

ONYAHSA TIMES

The YMCA Camp Onyahsa Newsletter
101 East Fourth St., Jamestown, NY 14701
office@onyahsa.org / director@onyahsa.org



Winter 2008-09
(716) 664-2802 ext. 238
www.onyahsa.org

A Super-Centennial!



Camp December closes a Super year!

Onyahsa's 110th year closed in December with a full weekend youth camp. In 2008, Camp experienced record year-round enrollment, as school-year programs and group experiences expanded. Monthly camps were held from January through May, and October through December. In addition to our own programs, schools, churches, conference groups, workshops, and weddings filled every weekend from early April to late November.

Most importantly, summer youth resident and day camps were also filled with safety, health, and happiness. The summer-long theme was "Super-Centennial," in honor of our 110th season. Each week looked back to a fun era of Camp's own history. Despite low enrollment during the first week (due to the late NYS school dismissal), campers had fun reenacting the 1912 presidential election. We had a "roaring" good time during the 1920s week, and a blast with the "Little Rascals" during week C. A Big Band dance was held during the following session, then we had fun with "The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951)" for Week E. Funny fashions were in view during the remaining decade themes, from the 1960s through the 90s. The summer concluded with a look to the future during our one-half week Mini Camp for younger campers.

A major focus during the summer was increased adventure, as each camper had a chance to participate in an extended activity in our Wilderness Preserve. Each camper also had the opportunity to go sailing. The Onyahsa staff did an excellent job, while campers showed great honesty, respect, responsibility, and caring. In all, 2008 saw the fulfillment of the Camp's mission, and excitement for the year to come.

Eleventy-first Year!

Hi Gang! Welcome to our 111th, the "Eleventy-first" year! We are very excited for 2009, as it will offer renewed excellence in youth development, as well as quality family, adult, and group programming.

The year will begin with a three-day Camp January over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. February, October, and November will also offer new three-day weekend camps to coincide with school schedules. Two-day youth weekend camps will be available in March, May, September, and December.

Brand new, Onyahsa will offer a week of resident camping over spring break from April 13 – 18th. This program, based in our heated lodges, will offer both indoor and outdoor activities geared to the season.

Our volunteer Camp clean-up will be held May 16-17, Open House is scheduled for May 24th, and our popular Mother Child (May 29-30) and Father-Child (May 30-31) programs will be held later in the month.

Our "Eleventy-first" summer starts June 21 (following staff training), with special incentives for our first two weeks. Session themes will include Leprechauns, Super-heroes, Cavepeople, Vikings, Halloween, Pirates, Spartans, Elves, and Aliens.

In addition to eight weeks of traditional programs, specialties will range from Canine Camp to Horseback Riding. Academies will include French and Spanish language. (Full descriptions are available online).

As in 2008, there will be an extra focus on Adventure programming and daily sailing (weather permitting). Combined with these initiatives will be more stress on environmental stewardship as Onyahsa goes even greener. A vast majority of staff, especially our directors, will return for the season, but interviews and screening for new staff will begin in January.

New offerings for 2009 will include a Hispanic families day (April 25), Women's Day (May 9), spring festival afternoon for families (May 23), sponsored walk fundraiser (May 23), Safety Institute (June 9-12), Family Camp (August 29-30), Active Older Adults (October 24), and more to be announced.

There's something for everyone during our Eleventy-first year. Join us for fun, for friends, for family, forever!

Camp Bail-in



Bailing, bailing, over the deep blue sea...

Camp Onyahsa has been fiscally responsible and has successfully met its mission while adapting to new needs and realities. However, as a not-for-profit organization, it relies upon the benevolence of its supporters. At this time we ask our friends and alumni to consider making a tax-deductible donation to our Youth Development Fund.

Contributions will help us to meet current year-end financial challenges and prepare for next year's anticipated economic conditions without sacrificing high quality programming. A gift of \$25 or more will purchase a membership in the Onyahsa Association (all 2008 campers and staff have already made this contribution). Gifts of any amount are appreciated and may be made by returning the enclosed form, or contacting the Camp office.



Rough and ready?

Calling Cleveland

The Cleveland area is no longer directly served by resident YMCA Camping, so Onyahsa hopes to fill this need by increasing our outreach. If you live in the area and can spread the news, host recruitment parties, or help us market Onyahsa, please let us know. Special incentives for Cleveland-area residents will be offered Weeks A and B, and we will be visiting camp trade shows near you this spring. Cleveland groups, we offer great rental facilities year-round! Please contact our office for details.

Site Use Available

Did you know that Onyahsa's beautiful lakefront site, including its heated dining hall and program center are available for rental from January to early June, and late August through December? Camp has served weddings, picnics, church retreats, conferences, workshops, family reunions, Scout groups, and other group events. Group use information, rates, and our calendar are available online at www.onyahsa.org/calendar.



The perfect place for your group or event year-round

Development News

Current Camp development includes several exciting projects. Thanks to a gift from Onyahsa Alumna Mary Lewis, renovations to the main Ungerman-Lewis room of Sheldon Hall will continue through the winter. This will include the expansion of the main hall through the removal of a large vestibule, paneling the entryway and staircase, and wains-coating the main room.

Last year Mrs. Lewis funded the addition of the beautiful fireplace. We also hope to add more furnishings to the Program Center. Minor improvements to the Mess Hall, including the addition of furnished break-out rooms are also planned. These improvements will serve our expanding year-round activities while improving the summer camp experience.

