events and to reconnect with Camp Sloane. Check with our socials in the coming months where the website will be announced as soon as it is up and running. We are looking forward to celebrating this amazing anniversary with you. We hope you'll join us as we share the same spirit of Sloane in a new century!



**Bear Bryant**

Executive Director/CEO  
Camp Sloane YMCA





# THANK YOU #SLOANEFAMILY

## VOLUNTEER WEEKEND

Our volunteers are **AMAZING**. A few weeks ago we had close to 100 people attend Volunteer Weekend to help us get camp ready for the summer. In just 2 days, we got all the tents, bunks and cubbies set up, organized the store, put out village picnic & ping pong tables; got out all the mattresses, raked woodchips, painted new picnic tables, and did a whole lot of cleaning in the cabins around camp.

We are so grateful to every person who showed up to help... we couldn't have done it without you! Now it's time to get excited for summer!



## COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

On Sunday, May 5th, we were joined by some of our amazing camp families and board members for the Camp Sloane Community Bike Ride along the Rail Trail, starting in Millerton, NY.

There was a whole group from Indian Mountain School too!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the bike ride, your efforts and donations will help us to bring even more kids to camp this summer who could not otherwise afford to attend.



**REMEMBER:** Any overnight campers or staff who donate to camp or volunteer at our events will receive their philanthropy star for their patch this summer!



## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2024?

This summer we are so excited about some of our new program equipment and changes we've made based on your feedback.

We are getting a BRAND NEW waterski boat AND a new banana boat so our Pioneers can once again go BANANAS!

Have you heard the news that our overnight campouts are now optional? Instead, everyone will do an EXPEDITION - cooking dinner on the fire and playing games in the woods before returning to village for the night.

And finally, our Performing Arts Camp play is going to be Roald Dahl's Matilda! There are still a few spots available.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Open House - June 2, 12-3PM**

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

### **Staff Auction - June 22**

Every summer, our staff hold an auction which raises money to help bring more kids to camp. If you have an item or experience you'd like to donate for the auction, email [ru@camp sloane.org](mailto:ru@camp sloane.org).

### **Family Camp - Aug 30 - Sept 2**

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

## ENROLLMENT UPDATES FOR 2024

### **DAY CAMP**

Our Day Camp is BURSTING at the seams, with waitlists for all age groups in most sessions. We are now opening extra spaces across the summer AND adding Vacation Days in the last week of August, which will be available to sign up by the day for rising K-7th grades.

### **OVERNIGHT CAMP**

Overnight camp is filling fast. We now have waitlists for Student Hill (rising 9th & 10th) in both Sessions 2 & 3, and in Junior Hill (rising 6th & 7th) Session 2. Next to fill is going to be Junior Valley Sessions 1 & 4, closely followed by Senior Valley in Session 4. LEAD Session 2 and 3 only have a handful of spaces available and there are just 2 spots remaining in our Riding Specialty Camp!

To register simply head to our [website](https://www.camp sloane.org) or email [info@camp sloane.org](mailto:info@camp sloane.org) for more details



# SPRING FUNDRAISER

## HELP US BRING MORE KIDS TO CAMP

Wouldn't it be amazing to provide for more children than ever before the chance to go to summer camp?

As a YMCA camp, we are dedicated to welcoming all kids, regardless of their ability to pay. But we need YOUR HELP make this vision a reality. We want to raise **\$37,500** between now and June 30th, to help bring even more children to Sloane this summer!

This year, we also have an anonymous donor who will match your donations up to \$25,000! It's a two to one match - so **for every dollar you donate, it's the equivalent of three!**

Historically, we have enabled hundreds of kids to come to camp who otherwise would not have had the opportunity. Over a third of the young people who attend Sloane each year are helped with our financial aid program.

Camp Sloane gives children the chance to connect with their peers, build their social skills and confidence, learn from our dedicated staff, and - most importantly - play!

Please show your Sloane spirit by putting OTHERS first and **donate today.**

\$3,832 (As of 5/14/24)

\$37,500



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY BEAR!

This past volunteer weekend marked the 18th anniversary of service to Sloane for our Executive Director/CEO, Paul "Bear" Bryant. He says that he recalls his first volunteer weekend vividly - "it rained and was cold all weekend. There were less than fifteen of us putting up tents and I think we that we were only able to put up one or two villages (called sections back then) of tents - no cubbies, no bunks." Volunteer weekend has come a long way since then, often with over 100 people helping to erect every tent in camp, install every bunk and cubby and complete many other tasks which are necessary for getting camp open for the season. Camp has grown too. It was a \$1.4M operation back then and is budgeted to be a \$3.4M operation this year. He recalled that in his first summer we only needed nine tables in the boys' side of the dining hall to accommodate all the boys in the biggest session that summer. Today our day camp fills with nearly 130 participants each session and some sessions of sleep away camp have waiting lists and others are filling. During his tenure he has overseen over \$2M in program and facility improvements. Bear is the longest serving Executive Director/CEO of Camp Sloane YMCA. Happy anniversary Bear!



# ALUMNI NEWS

## WHY I GIVE TO SLOANE



We are so tantalizingly close to the start of Camp Sloane's 96th summer. Camp is feeling very ready for opening day... recently an enthusiastic group of staff and volunteers spent a weekend to help put up the tents and prepare the property for the campers.

As a current Board member who was a camper and staff member for 13 summers, I'd like to tell you why I give to Sloane. I believe there needs to be a place where kids can go and unplug from the world in a safe and happy environment. Where kids can make friends they will cherish for a lifetime. Where kids can connect with counselors who can have a profound effect on their mental well-being and help inspire them in a way that's different from parents, siblings and teachers. Summer camp is a wonderful place where kids can find themselves and shape their lives to come.

This Spring we have an anonymous gift of up to \$25,000 which will be used to match your generous donations in a TWO-FOR-ONE MATCH. That's right, for every dollar you give it will be matched TWICE so if you give \$100 that grows to \$300 to Sloane. Can you help us reach that goal? I hope you will consider a gift to Sloane to enable more campers to attend this Summer. We are so grateful to all of you that provide financial support to help Sloane reach its goals for camperships.

We continue to be happy to grow our Sloane community, with current families and alumni from many decades. We all feel the spirit of Sloane and let's keep that going.

Sloanie for Life,  
Amanda Jacobson

## 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!

CAMP SLOANE YMCA

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