

WIDJIWAGAN

YMCA WILDERNESS ADVENTURES

2009 Y Partners Annual Support Campaign

Y PARTNERS

Camp Widjiwagan's Y Partners Campaign is our annual fundraising drive. Passionate Widjiwagan volunteers run the campaign.

Funds raised allow us to:

- Offer camperships to low-income teens and families.
- Develop Community Outreach initiatives.
- Provide quality training for our camp staff.
- Purchase essential camp equipment and supplies.
- Subsidize our wood canoe maintenance.

Your help makes an impact everyday.

We serve over 2,200 teens and families representing more than 20,000 camper days each year through our summer Wilderness Adventures Resident Camp, Environmental Education, and Community Outreach programs.

In 2008, Y Partners provided:

Campership Support

- Seventy-one summer campers received over \$72,500 in financial assistance.
- \$29,151 was allocated to 403 students who attended Widji's environmental education program.
- 40 organizational group members received over \$35,000 in aid.

Connecting to New Communities

Working in our community continues Widji's mission beyond our core programs.

- Provided the Ely School District with programming (\$3,500).
- Subsidized the Widjiwagan Leaders Program for more than 40 campers during the school year (\$8,000).
- Collaborated with UBAH Medical Academy in south Minneapolis to assure their attendance at Widji's environmental education program (\$8,398).
- Provided support to Jefferson Community School, Prairie Seeds Academy, Seward Montessori, Expo Elementary and St. Francis-St. James United School (\$15,293).
- Provided programming for mentoring and team building of Project Venture (\$5,665).

Staff Development

- Provided Wilderness First Responder and recertification training for 43 summer staff (\$12,250).
- Fourteen staff participated in a backpack training trip (\$6,600).
- Whitewater training for Advanced Explorer and Voyageur leaders (\$5,400).
- Environmental education training for Widji's School year program (\$9,000).
- Twenty-three first-year summer staff participated in a 2-day training program (\$1,480).
- Subsidized wilderness water safety for 22 trail staff (\$4,500).
- Eighty-seven trail staff participated in a 14-day training program (\$40,600).
- Fall/Winter/Spring staff training (\$7,800).

Equipment to Facilitate the Widjiwagan Life-changing Experience

Quality camping and safety equipment enables Widji groups to successfully travel through remote wilderness areas. Widji's fleet of well-maintained wood-canvas canoes, the largest in the nation, helps promote our core value of respect.

- Purchased 24 new tents (\$7,200).
- Constructed 12 new yolks and 10 new sets of yolk pads (\$1,200).
- Purchased a variety of new maps (\$1,400).
- Replaced 10 personal flotation devices (\$250).
- Restored 5 and repaired 60 wood-canvas canoes (\$22,000).
- Rented 14 satellite phones, carried by all Advanced Explorer and Mountaineer/Voyageur groups (\$15,300).
- Refurbished 6 ABS whitewater canoes (\$4,000).
- Purchased 2 new Personal Locator Beacons, carried by all Mountaineer/Voyageur groups (\$1,100).
- Constructed the first newly-built wood-canvas canoe from Joe Seliga's form (\$2,500).

We appreciate our Y Partners donors and ask for your generous support in 2009.

The mission of YMCA Camp Widjiwagan is to develop in youth respect for self, community, and the environment through wilderness adventure and environmental education.

Your dollar counts...

Here are some suggestions of how your gift may be utilized:

\$10,000+ Arctic Circle

Provides Wilderness First Responder training for 25 staff.

\$5,000 Hudson Bay

Purchases 12 tents for canoeing and backpack programs.

\$2,500 Advanced Explorers

Subsidizes a community outreach program for ESL students.

\$1,500 Explorers

Provides financial assistance for two low-income campers.

\$1,000 Wind River

Purchases new backpack equipment for one Explorer trip.

\$500 Quetico

Supplements half the cost of a canoe trip for a low income youth.

\$250 Big Horn

Purchases six backpack stoves.

\$100 BWCA

Funds 25% of reconditioning one wood canoe.

2009 Y Partners Goal
\$260,000

We heard of Widjiwagan from our sons' friends long before he attended his first session, but we knew it was beyond our budgetary constraints. We decided that we just had to give him a chance to go after his freshman year in high school because his window of opportunity was closing. Although he had always loved the outdoors...we were unsure how he would respond to the rigors of an intense BWCA trip. When he came back, we were thrilled to find that not only did he rise to the challenge; he was thrilled with the experience. The boy who had always used words sparingly could not stop talking for at least two weeks after returning home! ... we knew he had found his niche.

The following year, he chose not to participate in spring sports at school so that he could work and save money to help pay for his second trip to Widji. He wanted to go on the longest trip possible and he felt strongly that he needed to be responsible for helping cover as much of the cost as possible.

Largely as a result of his experience at Widji, our son has learned that he can overcome mental barriers that kept him from reaching beyond his comfort zone in the past. He has learned to reach out to others for help when he is struggling, which was very difficult for him in the past. These benefits have of course carried over into all areas of his life - his work at school, his relationships with others and his pursuit of excellence as a musician.

Parent of 2008 summer camper



On behalf of everyone here at Seward Montessori School, I want to thank you and the staff for another superb trip. As always you and the winter staff model the highly infectious optimism, patience and humor our kids need. The north woods are an alien place to most of our kids, especially in winter. Yet no challenge seems insurmountable when they are with their study group and have the gentle assurance of their Widji counselor supporting them. We see a lot of kids become more willing to try and risk failing at something while they are at Widji. I'm sure you must wonder at times if there is any lasting impact on kids after a short stay at Widji. I hear from older students all the time that they look back of those days up north as a watershed in their lives.

Staff member, Seward Montessori School

YMCA Camp Widjiwagan

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The mission of the YMCA of Greater Saint Paul is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

