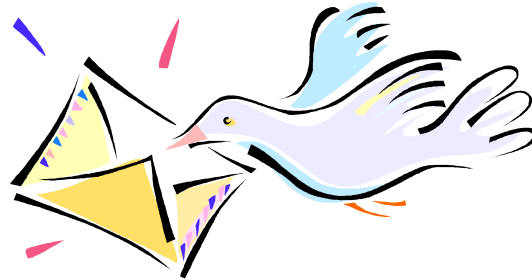


## Camp Yomawha Week 5: Survivor Week



### The Camp Catch-Up

#### Chirp chirp...

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*I said a boom chicka boom!*  
*I said a boom chicka boom!*  
*I said a booma chicka rocka chicka rocka chicka boom!*  
*I said a boom chicka rocka chicka rocka chicka boom!*  
*Oh yeah*  
*Uh huh*  
*One more time!*

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#### Announcements, Announcements, Announce-ments!

Forms have been sent home with all campers for our annual Chai Lifeline Swim-A-Thon fundraiser, which will be held on Monday, 8/11. All sponsorship forms and money should be brought in by that date. Chai Lifeline is a charity that supports children with life threatening illnesses.

Please continue to send notes with your bus counselor regarding any missing items and please return any items your child may have accidentally brought home that are not yours. Thank you!

We are happy to hear that campers are having great summers! If you are interested in **tipping** your camp counselors, please make a **staff contribution** and send a check made out to the YM & YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood and write in the Memo line: "Camp Staff Contribution." At the end of the summer we will pool the money and use it to create a **fabulous staff celebration!** You can send these contributions in with your child on the bus or bring it to the Y to the attention of Shara Perlman, Camp Director.

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**NEXT WEEK starting Monday, August 4th is WILD WILD WEST WEEK! Yee-haw!**

**Monday, 8/4** is Picture Day for session 2. Forms have been sent home with all campers. If you would like individual pictures of your child please send in payment with the form or \$21.95 in an envelope with your child's name and group written on it.

Monday is **SPECIALIST APPRECIATION DAY!** We love our specialists who make camp so much fun.

Monday is also our **LATE NIGHT!** Beginners campers will be dismissed to go home at the regular time, while Juniors, Explorers and Tweens stay for an extra swim, dinner and the kickoff to our Wild West Week with a Night at the Races and Counselor Roundup.

Beginners Buses will have different routes than our typical routes, so please be prepared to arrive at your stop at 4:45 and be prepared to wait a little bit. Feel free to call the Y to find out what order your child's stop will be that day.

Late Night buses will be leaving camp at 7 pm and arriving to the first bus stop at 7:30 pm. If your Juniors or Explorers camper cannot stay for Late Night, please call or send a note so that we can make sure to dismiss these campers at the regular dismissal time.

**Tuesday, 8/5,** is the **Explorers/Tweens** trip to Mountain Creek Water Park. Campers should wear bathing suits with camp t-shirts on top and bring an extra set of dry clothes with them.

**Wednesday, 8/6** is **Pirate Day!** Slap on an eye patch and peg leg and say Arrrgh!

Wednesday is also our **Beginners** trip. We'll be meeting and greeting animal friends at the **Greenburgh Nature Center.**

**Thursday, 8/7,** the Juniors join the Explorers and Tweens for our camp trip to the Mets game! Bring water bottles and wear a hat to keep off the sun. Beginners will stay at camp for a special day all to ourselves!

**Friday, 8/8,** is Parent Visiting Day. We look forward to having our parents join us for activities and a BBQ lunch, and our Wild West Traveling Variety Show with performances from groups and individual campers. If you would still like to sign up for Visiting Day contact the Y for information and to see if there is still room.

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**Family Fun Day**

Over 100 families and Y staff came to our annual Family Fun Day at camp, where campers showed their parents their favorite games on the multi-sport court and challenged them to Ga Ga! We went swimming and enjoyed a BBQ with hot dogs, hamburgers, watermelon and fresh corn from a local farm, with the rain fortunately holding off until the day was nearing the end.

