

ONYAHSA TIMES

The YMCA Camp Onyahsa Newsletter
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Summer 2007
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www.onyahsa.org

Summer IS Here!



Order! ... Court is now in session!

We welcome summer and you back to Camp Onyahsa. After a busy spring, full of monthly camps, school groups, weddings, church retreats, and an Open House; Onyahsa is ready for its 109th summer of great youth resident and day camping!

Our season begins with Staff Training in early June and our Mother-Child (June 15 – 16) and Father-Child (June 16 - 17) camp-outs. Following Staff Orientation, eight one-week sessions of youth camp (ages 7 – 15) begin June 24th. Mini-Camp (ages 5-8) will be offered August 19 – 22, followed by Alumni Family Camp, August 24 - 27.

The summer's theme will be *Going Global*, as each week takes a fun look at a different region. Are you ready for Pirates during Caribbean week? Treasure hunts during Ireland week? How about "Armada" sailboat races during Spain week? All programs will be both fun and educational.

Each week of the resident youth camping season will offer Traditional, Specialty,

Academy, Teen, and Leader-in-Training sessions. Day Camp in the Woods runs weekdays, 8:30am – 5:15pm, for eight weeks. More information is available at www.onyahsa.org. "Attention all campers, get ready to *Go Global* at Onyahsa this summer!"



Alumni, re-connect or no Masahgwa for you!

Alumni Chase

I remember the crazy staff chases we had on Wednesday nights when I was a kid at Camp. The only counselor I ever caught was actually shooting hoops on the basketball court, and I got some free red lace licorice from the store!

Those staff chases were easy compared with finding our alumni these days. If you or an alumnus you know has lost contact with Onyahsa, please contact our Business Office to get back on our list. We hope to collect photos and memories from you to build an online archive, organized by year. Alumni events are also scheduled annually. Please contact us to re-connect, and we'll give you the red licorice! director@onyahsa.org

The Staff Is Coming!



Laura Carlson and Kristin Colvin will be there

A great staff is set for Camp's 109th year! Leading the crew will be Jon O'Brian, who has served as Camp Director since 1987. Returning as Residence/LIT Director in his 12th year at Onyahsa will be Barry Roesch. Brian Curry also returns, in his 10th summer, as Transportation/Trips Director. Rounding out the directors' ranks will be veterans; Kendon Luscher as Teen Director, Emily Korona as Aquatics Director, and Carly Mahany as Day Camp Director.

Veterans will provide experience to the Village Director ranks too; with Lauren Heil, Anne Gauthier, Lexi Milford, Brad Heil, Derek Gabreski, and Kris Sellstrom. They will be joined by new Onyahsans Melissa Jenerski and Carl Liuzzo.

Senior and Assistant Counselors will benefit from the experience of veterans and the innovative ideas of new staff members. Several staff members will join us from abroad, including Canada, Ireland, China, Sweden, France, and Japan. Most of Onyahsa's leadership attended Camp as campers, and all have been carefully selected, interviewed, and screened. They share a commitment to providing the best possible Onyahsa experience for kids and to fulfilling the mission of Camp Onyahsa; *"to promote healthy individual development and a shared experience of community."*

Pathway to Our Future

Help set kids on the right path, while beautifying the Onyahsa site, by purchasing a permanently engraved brick. Approximately 50 of these attractive stones were purchased last year, and they have been installed at the landing of our Dining Hall.

Eventually, we will have a brick walkway to our main buildings from the parking area, and even to the flagpole. As we serve more individuals with disabilities, elderly visitors, and year-round participants, accessibility has become increasingly important. The engraved bricks cost \$50 each and serve as a great permanent memorial. They may be ordered through the Business Office or, during the summer, at Onyahsa Outfitters.



Follow the red brick road to our future!

Wowza Website!

Over the winter, we developed a great new website, which was recently named as one of the National YMCA's best online sites. It is much more functional than our previous one; and includes a calendar, all relevant forms in PDF format, online registration, camper email, and even a music video of the camp experience! Look for more additions to the site this fall, including the creation of an online Onyahsa Outfitters merchandise store, alumni archives, and a photo gallery. Check out www.onyahsa.org and show your friends today!

Tuition Trader

'Got professional goods or services you would like to trade for Camp tuition? Camp is offering the return of a barter system to allow families to manage the rising cost of quality camping. (In fact, Director Jon O'Brian attended Onyahsa because his father painted signs for Camp years ago!)

Onyahsa is specifically looking for professional landscaping, construction, electrical-plumbing skills, graphic design, office assistance, program instruction, and other services on a year-round basis. Exchanged goods may include new building and grounds materials, construction supplies, program equipment, and similar items.

The Trade limit is \$720/camper, and these values will apply only to Traditional camp tuition. Contact the Camp Office for more details on our Tuition Trader program.



We're all about Fair Trade

Nurse, STAT!

As of late May, Camp still needs an RN to provided quality health care on a residential basis for two or three weeks this summer. Returning nurses will serve the Camp for most of the season. The position offers competitive pay, meals and lodging (in a private cottage), and free Camp tuition for dependent children. It's a great way to spend a few weeks. Contact the Camp Office for more information.

Send a Kid to Camp!

Our *alma maters* "hit us up" all the time for donations, but in many ways the life impact of the Camp experience can be even more profound than college.

Camp gave many of us skills like personal responsibility, respect, curiosity, independence, maturity and others that enabled us to be successful in higher education! Over decades at Onyahsa, we have seen this scenario played-out countless times.

Would you please consider donating to the Onyahsa Scholarship Fund to send a deserving child to Camp this summer? The cost for a great week of resident camp is now \$385. (Yes, more than it was for many of us when we attended, but still well under national averages for similar programs, and moreover, a small investment in the life of a deserving young person).

