

# FUN IN THE SUN



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**RYE YMCA - FALL 2010**

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A quarterly newsletter for parents and campers of the Rye Ys summer camp programs



## WE'RE LISTENING AND IT SHOWS

### WHAT DID OUR CAMP PARENTS HAVE TO SAY?

We would like to thank those that completed the online survey, which will directly help shape improvements to our staff trainings, camp options and our overall summer experience. It's exciting to have so many parents engaged in their camper's experience and provide creative ways to make improvements for next year. This summer we received feedback from over 25% of our camp parents, allowing us to have an accurate assessment of our programs and suggested improvements for the following summer.

One of our biggest goals this summer was to increase the positive connections between our counselors and campers. We sought to make our camp staff "care like crazy" by being on the camper's level, greeting campers each day and simply staying involved in everything we do. According to the surveys we received high marks from you for our 2010 camp staff. Parents noted that our counselors remembered their names and made a point of greeting the parents each morning. The families stated that their kids were excited to see their counselors, or as we call them "Professional Role Models," each day and it was definitely a highlight of their camp experience.

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## BUILDING CONFIDENCE

### A MERE 1200 SWIM LESSONS

Our aquatic team led over 1200 swim lessons this summer to over 1400 campers. Our pools were busy with smiling faces like our counselor Alex En-right below and his Explorers campers. If you haven't yet, you can still continue those swim lessons through the school year. Ask our Member Services Desk about available classes to get started.



## DEVELOPING NEW SKILLS

### FINE ARTS AT CAMP 2011

One of our many new programs will include a Fine Arts Specialty Camp. The one week sessions will focus on four specific media including sculpture, plaster, canvas painting, and basic drawing & technique.

*(more about Fine Arts on page 2)*



Gymnastics Camp celebrated a little creative artwork themselves with Crazy Hat Day! None of it made any sense and that was by far the best part!

## ENGAGING OTHERS THIS FALL AT THE RYE YMCA

### New Afterschool Options for Your Teens

Afterschools at the Y have been busier than ever! The Teen Services Department has developed a complete menu of activities and options for teens in grades 6-12. Our supervised programs include teen open gym time, teen swim, teen lounge, Teen Fitness Fusion, Tween Yoga, and homework help. The programs are all FREE for members and only \$2 a day for those using a Teen Access Card. For more information including program times and schedules visit us online!



*Fun in the Sun* is a quarterly newsletter produced through the Rye YMCAs Camp Management Team.

Discover your Y at  
[www.ryeymca.org](http://www.ryeymca.org)

# THE Y FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### FINE ARTS FOR 2011

This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Y Arts programming throughout the national movement of Ys. Y Arts programs have joined in school collaborations as well as developed their own arts centers within our Ys. We hope to capture some of this energetic history in our programs this coming summer.

Campers ages 8-12 will have a new camp choice for our 2011 camp season which will include five one-week camp sessions starting with our first session on June 27<sup>th</sup>. One of our Discovery Camp Unit Leaders, Ariel Argueso, who has a strong background as an artist as well as professional schooling has assisted in developing the detailed program. The program's goal is to teach enthusiastic campers basic skills as well as hone the abilities of those that have experienced fine arts instruction before.

Each week has its own specific medium and program goal; plaster, drawing & technique, canvas painting, sculpture and mixed media. We expect a popular interest in the one week camps and we have limited enrollment to just twelve campers. The small class sizes will allow our instructors to focus their attention on individual skill development and progression within the classroom.

Registration for Rye Y Camps begins in January 2011. If you are interested in the Fine Arts Camps be sure to register early due to the limited availability!

### A HEALTHY FAMILY HOME IDEAS TO KEEP CREATIVITY ALIVE

#### Cloud Art

Lie down in the grass or watch the clouds outside your window. Describe to each other all the shapes you see in each cloud. Do you see a butterfly, a viking ship or how about an elephant?

#### Colorful Lakes & Streams

Decorate unique glass water cups or bottles for the family (everyone gets his or her own bottle). Use permanent markers or glass paint to create your own special cup. Rinse out or wash water cups as a family in the evening and let them air dry over night. Fill up your colorful water cup and enjoy water all day long.

For more projects visit [www.ymca.net/healthyfamilyhome](http://www.ymca.net/healthyfamilyhome)



## REGISTRATION WILL BE EVEN EASIER FOR 2011 CAMPS

With the launch of registration in January 2011 you will see that we have developed a new online registration system. This will allow you to get your registration in whenever is most convenient for you. It will now send a confirmation of the programs you've enrolled in. You will also be able to enter or upload your child's immunization records online. This will eliminate the hassle of the calls and emails reminding you to get them in. We hope these steps will make the process simpler for you and your family.

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## PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

While it's great to hear the positive feedback and the thrill of our programs we always have to look at how we can improve those same programs too. As a progressive organization, the Rye YMCA focuses on consistent evaluation to meet the continually changing needs of our camp families. Below is a brief overview of just how we did and what we will be focusing on for our 2011 camp season.

### Our Biggest Successes

As stated before, creating a nurturing and caring environment led by **Professional Role Models** was both planned for and noticed by our camp parents.

Parents received and appreciated the **weekly parent notes** that went home each Friday describing what progress each camper made during the week.

The **Discovery Camp Trips** saw new additions this summer and look for even more for our 2011 camp season.

### New Programs for Summer Camp 2011

Discovery Camp will host a **Fine Arts Camp** for 5 weeks of the summer. The camp will feature 5 modules including sculpture, plaster, canvas painting and drawing design and will be led by a schooled artist.

