

THE BIRCHBARK OCTOBER 2026



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CAMP SLOANE YMCA

124 Indian Mtn Rd, Lakeville, CT 06039

The Birchbark Newsletter

October 2026

www.campsloane.org

A Camp Sloane Newsletter



GREETINGS FROM CAMP SLOANE YMCA



Luke Dooley
CEO/Executive Director

My name is Luke Dooley, and on September 15th I had the honor of becoming Camp Sloane's new CEO. I wanted to introduce myself in my first Birchbark and to say how excited my wife, our three children, and I are to join the Camp Sloane family.

I arrived shortly after summer camp ended, which means I've spent my first weeks hearing about all the fun I missed from staff, board members, parents, and alumni. This summer, Camp Sloane provided impactful experiences for 1,024 campers and welcomed staff and participants from 27 different countries. What really impresses me is that I keep hearing the same thing from different people: Sloane is a place where people discover their purpose.

Recently, I met a former international staff member who stopped by camp with his wife to visit the place he loved and to walk with his former mentor, Chris Wadsworth. He told me that working at Sloane is what led him to open his own business in Poland, and that he still uses the life skills he learned from Chris. He worked here a long time ago, and for just one summer, but it was enough to leave a deep, lasting impact on his life. This is why I love camp, and why I believe it's so important to share camp with as many campers as we can.

I've also learned how committed Sloane is to ensuring camp is for all. No child is turned away due to an inability to afford camp. Every summer, we fulfill this promise through the generosity of people who believe in the impact camp can have on a camper.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CAMP T-SHIRT DAY NOVEMBER 10

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

INSTAGRAM LIVE NOVEMBER 12, 5PM

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

ALUMNI REUNION NOVEMBER 19, 6PM-8PM

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



CAMP CHANGES LIVES

This summer, we saw a higher need for financial assistance than ever before. It is always our goal that every child can attend camp, no matter their family's financial situation.

We can't do this without your support. Your generosity helps make sure Sloane can continue creating meaningful, life-shaping experiences for campers for generations to come.

[GIVE TODAY.](#)

(con't.)

Thank you to everyone who supported our campers this year with your donations. You provided them with a safe place to unplug and discover their confidence, self-reliance, and the importance of building relationships and strong core values.

I'd love your help as we look to summer 2027. Since I'm new to Sloane, I would love to hear your perspective: what you love about

camp, and what we can do to make it even more impactful for our future campers. If you're willing to share your time, talent, or treasure with Camp Sloane, please don't hesitate to reach out. I hope you will join me in donating to the Annual Campaign this year. I'd like to support even more campers this coming summer, and I need your help to do it!

I can't wait to meet as many of you as I can, whether at the Alumni Reunion, Volunteer Weekend, or

on the grass at Open House. Please say hello when you see me, or write to me at luke@campsloane.org.

With gratitude and excitement for what's ahead,

Luke Dooley
CEO, Camp Sloane YMCA



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 counselor] was always there to help whenever I needed her" – 3rd year camper

"I really love everyone at camp and can't wait to possibly come back" – 3rd year camper

"I learnt to be different version of myself. A self that is not constantly compressed by peer pressure." – 1st year camper

[The staff show] "so much respect and understanding of campers" – 8th 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](#).

READ OUR NEWSLETTER

Have you been reading our newsletter 'Back to Camp...' recently? We're talking about why camp and the things we love most.

Read it [here](#).



BY THE NUMBERS SOME STATS FROM SUMMER 2026

358
CAMPERS
ATTENDED
DAY CAMP IN
SUMMER 2026

666
CAMPERS
ATTENDED
OVERNIGHT CAMP
IN SUMMER 2026

CAMPERS & STAFF
CAME FROM
27
DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES

205
CAMPERS & STAFF
HAD AT LEAST 5
YEARS OF HISTORY
AT SLOANE

ALUMNI STORIES: FOND MEMORIES OF CAMP

Name: George Sarris

Email: nyse1010@gmail.com

Years at Camp: 5 Years as a Camper (1972–1976)

Your Story: It was the groovy 70's and love was in the air. It was a much simpler time with no cell phones or ANYTHING .. we had bug juice!

I loved Camp Sloane ... I was a Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Student & CLT. I loved all the activities and making new friends ... I had my first big time kiss right against the mess hall with Wendy! .. I still love her where ever she is! . We had incredible games of Dodgeball ... made Sand Candles at Art's & Craft and were very nervous when we square danced with the girls. As everyone knows the most fun was telling and listening to scary stories as we went to sleep in hot or freezing tent with 7 other campers! Classic! Camp Sloane Forever!



Name: Jennifer "Jiffy" Seney

Email: JLD6959@aol.com

Years at Camp: 8

Your Story: I first came to camp for that last week of the summer 1959 just to test it out. Both my sisters had gone to camp before me. I ended up going full summers (8 weeks) for the next seven years. Camp was simpler then, but still exciting, fun and fulfilling. I loved swimming – and dashing up that hill from the girls' waterfront! I also loved riding and competing in the horse show each summer. The ribbons have disappeared over the years, but I still have the photos (or at least some of them). Do Torch Awards still exist? I still remember all the words to all the camp songs we sang in the mess hall ... what a great experience. It had a positive, lasting effect on me.

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 Sloanes!

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIALS



ENROLLMENT UPDATES FOR 2027

So many of you signed up for next year on your way out of the gate this summer!

Registration for summer 2027 has just opened to new families and we are seeing a huge surge in enrollment already.

For our oldest campers, the LEAD program is once again filling fast, with just 4 spaces remaining for Hill campers in Session 2.

Riding Camp is already half full, and if you have a younger camper (rising 4th–7th grades), it important to be aware that Sessions 3 and 4 are filling rapidly, for both Hill & Valley campers.

In Day Camp, as always, some age groups are VERY close to being full. Sessions B, C, and D being the ones to watch, especially if your camper is rising 3rd–6th.

If you know your camper will be joining us for Summer 2027, [register TODAY](#) to avoid disappointment.

