

Dear Kids to Camp Community Member,

Amidst the bustle of preparation for the quickly approaching summer season, I am taking a moment to pause and center around our guiding principles here at the Y. At the core of all we do is a commitment to building belonging and community.

I fiercely believe that the best types of opportunities for young people are those where they can find their people, be their authentic selves without hesitation, and grow in new relationships. Your support as a generous **Kids to Camp** donor is helping us create and evolve these opportunities across our camp and adventure programs. You are helping kids find their people, their places, their independence, and their strength.

For this, I want to sincerely say thank you.

Whether it's connecting around the campfire, conquering a fear of wild spaces, trying something new, creating a new chosen community, or setting off on trail as a team in the wilderness – each facet of a Y adventure experience strengthens our legacy, tying generations from all walks of life together, as one. I am forever proud to walk alongside our expansive network of adventurers.

As a Kids to Camp supporter, it is important that you know all that you are helping us accomplish through scholarship assistance. So without further ado, here are some exciting updates and highlights I'm eager to share with you.

- We are thrilled to be expanding our **BOLD & GOLD** (Boys and Girls Outdoor Leadership Development) initiative to two additional overnight camps this year, Icaghowan and Warren. This will help us further our efforts in giving access to outdoor and adventure-based programming to all.
- Some big **camp anniversaries** are coming up, including Widjiwagan's 95th and Icaghowan's 116th! We look forward to celebrating these and other milestones that represent our camps' amazing legacies and resilience in the face of many challenges.
- We are putting an increased focus on **integrating whole-person wellbeing strategies** into our programming, working within our Y network to incorporate different types of wellness practices and education. One way we are doing this across all locations is with **farm and garden programs** that teach campers and families about the value of nutritious food and its relationship to the earth. These programs provide healthy produce that is grown and harvested by campers themselves, then used in our camp kitchens for snacks and meals.
- Our programs have faced increased **weather-related adversity** in recent summers, such as high windstorms, high heat, and smoke. Ensuring we adapt in the best ways possible so that all feel safe in our spaces remains a high priority. This involves **facility updates**, such as adding more cool-down areas and equipment and adjusting program logistics where needed so that attendees are comfortable and still able to have a one-of-a-kind experience.



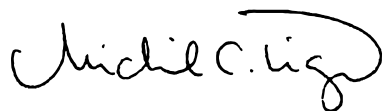
Your partnership continues to be a key component in making this progress (plus so much more!) possible by allowing us to prioritize program growth while also dedicating more funds to meet the increasing need for scholarship assistance.

Creating avenues for more people to find community and belonging, discover adventure, disconnect from the digital world, and connect to our environment has never been more important. Your role in helping us do this through support to our Kids to Camp Fund is deeply appreciated.

There's no doubt that the second half of this year will be another unforgettable one for campers and staff alike. We eagerly anticipate the connections, experiences, and memories that await.

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

With gratitude and excitement,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michel C. Tigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Michel Tigan
Vice President of Adventure and Camp Operations