A whole new lineup of **camp trips** will be incorporated into the Discovery Camp programs. We look to bring even more excitement to the Pathfinder campers.

### Anticipated Improvements

**Parent Communications** will see big changes for the 2011 camp season. Our Parent Handbooks will be written for each camp program, not just the general sites, program specific monthly email updates will begin once you register in January and much more.

Based upon your feedback, the **camper registration process** will be updated including new online registration for those paying with a card. You will also input your immunization records or upload the file saving lots of time.

Parents noted that they would like more feedback and **swim lesson progress updates** during the summer. We will start to share photos and video of our lessons, sharing both what you should expect and how our staff teach each day.

We will change the way we manage our **Lost and Found** making it easier for campers, parents and staff to get lost items back to their correct owner and hopefully back home.



One would assume with the world's difficult financial times that non-profit charity organizations like the YMCA would tighten their financial giving. Thankfully for over 500 campers that's not the case. This summer we saw a record number of Y Cares financial assistance applicants and gave out 50% more in aid than any previous summer. Just at Discovery Camp nearly 20% of our campers were on some level of Y Cares financial assistance.

Through the generous giving of our YMCA members, staff and volunteers as well as families and companies in our community the Rye YMCA has been able to award over \$340,000 in assistance for Y programs just this year. Our supporters donate to the Strong Kids Campaign which in turn grants awards through the Y Cares Financial Assistance Program.

### How can you make a difference too?

Here's a few ways that you can help directly impact your community, our members and most importantly those 500 campers and families that really do need our help. The need is out there and you *can* make a difference!

- 1) **Donate Knowledge.** Tell a friend, neighbor or coworker about the Ys efforts to make our programs available for everyone in the community.
- 2) **Donate Time.** Volunteer your time and enthusiasm to the Rye YMCA Strong Kids Campaign. Help raise awareness and funds that will be payed forward to others.
- 3) **Donate Support.** The simplest way to make a positive impact is to make a donation to the Strong Kids Campaign yourself. Every dollar really does make a difference to our families!





## ALL TOGETHER AT THE RYE YMCA

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Costume Party

10/23/2010

A Teen Night just for 6<sup>th</sup> graders that features its very own Halloween Costume Party.

### Teen Night Pumpkin Painting

10/30/2010

For youth and teens in grades 6 to 8. Teen Nights also include swimming, gym games, teen lounge and Teen Fitness Fusion.

### Family Halloween Party

10/30/2010 - (1 to 3pm)

Open to everyone in the community for just \$2 a child. Your costumed kids will have a ton of activities to choose from throughout the YMCA.

### 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

11/19/2010

Event aimed to our High School Teens looking to bring a team and take on the challengers.

### 2011 Camp Registration Begins

*Returning Campers:*

January 11-17 (mail in or online)

*All Campers:*

January 18 at 9am

### Summer Camp Begins!

6/27/2011

Just 253 days away! Not that we're counting or anything... Can you tell we're excited?

# THE Y IS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## A TRUE STORY ABOUT OUR MISSION IN ACTION

*Names have been removed for privacy*

I wanted to write you this letter to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the Rye Y has done for my family.

My 9-year old son and I relocated to Rye from Manhattan in the Spring. While Rye is an incredibly lovely community, and many people choose to live here, we moved here because we had to. Within the months before our move to Rye, I had lost my job on Wall Street, we lost our home and my long-term relationship with my boyfriend ended abruptly.

I was completely overwhelmed with no income, no home and suddenly on my own. I was really struggling to make ends meet so my oldest friend and her family offered to take us in while I got back on my feet. I was so devastated leaving my home, where I had lived for over 15 years and had made a community filled with dear friends for our family. This was the only home my son had ever lived in. Leaving in the middle of the school year felt like the worst thing in the world for him and I just felt awful as a mother.

Moving from the close-knit Manhattan community to living in the suburbs, I felt completely isolated and lonely. My friend who I was living with told me wonderful things about the Rye Y. I thought it might possibly be a good place for my son to attend camp over the summer and I was hoping the price would be right.

I have to say that the first good thing that happened to me during this period was walking into the Y and meeting with Barbara Hughes. I am sure you know how incredible Barbara is, but I also wanted to let you know how wonderful my experience was. I am a single mother, with not much family or money, and Barbara offered me a lifeline. Not only did she talk to me about a financial scholarship for my son at camp this summer and the After School program, but I also learned how I could be a part of the Y through my own membership as well.

I was awarded financial assistance and immediately put my family to work at the Y. I enrolled my son in camp, went for a workout, took group exercise classes and was immediately engrossed in the Y family. It was just good to get out of the house and be productive. All of this has had an extremely positive impact on my overall well-being and confidence. I can not thank Barbara and the Rye Y enough for this opportunity.

I don't know where we will end up once I get a job, but I do know that the Rye Y and the people that work there have been an incredible support and community to me during one of the worst times of my life and I will never be able to find the words to tell you how much I appreciate what you have done for me.

## ARE YOU MOVED TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE?

### CONNECT WITH A YMCA STAFF MEMBER TO FIND OUT MORE

The YMCA is one of the world's largest non-profit charity organizations and has been committed to serving its community for over 150 years. The Rye YMCA is only as strong as its community. We need your help to make sure that families have the chance to grow and flourish. Please connect with a Rye YMCA staff member and find out how *you* can make the difference.