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**This week at camp (7/28 – 8/1) was SURVIVOR WEEK!**

Drumbeats interrupted Morning Meeting on Monday as a mysterious stranger bearing a mystical coconut descended upon Camp Yomawha with a message: all of camp would be divided into tribes

and must complete Survivor challenges to win his favor! The first on-the-spot challenge was an egg and spoon race, and on Wednesday the tribe leader was back and challenged the Unit Heads to drink a cup of lake water! (A grueling task, but successfully completed.) All groups were assigned a tribe and the whole camp was geared up for Friday and the series of challenges where the final judgments would be made.

On **Tuesday** the Explorers/Tweens went to Ring Homestead Ropes Course where campers and counselors braved some nail-biting ropes course challenges including a zipline. Shanon Wilson from the Doves showed effort and persistence on the ropes and fellow Dove Kathleen Lobasov overcame her fears as well. "It was really fun," says Kathleen. "It's scary for me because I'm afraid of heights..it was so much fun."

**Wednesday** was Crazy Hat Day and the campers who made their own hats showed the best creativity we've seen all summer!

**Hat Highlights:** Max Silver's half soccer ball topped with a Viking-style Mohawk...James Rice's personally decorated hat with stars of all sorts...Ilja Novak's toy cars driving across his brim...Leo Arbitman's paper chain fantasy...Alex Ganiias's stacks of caps...Geo Davis's name spelled out across his hat...Eric Rodriguez's creatively improvised hat: (clean) underwear... Ariella Mandel's over-the-top creation made from a wrapping paper tube, scarves, beads and more! She says: "I made [the first part] of the hat with my babysitter, putting on beads and other things...Then on Monday I figured it wasn't up to my usual standard..." so she added an enormous cardboard wrapping paper tube decorated with scarves. A for effort!

**Thursday** the Explorers/Tweens went to Space Odyssey for a great day of fun playing laser tag and ultimate bowling. Everyone won tons of prizes and the Dragons and Eagles started a big basketball game with Swan Ruthie Colburn taking over on the court. Meanwhile, Explorers Unit Head Julie Rubin impressed everyone with her skills at Dance Dance Revolution!

On Thursday the Y Nursery Camp was so excited to visit Camp Yomawha. Our young friends toured the camp garden with Nature instructor Kasha, spying some tomatoes, baby watermelon and flowers, picking zucchini, and tasting freshly grown basil! The group went on a nature walk and had Shalom with Angela, visiting the lake and hearing a read aloud. They learned some camp cheers and had lunch at the big kids' picnic tables, but their favorite part of all was swimming in the big pool! Everyone had a great time in the water.

**Friday** was our Survivor Challenges! The whole camp was decked out in grass skirts, body paint, leis and creative decorations and our tribal leader visited us once again, accompanied by a dragon god, to kick off the games. Every tribe competed in Boat Building, an Obstacle Course, Crocodile Egg (water balloon) toss, Capture the Rain Stick, and Wilderness Challenges including braving a "worm pit" and tasting "blood" and "worm" juice!

The Aztec tribe campers beat the counselors in Capture the Rain Stick, and found 8 prizes in the worm pit! The Spachihumdu tribe nailed the Obstacle course, which Chickadee Travis Camacho completed in 13 seconds! Dove Ariella Mandel created a fabulous cheer for the Maori tribe: "Maori, Maori, this is our story, full of glory, Maori, Maori!" In a very close competition, the Spachihumdu tribe (Chickadees, Ducklings, Sparrows and Hummingbirds) got the most points to WIN THE SURVIVOR GAMES! Congratulations to all the Beginners!

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## Specialty Areas...

**Nature** – At Nature with Kasha, we have been spending time at the creek catching guppies with our new fishing nets and following the water to discover a new swimming hole. We successfully built a fire and fired our seed tiles, and next week we will be building a beaver dam at the creek.

