

Dear Northern Lights Community Member,

As we soon embark on our sixth summer here at **Camp Northern Lights**, I'm pausing to reflect and celebrate the many successes we have witnessed and all that is on the docket for the second half of the year.

I'm so grateful for every staff member, family, and community partner who has helped shape our foundational culture that puts relationships and connection above all, ensuring every person who steps foot here feels a sense of belonging. To say I'm proud of and inspired by this growing community is an understatement!

Now, let's dive into these exciting updates:

- Two capital projects are currently underway, the first being the construction of a **community pavilion** in our Back of Beyond Village that will begin in early fall and serve our tent/RV campers. The second is a new platform cabin being built in the woods off Tom's Trail that will be more remote and rustic than our other cabins and will be completed by summer 2025.
- The **Taking S.T.E.P.S.** (Supporting the Transformation of Equity and Power in Outdoor Spaces) Program continues to grow and will now include opportunities at our family camps. There will be an annual S.T.E.P.S. winter retreat here at Northern Lights and a summer S.T.E.P.S. session at du Nord.
- Our **Leadership Development Program (LDP)** has expanded to the point where we are filling every available spot throughout the summer. Many former LDPs have now become seasonal staff which is incredible to see! Training and retaining these young adults is a remarkable accomplishment and is a testament to the uplifting community we have established.
- In an effort to make intentional connections with our surrounding neighbors on the lake, we are looking forward to hosting a **summer social** in July for all Bear Island Lake residents to stop by and learn more about our mission.
- Through an ongoing partnership with the YMCA in Bogota, Colombia, we are thrilled to be welcoming four **international staff members** this summer.
- Our **fall, winter, and spring programs** continue to grow every year, providing a variety of outdoor offerings for families, groups, and individuals in the non-summer months. In high demand are our adult retreats and family camp weekends, and we hope to further popularize our "Book Your Own Getaway" program.



- Easing financial limitations for any family that wishes to attend Northern Lights remains a key priority, especially as the **need for scholarship support** continues to rise. We see the far-reaching impact of these dollars each day and hope to welcome even more families through this donor-supported funding in 2024 and beyond.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to you for your generosity that has helped us already accomplish so much and is positioning us for a successful summer ahead.

There's no doubt it will be another unforgettable one for campers and staff alike. We eagerly anticipate the laughter, friendships, and memories that await us all.

THANK YOU for being an integral part of our Northern Lights community and CHEERS to summer 2024!

With gratitude and excitement,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan O'Brien". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and larger than the rest.

Dan O'Brien
Executive Director