

FROM THE BOATHOUSE

E-newsletter

"Love is the wind, the waves, the tide, the sunshine. It's power is incalculable."

- Henry David Thoreau

Our Purpose

To provide transformational experiences in a wilderness setting emphasizing quality, personal growth and relationships.

Our Values



YMCA Camp Menogyn promotes caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.



Camp Address

55 Menogyn Trail
Grand Marais, MN 55604
Phone: 218.388.4497

Winter Address

3425 Ihduhapi Road
Loretto, MN 55357
Phone: 763.479.1146
Fax: 612.823.2482

www.CampMenogyn.org

Facebook: Menogyn Global and Alumni Groups

Email us at: info@campmenogyn.org

Weather at Bearskin Lake:

Highs 37F. Low 27, Southwest Wind 5 mph. Rain/Snow Likely.

ONLINE Registration Available NOW

Now there are three ways to sign up for Menogyn wilderness adventures.

Now you can register online, by fax and by mail. Go to this link to register online.

http://www.campmenogyn.org/pages/page_19_67.htm

If you ever have any questions whatsoever about registering your camper **call the 612-822-2267** number and you will get a friendly, helpful YMCA person who cares about your camper as well as your time. They can easily transfer your call to Mo too if you have any special concerns or just want to talk wilderness.

The Ice Staff Cometh—Photo Caption Contest

Menogyn Winter staff Tova Sularz, Tyler Henkels, Chelsea Koenigs, Joe Frost and Sam Eisenberg. Actually, if you have a good caption for this photo, send it in to info@CampMenogyn.org We will publish the winner in next month's newsletter and send them a Tuck Shop item.



Director Accepts Position with Friends of the BWCA

Paul Danicic, Menogyn Director since the fall of 1999, has reluctantly agreed to leave Menogyn. Rumor has it that though he was in a fully conscious state and that the decision was his own, there was coercion and possibly waterboarding within his own yin and yang involved. He is leaving to become the Executive Director of the Friends of the Boundary Waters, a non-profit based in Minneapolis whose mission is to protect, preserve and restore the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, <http://www.friends-bwca.org/>. In a way, with this mission, he will still be working for the good of Menogyn. Paul would like to sign off from his Menogyn 3,380 day wilderness adventure in his own words.

Greetings benevolent friends, volunteers, campers, staff and supporters of Menogyn,

It is with very heavy brow I leave my beloved Menogyn. It has unquestionably been the pinnacle of all possible routes in life Carmela and I could have taken over the last ten years. Just like the adventure and challenge that exists for our campers and staff in their rugged journeys through the wilderness of Northern Minnesota and beyond, each year has presented to me many diverse challenges and adventures. It has been nothing but pure fulfillment to be attached to a camp with such a strong mission and community that lives and breathes that mission. The YMCA, recognizing the crown jewel it has in such a unique location and program, has been so supportive of our focus on high-quality wilderness adventures for teenagers from all backgrounds, where every camper has been welcome and urged to be their best no matter what they came up with. To help campers and staff find what they have inside them as they learn and hopefully grow to love the natural world, develop a life-long curiosity about people, themselves and the world around

"To help campers and staff find what they have inside them as they learn and grow to love the natural world...and to join in such a rowdy good time together is really a great job to have."

them, and to join in such a rowdy good time together is really a great job to have. I have had so

many occasions to see firsthand the development of the whole person, body, mind and spirit, and have heard so many times from parents just how their camper has grown from the Menogyn experience. Even if the experience was too hard, not for them or they just weren't able to return, there has been growth in kids as they see their inner strength and can translate that back into their everyday world.

I remember fondly many things from nine summers living at Menogyn, starry nights that would make Van Gogh inspired, storms on the lake reminiscent of Dante's Second

Circle of Hell, the slamming of the biff door, many, many, many evenings of song and laughter, lots of dirt and mud, mind altering swarms of insects, young people who went beyond the human realm of endurance, black bears stepping on laptops and so many other stories. How can one put into words what one has gained?

So, thank you Menogyn, for helping me grow, for teaching my own two young boys to be comfortable and curious in the outdoors and for continually bringing me closer to what really matters in life. It was a grand adventure and I hope to always remain involved.