We have hundreds of needy and deserving kids hoping for an Onyahsa scholarship right now. Alternatively, perhaps you know a child through your faith community, employment, neighborhood or other circles; whom you would like to sponsor.

To contribute, please contact the Camp Director or make a contribution by sending a check addressed to "Onyahsa Scholarship Program," to our Business Office.



Send a Kid to Camp and make a difference!

Countdown to 110

Next year is a big one, 110 years of quality camping! Camp Onyahsa is one of the longest-established YMCA camps in the nation. Many, many Y camps have closed over the recent decades; but with the support of our alumni, donors, campers, volunteers and staff, Onyahsa is going strong!

To renew the Camp for the next generation and to ensure its future success, the Onyahsa Board is planning a major fund drive to coincide with this noteworthy anniversary. The goal of this drive will be to implement Onyahsa's long-term site development plan. Please stay attuned to this issue as it unfolds!



A result of our last Master Plan

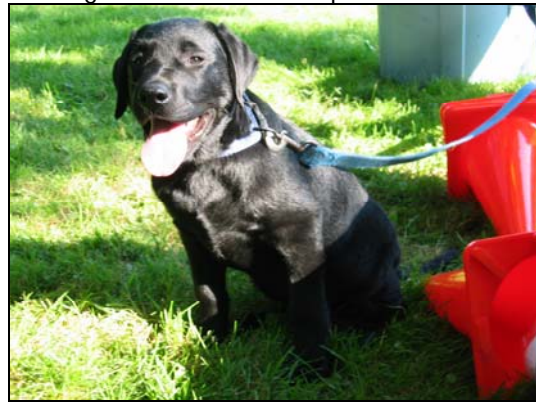
Master Site Plan

Onyahsa is updating its Master Site Plan to renew Camp for the future. It will call for the replacement of the Bath House with restrooms/showers in our major buildings, new cabins similar to the Hultquist and Johnson Lodges (and the winterization of these structures), a Wellness Center, new Health Lodge, Arts House, property protection, program enhancement, and many other improvements.

The Plan will be finalized by our architects in the Fall, and thereafter formally announced.

Specialty Camps

Joining favorite summer programs will be new Academies including Cooking, Japanese, Onyahsa Idol, Gardening, and U-Tube. New Specialties will include CSI: Dewittville, We Love Lucy (in collaboration with the Lucy-Desi Museum), and Ice-Skating (in collaboration with the Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena). Join us for these programs or our great Traditional camps this summer!



Jocko loves Canine Camp!

Outpost Village

Onyahsa will add a new tent village to our site this summer. The "Algonquian Village" will be located in our 120-acre forest, the Darrah Nature Preserve, and will serve campers through overnight camp-outs. Local foundations are funding the construction of tent platforms and the acquisition of tents/flyes and bunk beds for this exciting project. It will be a great venue for village overnights and real back-to-basics camping!



Tent platform construction in the Darrah Preserve

Going Green Too!

Onyahsa has long held an environmental mission. This year we will renew and expand this commitment by reducing waste, recycling items, and working to renew our resources. Thousands of trees on our 150-acre property already remove tons of CO2 from the atmosphere, but recently Property Manager Rick DelCalzo planted hundreds more and replaced all incandescent light bulbs in camp with florescent ones.

Recycling bins will be placed throughout the Camp and the purchase of non-renewable disposable products (like plastic and Styrofoam) will be significantly reduced. Campers and site users can do their part by limiting the amount of similar items they bring to camp, recycling those they do, and reducing our energy consumption.



From winter white to green at Onyahsa!

Furnishing the Future

Thanks to the benevolence of the Holmberg Foundation of Jamestown and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Camp has just added new comfortable and attractive furniture to Sheldon Hall and the Present Loft in the Dining Hall. Dark, mission-style couches, chairs, and tables were added to both areas to make them more inviting settings for learning and friendship building. We thank these donors.

Promise Raffle

It's back ... the Onyahsa Promise Raffle. This year, this 50:50 raffle will be offered weekends at Camp or through the Business Office anytime. The cost will be \$10/ticket and proceeds will fund Onyahsa operations. The winning numbers will be drawn on our final day of camp, and winners need not be present to win. Please contact the Business Office or visit Onyahsa Outfitters to buy your tickets! Thanks for keeping the Promise.



Our Promising Future

Summer Yard Sale

Jon's favorite event (not really!), the Yard Sale, will run every Sunday from July 1 – August 12, with a wrap-up over Labor Day weekend. This fundraiser sells donated household goods to benefit Camp development. Please stop-by Onyahsa's Farm House lawn Sunday afternoons to purchase or to donate items.



Dinner and Dance

Onyahsa is fun for adults too! Our Annual Dinner Dance offers an evening of great food, live music, dancing, and people. It will be held at Camp in our historic Darrah-Hultquist Dining Hall on Saturday evening, November 3rd. Please save the date for this, our major annual fundraiser!

**YMCA Camp Onyahsa
101 East Fourth St.
Jamestown, NY 14701**

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Register or Donate Now for a Great Summer!

Important Camp Dates:

June 15- 16: Mother-Child Overnighter
June 16 – 17: Father-Child Overnighter
June 18: Veteran Staff Reunion
June 19-23: Staff Orientation
June 24-Aug 18: Youth Resident and Day Camps
August 19 – 22: Mini Camp
August 24 – 26: Alumni Family Reunion
September 1 – 3: Yard Sale Finale
September: Group Use availability
October 6 – 9: Fall Camp
November 3: Dinner Dance Fundraiser
Nov – May: Monthly Youth Overnighter