In 2008, we successfully implemented a new tent village, with two platforms and tents for the older girls. New bunkbeds were added to this and other villages as well. The Mahican Village is now one of the nicest in Camp.

Currently Onyahsa is engaged in proactive property protection and acquisition. We are also planning for the addition of a Youth Wellness Center and the installation of a new septic system prior to the end of 2009.

Near-term goals include replacing the Crafts House, renovating the Staff Lodge, and expanding the Health Center. These items will require significant contributions.

These projects noted above also present unique naming opportunities for major gifts. Please contact the Camp Director for more information.

Buddy, Can You Spare a Daimler (or any vehicle)?



That's a lot of snow to plow!

The old Camp truck, a 1990 GMC, responsible for hauling everything from luggage to lumber, in addition to plowing our snowy roads is nearing the end of its service. Meanwhile, our growing year-round use and increasing summer transportation needs necessitate the acquisition of a passenger vehicle.

To meet these vehicular needs, if you have a pick-up truck, mini-van, SUV, or wagon that you would consider donating to Onyahsa in return for a tax-deduction, please contact the Camp Property Manager. Onyahsa is a 501 C 3 charitable organization, and we'll gladly take gas guzzlers.



Businesses and supporters can underwrite these experiences

Underwritten

This year businesses and corporations will have the opportunity to underwrite an entire week of Camp for \$1,000 in cash or in-kind contributions. This tax-deductible gift will support all programming during one of our nine summer sessions, and the sponsor will receive full recognition for underwriting a wonderful experience for our over 150 campers and staff each week. Please contact the Camp office if your business, firm, or corporation can help us to provide excellence in youth development.

Earn-Your-Way to Camp

Get ready for our Spring Sales, to earn your way to Onyahsa this summer. This year we plan to sell "green" items like florescent light bulbs and stainless steel water bottles to help campers earn their own tuition, while also helping our environment. More information will be sent to campers and staff soon, and will also be available online.



Attention! You can earn your way to Camp!

New Year-round staff

As a year-round organization, Onyahsa employs five people year-round on a full and part-time basis. Assistant Property Manager/Transportation Director Kevin Shuler has begun his second year with Onyahsa. He works to ensure a safe and health camp facility.

Meg Pickard has been with Onyahsa for almost one year. She serves as our Assistant Office Manager, promoting Camp, registering campers, and creating new programs. She is also the Wellness Director for the YMCA. Camp is fortunate to have these dedicated and talented year-round employees and we thank them for their service.

Help Wanted

Camp Nurse (weekly for one or more sessions)
RN who loves kids. Very competitive salary, room and board in a separate cottage, free camp tuition for dependents. Role shared with other RNs over season.

Food Service (part-time eight weeks during the summer, with the possibility of one week in April). Competitive hourly wage. Must have experience in large-group food preparation and planning.

Camp Staff (summer season)
Age 16+. Competitive salary, room and board, and "a million dollars worth of experience." Must meet stringent background checks and commit to at least six weeks of summer work. Experience working with children.

All positions require a person-to person interview, rigorous screening, and staff training. YMCA Camp Onyahsa is an EOE. Please contact the Camp Office or visit us online for more information and an application package.

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

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**THIS SEASON, AS WE THINK OF THOSE
WHO ARE SPECIAL, AT CAMP WE'RE
THINKING OF YOU!**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO OUR CAMPERS,
STAFF, FAMILIES, ALUMNI & FRIENDS**



December 2008

Dear Friend,

YMCA Camp Onyahsa needs your help! The costs associated with quality camping continue to rise, as the need for quality camp experiences become ever more critical for the youth of our society. In many ways, the YMCA movement has always faced this challenge. From its inception, the Y has had a social contract that adheres to the adage, *"to whom much is given, much is expected."*

Can you help us to ensure quality resident, day, and school year camping programs for the kids who really need this experience? **We are asking our alumni and supporters to help us by:**

1. Joining the **Onyahsa Association** for \$25/year to re-connect with Camp and to build an endowment for its future. All current campers and staff have already joined.
2. Consider making a **tax-deductible gift** to one of our core funds: (Please use the form below).
 - a. **General Operations**. This helps to keep Camp affordable for our kids.
 - b. **Camp Scholarship Fund**. This fund provides camp financial assistance to deserving children from families facing financial challenges.
 - c. **Development Program**. This fund assists Onyahsa in major construction, site improvement, and property acquisition.

Thank you for your consideration at this special time of the year. Most importantly, we hope that each of you; camper, parent, staff member, volunteer, alumnus/alumna, or supporter will stay connected to Onyahsa. Our success now depends on you, the way our past achievements depended upon an earlier generation of supporters who understood the Camp's social contract, and met the challenge to provide for its fulfillment.

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season!,

Jon O'Brian, Camp Director

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Dear Jon and Camp Kids,

OK, I'll help out! Please accept my donation of \$_____ to be used towards the following fund(s).

Onyahsa Association Camp Operations Scholarship Fund Development

I have enclosed a check Bill my credit card Major Gift, contact me _____

Visa Mastercard Discover Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Card Security Code _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address: _____

Fax this form to (716) 487-1174, mail it to YMCA Camp Onyahsa, 101 East Fourth St., Jamestown, NY 14701, email your information to office@onyahsa.org, or call us at (716) 664-2802 ext. 238. Thank you!