**Drama** – The Dragons were stars in Drama with Kim this week, very inventive with their characters in the improvisational game Three Through the Door. Each person had to invent and play four different characters and camper Theresa Marciano stepped up and took the theatrics to a new level with her characters!

**Dance** – Shake your tailfeather and dance! Our dance instructor Monifa has been working with all the groups this week on dance composition, improvisation and jazz dance. Monifa is the co-director for the rhythm tap dance group C3 Tap Co-operative. She is also a full time dance educator for middle school students in Newburgh and teaches private dance lessons during the school year.

**Arts and Crafts** – This week in art with Miss Nancy we were inspired by the theme of Survivor week to work with beads and clay, ancient art forms that have been used historically in every culture in the world. The desire to adorn oneself has been met for ages with beading and clay has been used in every ancient society as an earthen material used to build vessels and to make paint. Groups worked with clay to make mini masks and pottery and created necklaces and bracelets with beads. The Doves learned about the Native American story behind the Dreamcatchers they made, while the Ravens made feathered serpents to represent the chief Aztec god who was a flying snake. The Chickadees and Ducklings created fish kites that soared in the wind. Miss Nancy's Art Quote of the Week is from Duke Ellington: "I merely took the energy it takes to pout and wrote some blues."

**Pool** – Congratulations to the many campers who have moved up an ability group after strengthening their skills this summer! The campers have been challenging the staff to swim races and Dove Molly McIntosh beat lifeguard Steve in freestyle, while fellow Doves Ariella Mandel and Lexie Duval beat camp director Shara in the breaststroke!

**Double Dutch Fever!** The sound of jump ropes hitting the ground has been heard all over camp this week as double dutch fever swept Camp Yomawha. We have added Double Dutch as a Club option for campers, who have been practicing jumping with one rope and moving up to the fast-paced double dutch, which uses two ropes. Double dutch has just been declared an official sport in New York City schools, and we think our campers could show them how it's done! Counselors have also been getting in the spirit and learning from the campers how to jump. Dove camper **Gaby Guerrero** and CIT **Kisleyannette Nova** have led the camp in teaching jumping and doing fancy turns and footwork. Everyone is getting better!

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## What are some of our groups up to?

The **Mockingbirds** had fun this week making gecko keychains in Shalom, and have been fierce fans of Medic with games going on every day. They also love Ga Ga where Nina and Julia Mandel are stars of the pit. For Crazy Hat Day, Caroline Diorio created her own fantastic hat with feathers, sequins, beads and sparkly paint. We love the Mockingbird spirit!

The **Sparrows** have had baseball fever this week and enjoy singing "Kung Fu Fighting" as a warm up before Drama. They made bead bracelets in art and Alex Gantias decided to make a bracelet for his father with "the amount of beads of my dad's age." Nice work, Alex!

The **Hummingbirds** have loved swimming this week, and camper Tommy Diorio has been a pool star for getting all the way in the water and splashing around with the counselors!

The **Cardinals** have been playing a lot of Medic and during down time have been learning the game of chess. William Chen says he learned at school and the other boys have been learning how to play as well. Carson Corona says, "I like checkers and I know how to play checkers, and checkers is almost like chess."

The **Flamingos** loved the ropes course trip this week, where all the girls were enthusiastic to participate. "They wanted to do everything over and over...they didn't want to leave," says counselor Trish Rivera. "The trip was overall amazing." Flamingo Miranda Fatolitis showed determination on the ropes course when on a tough element she wanted to stop, but kept going and reached all the way to the top due to her persistence.

The **Ravens** have enjoyed court sports and basketball and this week new campers Christian Rosa and D'alan Polanco went on the rock wall for the first time, making it all the way to the top! "They loved it and they weren't scared!" says counselor Arlene.

The **Ducklings** got up close and personal with nature this week as they caught fish in the creek. We love looking at all the creatures and natural wonders around camp!

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**Extra, extra:** The Camp Yomawha staff played the Riverdale Y staff in softball and won an unbelievable 15-2 victory! Stay tuned for future games with our friendly rival!

Check back with us next week for more fun Camp Yomawha News...