



1945 - 2020

75 Years and Growing!

Camp Talooli

CAMP TALOOI CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CASE STATEMENT

Seventy-five years ago, families sent their children to Camp Talooli to get away from the hustle and bustle of a daily life that was becoming increasingly complex and removed from the natural world. For generations we have consistently been a place where all young people are welcomed, and we create an environment for them to practice independence, find belonging, create community and become leaders.

Today more than ever, families, schools, and community organizations are drawn to Camp Talooli. Like the families in 1945, they seek opportunities for their children to reconnect with nature, and now also, a place where they can unplug. Last summer, our day and overnight programs served 1500 children. During the spring and fall, we provided educational field trips for an additional 2000 students from 10 different school districts. Hundreds of additional families, organizations, and universities also utilize our facility for retreats. With diversity and inclusion as core values, we attract and support campers from a broad range of ability and socioeconomic backgrounds. Situated only thirty minutes from the cities of Syracuse and Oswego, Camp Talooli serves as a rare and sought-after resource for both communities and the region.

As one of the only places in Central New York to offer outdoor experiential programs that include a private lake, forests, experienced staff, overnight accommodations and food service, we are rapidly outgrowing our facilities. Over the last five years, the number of people Talooli serves has more than doubled. The focus of our current capital campaign is to double that growth again with the completion of Nokomis Lodge, our first true year-round building.

Sitting on a hillside overlooking Lake Temalo, Nokomis Lodge will be a multi-purpose space. For example, we are currently unable to safely accommodate the entire summer camp population in a single indoor space on rainy days, and we have no winterized overnight accommodations. Nokomis will satisfy these needs, as well as providing a conference room, breakout space and instructional facilities. These functions will allow us to meet the growing demand of current programs and allow us to expand our capacity and create new-year round opportunities for young people, adults, and organizations.

Through the generosity of private donors, as well as in-kind donations, Phase One of the Nokomis Lodge project is complete. This has included site preparation and construction of the outer shell of this 8,000-square-foot structure. Our current \$750,000 capital campaign will fund Phase Two and Three, which includes the completion of Nokomis Lodge and associated site and programmatic upgrades. Phase Two will turn Nokomis Lodge into a year-round thriving hub of joy, learning, and laughter. Phase Three will focus on program expansion and infrastructure upgrades.

Since its inception seventy-five years ago, Camp Talooli has always been driven by a sense of inclusion and family. We need you to become part of our Talooli family, and partner with us to complete Nokomis Lodge and the needed facility upgrades. With your support, we will continue to serve thousands of additional children, adults and families every year.