



Eagle Island News

September 2023

Eagle Island, Inc.

Vol. 13 Issue 3



SUMMER 2023: What was going on?



- We hosted 5 weeks of girls overnight camp with increased popularity in the two-week sessions.
- Youth camp was 90% full (226 filled spots out of 248).
- We launched the Junior Leadership Program with lodging in the Boathouse.
- There were new partnerships with CHANGE SUMMER, PROJECT MUSIC, Girl Scouts of NYPENN, and MATCH SCHOOL.
- Staff retention was high.
- The new swimming platforms completely changed the vibe at the waterfront! Thank you all for the support!
- The Adirondack/Islanders septic project was fully funded and we are estimated to finish construction this fall.

2023 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

- 73 campers received some level of financial assistance (33%)
- \$59,323.00 - general EIC assistance
- \$16,175.00 - Akwesasne Fund

MANY THANKS
FOR ALL THE SUPPORT!

*"Truthfully, without help from the scholarship that was given, there is no way that our children could have attended. Your inclusiveness, regardless of financial situation, has given our kiddos an experience they'll likely never forget."
(2023 Overnight Camper Parent)*



Learn more about updated 2024 financial assistance process at
www.eagleisland.org/financial-assistance

2024 Summer Programs: A GLIMPSE

- 1 week of all-gender day camp and 6 weeks of girls' overnight camp
- A mini reunion for '80s, '90s, '00s alumni & friends - June 21 - 23
- Lifeguarding and Sailing interest tracks catered to campers ages 15 - 17
- A new Rustic Retreat program that will include family groups, corporate outings, and other organizations that align with our mission, vision, and values.
- 2024 summer registration to launch next month [October]!
- Historic Preservation Phase III work to begin in spring 2024
- Camper housing at the ADK/Islanders tent area
- An updated 2024 Financial Assistance process
- More Partner programs that align with our mission



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*NEW

Girls Overnight Camp

One-Week Sessions

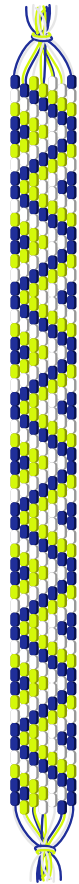
- June 30 - July 5
- July 7 - July 12
- July 14 - July 19
- July 21 - July 26
- July 28 - August 2
- August 4 - August 9

Two-Week Sessions

- June 30 - July 12
- July 14 - July 26
- July 28 - August 9

Junior Leadership Program

July 14 - July 26



All-Gender Day Camp

June 24 - June 28

Women's Weekends

80s, 90s, 00s Mini Reunion*
lodging in the ADK/Islander tents only
 June 21 - June 23

Alumni & Friends

August 16 - August 19

Womens Wellness

August 23 - August 25/26

Rustic Retreat Groups*

August 11 - August 15

August 20 - August 22

We are transitioning Family Camp to a new category of programming for adults and families called: "Rustic Retreat Groups." Whether you are one person, a small group of families, or an organization holding a leadership retreat, your experience will be unique and catered to your needs. *Other dates in the shoulder seasons may be available.*

Registration opens in October at www.eagleisland.org.

Projects! Projects! Projects!

We have officially closed the Phase II Rehabilitation of the Main Camp historic buildings grant work!

In December 2022, we were awarded another Rehabilitation grant from the New York State Park & Recreation and Historic Preservation Department. This will be considered Phase III. As of today, we are awaiting final project approval from the State's Historic Preservation Office. Once approved, we will go to public bid for a contractor. The total grant is \$666,666 and Eagle Island is responsible for \$166,666.

Based on this timeline, the grant work will likely begin in spring 2024, and we plan to start with the historic section of the Service Dock, and a 2nd-floor exit from the Guide House (aka Health Center). This will allow staff to sleep upstairs – with our growing numbers we need the space!

With enthusiasm, the Adirondack/Islanders tent area septic project has been fully funded. **YES - FULLY FUNDED!**

This will open up another 40 camper spots a week with the use of the platform tents, a working septic system, and a small community space for activities. The final touches on the updated septic system are happening now through the end of October (weather permitting). There will be a mini reunion for '80s, '90s, '00s to kick off using the re-vamped tent area.

Engagement Committee

The recently formed Eagle Island Engagement Committee is integral to fostering and maintaining strong relationships between the organization, its alumni and friends, and the communities that we serve. The committee exists to develop and implement initiatives that engage our communities, strengthen mutual connection, and encourage continued support of EIC. Through frequent updates, event coordination, volunteer acknowledgment, and annual reporting, the committee will contribute to the growth and success of the island's alumni and friends community. This committee merges the Volunteer Engagement Committee and the Adirondack Committee. **Save the date for these upcoming in-person and virtual events (more details and more events to come)!**

Sunday, November 12- View From the Lodge (virtual)

Friday, December 8 - Brooklyn

Saturday, December 9 - Montclair

Register at

www.eagleisland.org/events

Purchase some gear!



Visit www.eagleisland.org/trading-post today!

EIC Strategic Plan: Carving the path

The EIC Strategic Planning Committee has developed 5 objectives to pave the way for the next few years.

