

THE BIRCHBARK OCTOBER 2025



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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CAMP SLOANE YMCA

124 Indian Mtn Rd, Lakeville, CT 06039

The Birchbark Newsletter

October 2025

www.campsloane.org

A Camp Sloane Newsletter



FALL IS HERE

Dear Sloane Families,

Fall is my favorite time of year for a variety of reasons; the fall colors certainly top the list. By the way, if you are in the mood for leaf peeping, we should be hitting peak color about the time this newsletter hits your inbox. Other reasons I love fall are that it's a great time to look back on another successful summer. A summer that saw new, and very popular, changes to the camp schedule – The Odyssey period in the afternoons and the new Sunday schedule with a sleep-in, brunch, and the carnival, complete with sno-cones and pretzels, to name a few.

Fall is also a time for us to think about the 1000+ campers and 150+ staff who joined us this summer, and how we lived our mission of putting OTHERS first by providing over \$300,000 in financial assistance (tiers 2, 3, and 4) to help cover the cost of camp for over 400 of those campers. That's a lot of growth, change, and new friendships forged in less than three months. In the Fall, we also start planning for the near future. Oddly enough, it is my busiest time of year. I spend my time on important jobs that enable us to run a great camp: building a \$3+ million annual budget, preparing for our insurance renewal, writing grants, fundraising, and working on strategic plan-related initiatives, which will be tackled in the coming year. This year, I am also looking much further into the future. This fall, my thoughts turn towards our 100th anniversary.

The Sloane Centennial is less than three years away. We are already making big plans for a year-long celebration that will start in the Fall of 2027 and continue through 2028, with a big celebration on Labor Day weekend, September 1st – 4th, 2028. If you plan on joining us or are interested in what's coming for the 100th, check out our web page [here](#). We had an unofficial kick-off to the 100th with our first-ever Alumni Day this past Labor Day weekend. Alumni Day was the brainchild of two alumni, Jon "Satch" Satriale and Darius Shirzadi. We worked with them to plan a day where Alumni could reconnect with fellow Sloanians, join in some of our Family Camp Weekend activities, have a cookout lunch at the pool pavilion, take tours of camp, and check out the Sloane archives and bygone era relics at the temporary Sloane Museum, set up in Wallace Lodge.



Paul "Bear" Bryant
Executive Director / CEO

UPCOMING EVENTS

INSTAGRAM LIVE NOVEMBER 5, 5PM

Join Rhino & Ru live on instagram for a quick chat about what's going on at camp.

CAMP T-SHIRT DAY NOVEMBER 11

Wear your favorite Sloane t-shirt and tag us on socials!

ALUMNI REUNION NOVEMBER 20, 6PM-8PM

Join us in NYC for our annual Alumni Reunion at The Stags Head Bar on E 51st St.



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT \$5,000

Until November 1, 2025, your gift to the Anthony Collado Performing Arts Memorial Fund will be doubled, thanks to a generous matching pledge from a fellow performing arts camp alumnus. Every dollar you give, up to \$5,000, will be matched, amplifying your impact in supporting creative expression, access to arts programming, and inclusive experiences for all campers. [DONATE HERE](#).



(con't.)

We had over 50 alumni attend! The day was a smashing success, and we plan on repeating it next year. Alumni, be sure to put Alumni Day on your calendars for Saturday, September 5th, 2026! Again, thank you, Jon and Darius!

Lastly, I would like to ask all our Sloane families – campers, staff, and alumni alike – to put the Camp Sloane motto of putting OTHERS before oneself this year. As I mentioned before, we provided more than \$300,000 in financial assistance this year. We do this because it is in our DNA to ensure that every child can attend camp, no

matter their ability to afford the experience. We have two fundraisers going this fall, which help us not only provide camp for kids but also provide support for our camp program.

