



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Birchbark

Summer 2020 Update



Dear Camp Sloane Families,

We hope that you and your family are well and coping with these difficult times. We wish we were writing with happier news, but it is with heavy hearts that we let you know that Camp Sloane YMCA sleepaway and day camp programs will be closed for the summer. Recently, Governor Lamont declared that there will be no overnight camps in the state of Connecticut. After many long days and sleepless nights working to find solutions to every possible contingency, we ultimately realized that, with all the uncertainties, it did not make sense to open our programs this summer.

With nearly 1000 kids looking forward to having a great experience at Sloane this summer, it was heartbreaking to come to this decision. Operating a safe and enriching camp takes many months of preparation under normal circumstances. However, with the strict social distancing requirements, severe limitations on everything from what programs we could feasibly offer to how and where we would feed our campers and staff, combined with shortages of tests and supplies, as well as guidance from the state of Connecticut to not hold gatherings that attract large groups of people from outside the local area, Camp Sloane YMCA cannot, in good faith, offer the safe and enriching camp experience you have come to expect from us.

After months of quarantine we understand that this was not what you were hoping to hear. None of us ever imagined we would see a summer without camp. We are confident that with the help of you, our Sloane Family, we will remain strong for years to come. Please stay safe and healthy. Remember to put OTHERS first and keep spreading the Camp Sloane spirit wherever you go. We hope to see you in 2021.

Sincerely,

Paul "Bear" Bryant – Executive Director/CEO



Sloane @ Home

Join us online for LIVE virtual camp sessions throughout the summer. We'll be running activities such as Arts & Crafts, Dancing, Singing, Camp Trivia, and even some special Campfires with all your favorite skits & songs!

Every week we will post a schedule with the options of what you and your campers can join in with. Find out more on our website - www.campsloane.org/sloaneathome

All sessions will be held on Zoom at [this link](#) (email ru@campsloane.org for the password to join the calls).



Camp Sloane Needs You Now More Than Ever

It is hard to believe that for the first time in our 92 years we will have no campers roaming our hills, swimming in our lake, singing at our campfires and living in our tents. The world has changed thanks to Covid-19 and we are all forced to change with it. We are happy to report that Camp Sloane is holding up under the strain but there are major obstacles in our path so we are turning to our Sloane Family to ask for your help to **KEEP CAMP SLOANE STRONG** this year and for years to come.

In addition to being a part of our families, a part of our lives, a special place filled with the magic of summer and fun and friends, Camp Sloane is an essential service to the hundreds and hundreds of kids who come through our gates every summer and we do it on what really amounts to a shoestring. Over the past 15 years we have turned the camp from the brink of insolvency to a thriving place with a rainy day fund. This means we can weather the beginning of this pandemic but we are going to need a lot of help to weather this particular storm long term.

The reality is we can just make it through this year, but in order to reopen in 2021 and make camp the amazing experience we all know and love, we need to raise money. Money we raise today will ensure that we can bring back the horses, we can replace worn out tents, we can maintain our athletic fields, we can fix the boat dock, we can remove the gleep and we can continue to offer scholarships to the 489 kids who rely on our help to make Camp Sloane a reality for them and their families.

So, we know times are hard for everyone but your camp needs you now more than ever.

[Click here to give today and KEEP CAMP SLOANE STRONG.](#)

Attention Alumni!



CAMP SLOANE YMCA
124 Indian Mountain Road
Lakeville CT 06039
860-435-2557

Help us keep in touch and keep you in the know about alumni events and goings on around Sloane. Register as a Camp Sloane Alumni: www.campsloane.org/alumni-registration