

YMCA Camp Minikani 2023 Gratitude Report



Thank you so much for being a member of YMCA Camp Minikani and for supporting the generations of campers, staff, and alumni who call Minikani their home. We are so glad you are a part of the Camp Minikani family!

In 2023, our Summer Staff, Environmental Education Staff, and community created formative memories, friendships, and life-long experiences for more than 3,785 kids. Whether our campers join us during our summer camp season, or our Environmental Education (EE) programming, each camper experiences Camp Minikani's natural beauty, passionate and knowledgeable counselors, strong traditions, and inclusive culture needed by both campers and their families.

Thank you for your generous gift to support Camp Minikani in 2023. Know that with your support, we can continue to serve our community safely, effectively, and with care and compassion. Thanks to our generous community, 163 campers received the financial assistance they needed to continue their Minikani journey.



The Value of Camp

For 104 years, Camp Minikani has been a cherished summer home for campers from all different walks of life. Away from all types of media, Minikani campers explore new passions, nurture their talents, find their direction, motivate themselves and others, and build life-long friendships. The character development and intrinsic values like empathy, independence, and resiliency nurtured at Minikani help them become leaders from their communities for their lives moving forward.

Testimonials from the Summer

"Camp has meant a lot to me over these past few years. It is a very fun place, and everyone is so kind and caring for one another, and all in the Minikani Spirit."

"The environment created by the counselors is a super fun and silly one that makes Minikani a special place to be. The unit days, the LT takeovers, the variety of skills, the new people to meet, and the friends from years before to see again are all the things that make Minikani a truly special place to be."

"Joining the LT program was one of the best decisions I've ever made. It's made me a more confident leader and person!"



Summer 2023 Recap

- 1,322 Day Campers were introduced to Camp Minikani, enjoying traditional camp activities like archery, sailing, swimming, arts and crafts and one's unique to our camp – like Runt Hunt, Kangaroo Court and Avenging Angels.
- The quintessential Minikani experience, Overnight Camps included 1,314 kids for one- or two- week immersive stays at camp.
- The year-round Leaders in Training (LT) program includes trips to Superior hiking trail, service trips around Milwaukee including YMCA Miracle League, and onsite intensive leadership preparation. In total, we are serving 206 LT youth in all three LT categories (1's, 2's and 3's).
- The Explorers program included trips to Rhinelander, sea kayaking the Apostle Islands and expeditions to backpack in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, creating personal growth for 344 youth.
- Our counselors are always Camp Minikani's strongest asset! After "growing up" as Minikani campers, they are at the right age to positively impact the next generation of campers. They always model the Y's core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility for each camper.



Our Community Cares

This past year the Minikani community generously donated \$121,247 in camper scholarships. More than 130 donors, an increase of 34 from last year, shared the gift of Minikani with 163 campers and their families.

Our generous Minikani community also shared \$81,911 in facility donations, excluding the capital gifts and grants for the recent Explorer Hill Bathhouse campaign. This support helps preserve Minikani's natural beauty for the generations of campers to come.



Meet our Advisory Board!

2020-2023 Class

August Herschede
Kate Hoffmann
Paul Ellsworth

2021-2024 Class

Jill Kohli
Drew Maxwell
Hillary Phelps Lobenstein
Andy Wiegman

2022-2025 Class

Greg Valde
Kevin Casper
Michael Mierow
Kevin Wright
Julie Molsky
Aaron Bell

Looking Ahead

We are welcoming 4,100 local students this school year in our Environmental Education programs. We're fostering stronger partnerships with local schools to bring more even more children to Camp Minikani – creating a pipeline of students who are familiar with camp's values by attending year after year. Serving youth year round allows campers to grow their personal and professional skills to succeed in the years to come.

We're looking forward to opportunities to see you, year-round, at Camp Minikani:

- Cookie House – Dec 2, 2023
- Winter Break Camp – December 27 – 30, 2023
- Spring Break Day Camp – March 25-29, 2024
- Pancake Breakfast – May 5, 2024
- Family Camp – May 24 – 27, 2024



Thank You



For 18 years, my family has made our home on the shores of Amy Belle Lake. I have the joy of leading incredible staff and volunteer teams and seeing camp positively impact my own children.

I'd love to connect to learn more about you and your family's Minikani story and memories. Please reach out to me with any questions or to chat. I'd love to share future visions for even greater impact at Camp Minikani. Please stay tuned for more information about our Explorers 110 Campaign.

"We are so very thankful as parents that camp is a safe place for all, regardless of color, gender and economics."

We deeply appreciate all that you do to build and preserve the Camp Minikani experience, together, creating memories that our youth will never forget.

Gratefully,

Eli Fyksen
Executive Director
efyksen@ymcamke.org

Greg Valde
Board Chair
valdeg@uww.edu

Thank you to each of these donors who generously made a gift between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023 to support Camp Minikani!

\$25,000+

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YMCA Camp Minikani
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*Member of the 1919 Club



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