Currently, we are in the midst of the [Anthony Collado Memorial Fund campaign](#). This campaign supports the performing and creative arts program here at camp. **We have an anonymous donor who has issued a \$5,000 challenge. If we raise \$5,000 by November 1st, they will match it, dollar for dollar.** Also, on Giving Tuesday (December 2nd), we are challenging all Sloanies to match what our staff raised

at the Annual Staff Auction, which took place back in June. Remember folks, there were no deep-pocket donors at that event, only the big-hearted and generous summer camp staff who led our camp program this past summer. These service-above-self young people raised **\$16,241** by auctioning off everything from chocolate from the U.K. to doing a fellow staff person's laundry. Click [here](#) to donate to the Giving Tuesday Campaign. I hope that you will match the generosity of our summer 2025 camp staff.

See you 'round the campfire,



WHAT OUR CAMPERS SAY

At the end of every session, we asked our campers in a survey what they think makes Camp Sloane so special. This is what they said:

"My counselors make my day better" – 5th year camper

"Camp Sloane is the best camp ever exist on the whole planet" – 1st year camper

[My counselors] "made me laugh and feel loved. I will forever thank them for making me a better person" – 4th year camper

"Camp isn't just a place. The people here are what make it special" – 3rd year camper

REFER A FRIEND

Did you know you can get a referral credit of up to \$150 per camper you refer? AND anyone who refers a friend to camp will get a super cool limited edition t-shirt!

Fill out a referral form [here](#).

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Want to get the Birchbark and our new monthly insights newsletter 'Back to Camp...' straight into your inbox?

Subscribe [here](#).



BY THE NUMBERS SOME STATS FROM SUMMER 2025

329
CAMPERS
ATTENDED
DAY CAMP IN
SUMMER 2025

699
CAMPERS
ATTENDED
OVERNIGHT CAMP
IN SUMMER 2025

CAMPERS & STAFF
CAME FROM
26
DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES

137
CAMPERS & STAFF
HAD AT LEAST 5
YEARS OF HISTORY
AT SLOANE

ALUMNI STORIES: SHARING YOUR CAMP MEMORIES

Name: David Miles

Email: MMiles2845@aol.com

Years at Camp: 1950–55 (camper), 1956–62 & 1966 (counselor)

Your Story: When I first attended Camp Sloane in 1950, not all of the bunks were occupied and swimming certification was Red Cross. In 1953, Mr. Burr, the new camp director, changed all that. Now swim certification was YMCA. Male supervisors were "Uncle ___, Uncle Art, Uncle Ken, Uncle Bill, for example. The new Central office and the new dining hall were constructed while I was there. I wonder how you handle all the media now, such as cell phones. Anyone who remembers me can get in touch.



Name: Gloria Pfeiffer

Email: sugieg@bellsouth.net

Years at Camp: 3 as a camper

Your Story: I went to camp Sloane from the age of 9–11. I'm now 65 years old and still remember all what the camp had taught me. I still enjoy remembering all those long summer days of friends, how to treat others, respect, good morals, crafts, hikes, boating and my favorite swimming in the beautiful lake. Memories of days long gone and summers full of fun. I was one of the lucky kids that spent my whole summer at camp. These will be memories you will cherish all the days of your life.

Have a story from your time at camp that you want to share with us? [Share it here.](#)



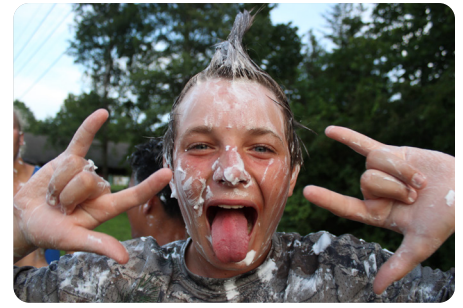
REGISTER AS A SLOANE ALUMNI

Our **100th** anniversary is just around the corner.

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!

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIALS



ENROLLMENT UPDATES FOR 2026

Enrollment for summer 2026 has only just begun and waitlists are already forming!

For our oldest campers, the LEAD program is seeing unprecedented numbers, with just 1 space remaining in Session 3 (the other sessions are over 3/4 full too!).

Riding Camp has just 4 spaces remaining, and if you have a younger camper (rising 4th–7th grades), it's important to note that Sessions 2 and 3 are filling fast, especially for Hill (Girls+) campers.

In Day Camp, as always, some age groups are already FULL, with Sessions B, C, and D being close to capacity across the entire session!

If you know your camper will be joining us for Summer 2026, **register TODAY** to avoid disappointment.