Alongside each strategic goal, we share our best thinking on how we will meet these goals (objectives), some, but certainly not a complete list, of the specific activities we may undertake to meet these objectives (tactics), as well as how we will measure and track our progress and course-correct as necessary (measurement). This plan comes with an important caveat. EIC's strategic plan represents our very best thinking at the present moment.

We know there will be changes we cannot anticipate that will undoubtedly impact our strategic focus, objectives, tactics, and related measures. We also know that our ability to be a flexible and adaptable organization is a real asset and one that has already allowed us to navigate the COVID crisis, refine our programming to meet camper needs, and quickly seize opportunities for partnership and collaboration. We look forward to diving into this work alongside our partners; it is an exciting time for Eagle Island

The Strategic Planning Committee is putting the finishing touches on our first-ever Strategic Plan and we will be sharing it soon!



Meet EIC's Assistant Camp/Marketing Director: Hanna Sue

We have recognized quickly that a full-time staff of two can do A LOT. However, with the expansion to the Adirondack/Islanders tent area in 2024, additional marketing, year-round programming, and staff recruiting (to name a few things), we are excited to add another full-time role, Assistant Camp and Marketing Director, Hanna Sue Percy. Our expanding enrollment, as well as surveys of campers and guardians, attests to the value of our camp experience - Eagle Island is seeing remarkable success, leading us to expand its scope and impact further. As part of this expansion, Hanna will be responsible for the enhancement of our program quality and overseeing camp operations in conjunction with the Camp Director, Katrina, enabling us to accommodate a larger number of children.



Hanna Sue has been with Eagle Island for three seasons and spent many summers with family on Upper Saranac Lake. She started as a Counselor in 2021 and stayed on as the Assistant Property Manager until the Island shut down. In 2022, she returned as the Program Director, and during the shoulder seasons, she worked part-time as our Engagement Coordinator and Content Creator. During the 2023 camp season, Hanna was Assistant Camp Director.



Reflections on Women's Alumni and Friends Weekend 2023: A Celebration of the Camp's Comeback! by Anna Nelson

Last year's Women's Alumni and Friends Weekend was my first time back on Eagle Island since the late 1980s. I spent much of that weekend reacquainting myself with the island. By this summer's Alumni and Friends Weekend, all was more familiar—more like coming home to visit an old friend than renewing an old acquaintance.



On Saturday morning, I took a solo walk around the perimeter of the island. As I treaded on pine needles and brushed past lichen, listening to the gentle lapping water along the way, I was heartened to see the progress made at the Adirondack and Islanders units and admired the new dock at the waterfront. Seeing all the work in restoring the camp that had been done—not only in the past year, but since the camp was officially purchased in 2015—it struck me that a number of the movers and shakers who had fought the good fight to be able to purchase the island, were on the island that weekend. Among them were longtime Eagle Island campers, Chris and Ginny Hildebrand and Chris Wubbolding, former EIC Board President, and many others. They and so many dedicated camp alums and volunteers, including members of the Graves family, had made it happen! The camp is operating for young people once again and growing every year since its reopening in 2019.

But I reflected what was even more remarkable was the island's role in the camp's comeback. The decades of experience of summer camp on the island, rooted in Girl Scout values, instilled in young girls confidence and resilience and fostered skills integral to the lives and careers they pursued as adults. And when it came time to step up to save the camp, these women drew on these multiple skills—in organizing, communications, fundraising, business, legal expertise, finances, engineering, and so many others. They succeeded in saving for future generations the island camp that had helped shape them. It had come full circle.

My island walk reflections were reaffirmed when everyone shared their camp stories in the lodge on Sunday night. The celebratory vibe of all that had been done to save and refurbish the camp was palpable that evening. How appropriate that one of the last songs we sang together was *The Circle Game*.



BITE-SIZE AUCTION

Starts: Sunday, November 5
Ends: Sunday, November 12

Have any items you would like to include in the auction?
Find the form at
www.eagleisland.org/events!

Empower girls to fearlessly pursue their dreams and break barriers.

Eagle Island is where all girls learn to do hard things— work independently and collaboratively, and take risks in a safe environment while building confidence to take on challenges. The memories created at Eagle Island will forever hold a special place in the hearts of many, and we're excited to keep that campfire spirit burning bright! Eagle Island isn't just a place; it's a community of like-minded adventurers, dreamers, and doers. Be a part of the EIC journey and continue to cultivate this fearlessness in the minds of future female leaders.

Here are a few ways to make an impact now:

- 1 Have a lot of financial love to give right now? Make a gift. www.eagleisland.org/donate
- 2 Want to make a large impact over time? Join the Campfire Circle and provide a monthly gift of \$100 or more.
- 3 Purchase something from our 2024 Amazon Wish list. <https://a.co/7UIASbn>
- 4 Volunteer on or off the Island www.eagleisland.org/volunteer
- 5 Share Eagle Island Camp with prospective campers, families, and other alumni! Registration for 2024 will open in October. Updates will be on www.eagleisland.org
- 6 Like and follow our Facebook and Instagram pages @eagleislandinc
- 7 Leave a legacy that sparkles like confetti on Eagle Island every day. Details at www.eagleisland.org/planned-giving



Thank you for being a champion of girls everywhere.

Legacy Circle



Let your love of Eagle Island be part of your long term plans.

eagleisland.org/donate

Join the Campfire Circle with a monthly gift of \$100 or more. Learn more at eagleisland.org/donate.