Paul and Carmela aboard *Femme du Nord*

Menogyn 2009 Y Partners Annual Fundraising Campaign Update

Menogyn Y Partners— Help kids grow strong through a Menogyn Wilderness Experience

If you have already pledged to contribute to Menogyn's Y Partner's Campaign this year, THANK YOU! If not, it is easier now than ever. That's right, you can now donate to your favorite little wilderness camp ONLINE. Just when you thought it was safe to escape the phone calls every November, now you cannot hide from us even on the WEB! Actually though, it is a response to requests from you, our beloved supporters. We are currently over 84% of our goal of \$147,000 with over \$124,000 raised already.

Please help us get campers to camp, train our staff and purchase equipment for another summer of safe, fun and enriching wilderness travel with the Menogyn Magic. And of course, now you can do it in your pajamas at four in the morning if you wish.

http://www.campmenogyn.org/pages/page_24.htm

Long Trip Slide Show at Midwest Mountaineering



Sophia Potter becomes one with the tundra

This March 11, 7-8:30pm come join us for a special show of slides from last years epic adventures from our long canoe and backpack campers trips.

Several groups will be involved and there will be camp information and general route and gear talk. What better thing to do on a late winter night?

We'll be in the Expedition Room at Midwest Mountaineering, Minneapolis. They'll let you shop there too of course.

Eileen Sorensen and Becca Foster creating perpetual memories



Menogyn Summer Adventure Information Nights and Calendar

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Thursday, February 19, | Southdale YMCA | Edina |
| Thursday, March 5, | Elk River YMCA | Elk River |
| Wednesday, March 11, | Long Trip Slide Show | Midwest Mountaineering Store, Minneapolis |
| *Saturday, March 14 | YMCA at REI Day | Bloomington, Maple Grove and Roseville REI Stores |
| Thursday March 19, | Prior Lake River Valley YMCA | Prior Lake |

All programs are 7-8:30pm and will have slides and information for all folks interested in having a rowdy good time on a Menogyn trip this summer. The Long Trip Slide show will also be a celebration of last year's intrepid long trippers as they journeyed together on the trip of a lifetime! **No RSVP's needed, just show up and bring a friend.** * No program, just show up anytime between 10am-2pm to meet staff and talk about anything Menogyn and wilderness.

Menogyn Personal Pricing Plan

As part of our mission to provide transformational experiences to young people no matter their financial ability, Menogyn offers financial assistance to those who need it. A crowning achievement of the YMCA of Minneapolis is that if a kid wants to go on trail, and money is the only barrier, they will work hard to remove that barrier and no one is turned away. Each and every Menogyn staff and board member is fiercely proud of that ability and it is only due to our over 500 donors who contribute to our Y Partners campaign each year. If you know someone who wants to come to camp but is put off by the cost, send them here or tell us and we will post a Personal Pricing Plan form to them.

http://www.campmenogyn.org/pages/page_174.htm

Every child has a right to the Boundary Waters and beyond! Menogyn is the way to get there.



A canoe group at a classic BWCA overlook

Menogyn Story Corps

How would you like to have an oral history of Menogyn available on the website? How cool would it be to hear the whole story of "The Drifters", the Alumni group for the 1950's or the certain Charlie Boostrom dynamiting the volleyball court rock story or how the first Menogyn "Welcome" came about? We would love to collect your stories and save them for all to hear. Check this website out for more information about how to do this and a national project of this sort. If you have a great Menogyn story, tell us and we will facilitate your getting it recorded.

<http://www.storycorps.net/>



There is a story here.

The Wilderness Puzzler

Last month's puzzler was, "What is the largest National Park by area in the world?" The answer is Northeast Greenland National Park. OK so only one click can get you this information, sorry but you won't find it this easy for the next one! Also, we would be absent in our duty if we did not recognize Menogyn Alumni great Jim Arnold for being the first to call in Arm Paulsen as the answer to the last Puzzler. Jim deserves any and all credit he can get!

This month's Wilderness Puzzler is, "In what year did the first Menogyn Women's Canoe Nor'wester go?" Try finding that in Wikipedia! The answer can only be found in the next....

FROM THE BOATHOUSE!

-Paul, Mo, and Steve.