

Dear Camp St. Croix Community Member,

Greetings from the St. Croix Valley!

As I sit in that sweet spot of seasonal transition before the bustle of summer, I wanted to take a moment to pause and connect with our community of valued partners like you. One of the best aspects of our beloved **Camp St. Croix** is our proximity to the population centers of the Twin Cities and the St. Croix Valley. Our location allows us to serve as a gathering space for adventures of any duration, so no matter the season or the weather conditions, Camp St. Croix is an accessible nature escape.

From the school groups and business team retreats to the little kids and big kids, families, and wedding parties, the Croix team embraces with enthusiasm the many ways we help people connect to themselves and each other in this beautiful location.

As I share the updates below, I hope you see yourself in these efforts. These highlights are a direct reflection of the many ways you have helped us evolve and grow.

Now, let's dig into the details:

- The last few seasons were all about fun events! Our annual **Fall Harvest Fest** drew in over 1,000 attendees, a **reunion and celebration** of Mike Bussey's induction to the National YMCA Hall of Fame was held in December, in March an **alumni Maker's Market** was hosted at Bad Weather Brewing, and we held our inaugural **Mess Fest** in May.
- The Farm and Garden at Camp St. Croix, in partnership with River Valley Charities, added a second high tunnel that will help us **increase our vegetable production** by 50%. We donate the food we grow to local programs, who then distribute our harvest to families who face food insecurities so that they have access to healthy, fresh produce at no cost.
- We are looking forward to another **full summer** for both our Overnight program and DayCroix, as well as our **Farmer's Market & Pizza Nights** hosted at the Farm every second and fourth Thursday.
- **Croix's Little Seeds Nature Preschool program** will expand from two classrooms to three this fall.
- A big goal of ours is to **fill camp from fall through winter and into spring** by increasing the number of events, retreats, and education programs that we host. Please **help us spread the word** to your communities so more people can experience the magic and beauty of Croix year-round!



- We are growing our **alumni and community engagement**, with numerous opportunities to get involved and stay connected. Look for a volunteer weekend coming up in August in addition to the ongoing volunteer program we run at the Farm, which is a critical part of our produce-growing operation.
- Ensuring Croix remains accessible for ALL continues to be a key priority, as the **need for year-round scholarship support** continues to increase. We see the far-reaching impact of these dollars each day—whether it is with campers, preschoolers, school groups, or community organizations—and we hope to expand this assistance for those facing financial barriers through ongoing donor and grant support.

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

There is no doubt it will be another unforgettable one for campers and staff alike. We eagerly anticipate the laughter, friendships, and memories that we will create together.

THANK YOU for being an integral part of our St. Croix community and CHEERS to summer 2024!

With gratitude and excitement,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Haas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Haas
Executive Director